

SWOSU COMMUNITY COUNSELING Q & A

Can you provide an overview of the coursework offered in the Community Counseling Program?

The Community Counseling Program requires 33 hours of coursework and leads to the Master of Science (M.S.) degree. There are no electives. At this time, many classes can be completed online. See pages 31-32 of the SWOSU Graduate Degree Catalog for a listing of required courses. Completion of the Master of Science Degree in Community Counseling is applicable toward eligibility requirements for the Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) Act.

Is the SWOSU Community Counseling Program offered online or in class?

The SWOSU Community Counseling Program primarily offers classes via Zoom and online, providing students with the opportunity for face-to-face interaction with faculty and peers.

Is the program accelerated, or does it follow a standard pace?

The program follows a standard pace, allowing students to progress through the curriculum at a thorough and comprehensive rate rather than being accelerated.

What is the minimum number of credit hours I can take per semester?

The minimum credit hours per semester may vary, but students typically have the flexibility to enroll in a part-time course load based on individual preferences and circumstances. Most of our students enroll in 6-9 credit hours. The duration of the program may vary based on individual progress and course load. Typically, students can complete the MS in Community Counseling within 4-6 semesters. It is recommended to consult with academic advisors for personalized timelines.

Are classes available every semester, or are they offered at specific times?

Classes are typically available every semester, providing students with consistent opportunities to progress through the program. It is advisable to consult the program schedule for specific course availability. Most courses are offered Monday through Thursday 5:15 – 10:30 pm.

Are there opportunities for hands-on experience and practicum placements in the program?

Yes, the practicum serves as a pivotal component of our counseling program, offering you the opportunity to bridge theoretical knowledge with real-world application. It is designed to immerse you in a practical setting where you can apply counseling techniques, interventions, and ethical considerations in a supervised and supportive environment. This 150-hour hands-on experience will undoubtedly contribute significantly to your development as a skilled and compassionate counselor. For LPC students, a 300-hour internship is also required. The program actively supports students in securing internship placements. Faculty and staff work closely with students to identify suitable opportunities aligned with their career goals.

How does SWOSU prepare students for licensure in the field of counseling?

The program aligns with licensure requirements and includes coursework and guidance to help students navigate the path toward becoming Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs). To graduate with the Master of Science (M.S.) degree you must complete 11 courses (33 hours). Upon completion of the master's degree, students wishing to earn their LPC will complete an additional 15 hours of core LPC coursework and 12 hours of electives totaling 60 credit hours. In general, to meet the qualifying degree requirements for Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) you must be able to demonstrate that you have earned a Board approved sixty (60) semester credit hour graduate degree in counseling, including internship, from a regionally accredited college or university.

How does the program support diversity, equity, and inclusion in counseling practices?

The program is committed to fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion. Coursework and training address cultural competence, and students are encouraged to engage with diverse populations.

Is a background in Psychology required to pursue the MS in Community Counseling?

While a background in Psychology can be beneficial, it is not mandatory. The program is designed to accommodate students with diverse academic backgrounds who are passionate about pursuing a master's degree in community counseling. A bachelor's degree from a college or university accredited by a regional accrediting association is required.

How does SWOSU stay current with industry trends and best practices in counseling?

The program maintains connections with professional organizations, updates curriculum based on industry trends, and encourages faculty involvement in ongoing research and professional development.

Can you provide information about the supervised experience requirements for LPC licensure in Oklahoma?

In Oklahoma, you need to complete 3,000 hours of **post**-master's supervised experience, with at least 1,500 hours of direct client contact. This experience is typically gained under the supervision of a licensed mental health professional.

What is the National Counselor Examination (NCE), and when should I take it?

The NCE is a standardized exam used for counselor licensure. It is advisable to take the NCE after completing your master's degree and before applying for licensure. In addition to the NCE, you may be required to take the Oklahoma Legal and Ethical Responsibilities Examination (OLERE) as part of the licensure process.

Can I work while pursuing the Community Counseling Program?

It is possible to work while pursuing the program, but the workload can be intensive. Consider your ability to balance work and studies and explore part-time options if needed, especially during practicum and internship.

What steps do I need to take to become a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) in Oklahoma?

The steps typically include completing a master's degree, gaining supervised experience, passing the National Counselor Examination (NCE), and applying for state licensure through the Oklahoma State Board of Behavioral Health. The SWOSU Community Counseling Program

provides support and resources to help students prepare for board exams, including guidance on exam content and study materials.

Will my diploma indicate that I earned my degree online?

No. Counseling graduates receive a diploma stating that they earned a Master of Science (M.S.) degree. The only difference between the online and on-campus program is the form of delivery.

Will this degree allow me to pursue licensure in any state?

After earning a counseling degree, counselors must obtain their state licensure to legally practice counseling. The requirements for a counseling license are state-specific and include additional post-master's supervised clinical hours and examination. Licensure requirements differ from state to state, and some state licensing boards require a master's degree from a CACREP- or CORE-accredited program. We encourage students to research the requirements specific to each state.

Thank you for your interest and feel free to reach out for further clarification or assistance!