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
» School Counselor
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 offers a required course sequence that builds skills through three levels, from basic to advanced, via didactic and experiential activities. The curriculum includes core foundations in theories, interventions, assessment, and research. An internship is required for the capstone experience. Students can choose from four concentrations: clinical mental health counseling; marital, couple and family counseling; school counseling; and school counselor. Concentrations in clinical mental health counseling; marriage, couple, and family counseling; and school counseling are nationally accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Programs (CACREP), while the concentration of school counselor meets the requirements of the Texas State Board for Educator Certification.

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.

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 the most up-to-date information on deadlines, admission requirements and funding, visit: gradcollege.txstate.edu/programs/counseling

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