Texas State University offers a master of arts with a major in professional counseling. The program is designed to provide the training and coursework graduates need to become certified as Texas school counselors, Texas licensed professional counselors, or licensed marriage and family therapists.

Students explore the effects of personal beliefs, values, issues, emotions and behaviors on the ability to function as a counseling professional. A variety of courses provide the opportunity to develop and demonstrate counseling skills in role-play situations with classmates and in actual counseling sessions with clients.

The course content and experiential activities are designed to give students the opportunity to advance their personal, intellectual and professional development and functioning. Core tenets emphasized throughout the program include diversity, ethics, professional development and self-awareness. There is a strong emphasis on experiential learning integrated with the application of didactic, research-based knowledge. One or more internships are required based on the major.
Course Work
Courses are offered at both the main campus in San Marcos and at the Round Rock Campus.

Master of Arts
The master of arts with a major in professional counseling requires a minimum of 61 semester hours and offers a choice of three areas of specialization:
- community counseling
- marital, couple and family counseling
- school counseling/child and adolescent counseling requires a minimum of 55 semester hours and meets academic requirements for certification as a school counselor

All three areas of specialization meet academic requirements for the Texas licensed professional counselor (LPC) credential. The marital, couple and family counseling specialization also meets academic requirements for the Texas licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT) credential.

These three areas offer course sequences that build skills through didactic and experiential activities. The curriculum includes core foundations in theories, interventions, assessment and research.

The specializations in community counseling, marital, couple and family counseling, and school counseling are nationally accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Programs (CACREP).

Students must earn a grade of B or higher in all counseling program course work counting toward the degree.

Comprehensive Examinations
To graduate, master of arts students with a major in professional counseling must pass the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Exam. This nationally administered exam generally is given each long semester and once in the summer.

Student Organization
The Sigma Tau Sigma Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota was established at Texas State in fall 2002. Chi Sigma Iota is an international honor society for students, professional counselors and counselor educators. Its mission is to promote scholarship, research, professionalism, leadership and excellence in counseling, and to recognize high attainment in the pursuit of academic and clinical excellence in the counseling profession.

Admission Policy
In addition to the general requirements for admission to the Texas State Graduate College, the professional counseling program requires a GPA of 3.0 or higher on the last 60 hours of undergraduate course work.

Each applicant must submit the following to the Graduate College:
- official Graduate College application through ApplyTexas
- application fee
- one official transcript from each four-year college or university attended
- official Graduate Record Exam (GRE). See www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/coun for details about GRE requirements.

The program has an additional application packet at www.txstate.edu/clas/Professional-Counseling.html. Both this packet and the material sent to the Graduate College are reviewed as a complete portfolio by a program admissions committee.

The packet requires:
- informed consent
- degree plan emphasis selection
- statement of purpose
- résumé
- recommendation forms for three references

Visit www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/apply for access to an online application and additional details. Applications are due February 15 for the fall and summer semesters and October 1 for the spring semester.

Financial Assistance
A limited number of teaching and research assistantships are available through the department. Contact the professional counseling program for information.

For more information about scholarships, financial aid and application deadlines, visit the Graduate College website at www.gradcollege.txstate.edu and click on Financing Your Graduate Education. Please note that program admission priority deadlines must be met in order to be considered for scholarships, fellowships and assistantships.

Contact
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