

Southern Nazarene University

Graduate Programs in Counseling

Frequently Asked Questions

Application Process

Q: How many students are admitted to each group?

A: We accept a minimum of 12 students and a maximum of 22 students per group. Average groups are around 16-18 students.

Q: How quickly will I know if I am admitted into the program?

A: Upon conclusion of the interviews, our admissions committee meets and you will know shortly after that meeting. Committee meetings are often the same week of interviews, so applicants often know that same week if they have been admitted into the program.

Q: What courses fulfill the 18-hour requirements for admission into the programs?

A: All applicants must take a statistics course and a general psychology or equivalent course. Any other psychology course and some sociology courses may fulfill the additional course requirements. The following courses are those in the SNU catalog that meet these requirements (but these specific courses are not required). Please contact your admissions counselor and email a copy of your transcript to be evaluated by us if you have additional questions.

- PSY 3113: Social Psychology
- PSY 3133: Human Development
- PSY 3173: Physiological Psychology
- PSY 3183: Psychological Testing
- PSY 3203: People in Organizations
- PSY 4103: Abnormal Psychology
- PSY 4113: Psychology of Religion
- PSY 4142: Survey of the Exceptional Child
- PSY 4153: Psychology of Personality
- PSY 4213: Principles of Counseling
- PSY 4263: Techniques of Counseling
- PSY 4273: History and Systems of Psychology

Q: What happens if I do not have a 3.0 GPA?

A: While your GPA may be below a 3.0, it does not automatically disqualify you from applying to, or being considered for acceptance into our program. Our admissions process focuses on an applicant's academic ability, as well as writing ability and interpersonal skills. Therefore, we are not only looking for students who can handle graduate-level academic requirements, but we also desire students who have the overall personal qualities that we believe will serve them well as future counselors.

That being said, our admissions committee does heavily weigh undergraduate GPA in making considerations for acceptance into our program. Therefore, while your GPA does not disqualify you from being accepted into our program, having a GPA lower than 3.00 makes it significantly more difficult to be admitted.

Our suggestion to applicants who fall below this criteria is to attempt to remediate their grades to show that their past academic performance is not a reflection of their current scholastic ability. For those applicants interested in doing so, we suggest taking at least 12 hours of undergraduate psychology-related coursework and obtaining a grade of at least a B in each of those courses. This is no guarantee of acceptance into our program, but the benefit is that it gives our admissions committee recent coursework from which to evaluate you and helps address the academic concerns that might be raised with your application.

As far as what classes to take if you choose to do so, we often suggest the following courses as a good baseline:

1. Writing for Psychology
2. Psychological Statistics
3. Principles of Counseling
4. History & Systems of Psychology/Abnormal Psychology/Social Psychology or Developmental Psychology

Q: Why is the GRE not required to be admitted to the Graduate Programs in Counseling at SNU?

A: When the program began, the GRE was a requirement for admission, but the score did not affect admission to the program. It was believed that due the fact that many of our students had been out of college for a significant period of time, the GRE may not be a good tool for predicting success in our program. The decision was made to use admission criteria that would assist the Admissions Committee in evaluating applicants for the type of program we designed. The use of the writing exam along with the interview, recommendations, and your transcripts assist us in evaluating the critical thinking skills and the writing abilities of our applicants without requiring students to complete the GRE.

Cost of the Program

The tuition for the 2016-17 academic year for Southern Nazarene University's Graduate Programs in Counseling is as follows:

Cost per Credit Hour

\$725 per credit hour = \$2,175 per class

Degree/Number of Hours: Total Cost

MACP 60: \$43,500.00

MSCP 60: \$43,500.00

Q: Does tuition cover books?

A: Yes, all books are covered by your tuition costs. What this means is that we will purchase the books for you and have them ready for you each semester.

Q: Are there any other fees not included in the overall tuition cost?

A: Yes, there are two: 1.) Your application fee of \$50 is not included in the overall tuition cost. 2.) Your admissions fee of \$185 is also not included in the overall tuition cost. Other than that, there are no other fees to the program.

Q: What else is included in my tuition cost?

A: SNU provides all students liability insurance coverage for the duration of their internship experience in the program. In addition, SNU provides students with up to \$500 in reimbursements for their own personal therapy while in the program. This cost is built into students tuition. SNU students are also provided, free of charge, an online account to Time2Track in order to track their internship hours. Students also receive a DSM-V on the first night of class, along with receiving The Encyclopedia of Counseling, which is the premiere study book for the LPC national exam.

Financial Aid

Q: What financial aid is available?

A: Most students are able to make use of guaranteed student loans. There may also be limited graduate assistant positions available. Please call the Financial Aid office for additional information(405) 491-6685.

Q: Are there any departmental scholarships available through the program?

A: Unfortunately, no. The majority of students obtain financial assistance through the use of students loans. However, students are encouraged to explore possible graduate scholarships by visiting the following sites: <https://www.scholarships.com/>
<https://www.salliemae.com/plan-for-college/scholarships/scholarship-search/>

Internship

Q: When does my internship begin?

A: Your internship will begin approximately 6 months into the program after completion of your fourth class.

Q: How do I secure my internship?

A: Once your cohort is ready to go out on internship, the Graduate Programs in Counseling Internship Coordinator schedules an Internship Orientation. At this orientation several sites with open internship spots come and present on their facility. Students are given an approved internship placement list that has around 42 sites listed and allowed to interview at whichever sites are of interest. From there, once a student receives an offer from the site, they are able to begin their internship.

Q: How many hours of internship do I need to complete?

A: 450 total hours. Of those 450 hours, half (225) need to be direct client contact hours. What this means is that students need to have accrued at least half of their hours by directly counseling people. The other half of the hours are considered indirect and are accumulated through notes, meetings, etc...

Q: Can I do my internship while holding a full-time job?

A: Yes; however, we generally encourage students to have as flexible of a schedule as possible while in the program. Students successfully complete their internship requirements while holding down full-time jobs all the time in our program, however the more flexible your work schedule is, the less stressful the experience will be for you.

Life In the Program

Q: What is the APA/Grad Prep Night?

A: All admitted incoming students are required to attend an APA styling seminar. The seminar is conducted by one of our former graduates. The seminar will include an APA training but will also be a Graduate School Preparation night in which the instructor will walk students through good study habits and other important things to think about when maneuvering through a graduate program.

Q: Is it possible to balance a career, family, and graduate level studies?

A: Our program is designed with the working adult in mind. The modularized, accelerated format allows students to attend class one night per week for a four-hour class in the first year and every other weekend for four hours on Friday evenings and eight hours on Saturday in year two. In addition, the student is only taking one class at a time. The program mixes traditional classroom experience with the benefit of important out-of-class learning that allows only 24 hours of class time for each 3-hour credit class. This does not imply that the student only spends four hours per week in learning activity; however, most students spend approximately 3 to 4 hours of out of class preparing for every hour they are in class.

Q: What do I need to think about in regards to balancing my career, family, and graduate level studies?

A: The first advice we give to prospective students is to look into potential flexibility in their job. That is, perhaps consider having the conversation today with your boss about whether or not there would be any flexibility in your work schedule. The reason we mention this is because you will be required to do an internship of 450 hours while you are doing your classwork and the more flexible your schedule can be, the better off you your stress level will be in the long-run. Now, that does not mean that you cannot work 8-5 and still pull off an internship; however, most sites do not have weekend options, so you will have to be up at your internship placement a great deal of evenings if you cannot also include some afternoons or mornings in your schedule. What this means is that balancing your schoolwork and other life responsibilities could become stressful.

Q: How long will it take to complete my degree?

A: The 60-hour MSCP or MACP degrees generally take about 2 years to complete with your 450 hours of required internship hours.

Life After the Program

Q: Will the program prepare me for a doctoral program?

A: The MSCP program is ideal in preparing you for a doctoral program. The thesis requirement in the MSCP allows students to develop the research foundation that doctoral programs encourage applicants to possess. We have had good success in placing graduates in doctoral programs.

Q: Will I be eligible for licensure following my completion of the graduate programs?

A: YES! The MSCP and MACP programs were designed to fulfill the academic licensure requirements for the Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) in Oklahoma and have concentrations that also meet licensure requirements for the Licensed Marital and Family Therapist (LMFT) and Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LADC) in Oklahoma.

Q: What are the differences between the two licenses?

A: In practice, there is no real difference between the LPC or LMFT licensures. Certainly if you are catering towards families and couples, having the title “Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist” might be of some marketing use to your practice. However, LPC’s can see families and couples and LMFT’s can see individuals. Neither license “glues” you to a particular clientele. The main difference is in the backing; that is, LPC’s number around 3,500 in the state of Oklahoma as opposed to only about 500 LMFT’s. What this means is that the LPC board is oftentimes more influential. This helps LPC’s with insurance reimbursement, etc... Nationally, LMFT’s have often been the stronger license and this is true in several other states.