The quality of education in the professional counseling program is superb. As the successful private practice owner of Respark Therapy and CEO of the Southwest Sexual Health Alliance, I am very thankful for the competent professors and the well-rounded education I received at Texas State.

– Heather McPherson M.A. ’10, LPC-S, LMFT

Department Mission
The professional counseling program believes that well-prepared counselors are involved and committed to a process of intentional growth promoting pro-social autonomy, lifelong learning and ethical behavior. These ideals are fostered within a dynamic and multi-modal learning setting in which diversity, critical thinking, self-in-context, scholarship, praxis and the creation and integration of knowledge are celebrated.

The program will maintain the highest standards of counselor education which will continue to garner local, national and international recognition in providing excellence in academic and clinical preparation for the development of counseling professionals.

Concentrations Offered
» Clinical Mental Health Counseling
» Marital, Couple and Family Counseling
» School Counseling

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San Marcos, TX 78666-4684
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Students learn about the counseling profession and develop therapeutic skills through practical experience, knowledge and personal reflection.
Why choose Texas State?
The Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Education Programs (CACREP) accredited program features internationally known faculty, two state-of-the-art community counseling clinics and a rigorous curriculum focusing on experiential learning integrated with the application of didactic, research-based knowledge. Core tenets emphasized throughout the program include diversity, ethics, professional development and self-awareness.

Current students score at the highest levels on state and national examinations and are strongly endorsed by community agencies and schools for employment.

Course Work
The master of arts in professional counseling requires a minimum of 60 credit hours and offers a choice of two concentrations: clinical mental health counseling and marital, couple and family counseling. The school counseling concentration requires a minimum of 54 semester hours and meets academic requirements for certification as a school counselor. All three concentrations meet academic requirements for the Texas licensed professional counselor (LPC) credential. The marital, couple and family counseling concentration also meets academic requirements for the Texas licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT) credential. These three concentrations offer course sequences that build skills through didactic and experiential activities. The curriculum includes core foundations in theories, interventions, assessment and research.

Faculty
Faculty present their research at national and international conferences and publish books, book chapters and peer-reviewed journal articles in top venues in their field. The range of research and clinical interests include:

- play therapy
- animal-assisted counseling
- mindfulness
- group counseling
- addictions
- domestic violence
- sandtray therapy
- clinical supervision
- women and gender studies
- child parent relationship therapy

Career Options
The professional counseling program is designed to provide the training and course work graduates need to become certified as Texas school counselors, Texas licensed professional counselors, or licensed marriage and family therapists. The Institute for Play Therapy offers additional specialized training in play therapy, sandtray therapy and animal-assisted counseling.

Important Deadlines*
Admissions
Fall: February 15
Spring: October 1
Summer/Summer midterm: February 15

Funding: Scholarships, Fellowships and Assistantships
For scholarship, fellowship or assistantship information, review our web page: gradcollege.txstate.edu/funding

How to Apply
For information regarding admission requirements and submission instructions, please visit: gradcollege.txstate.edu/apply

*International applicants can view specific deadlines and requirements at: gradcollege.txstate.edu/international

For information on deadlines, admission requirements and funding, visit: gradcollege.txstate.edu/programs/counseling