



Counseling & Human Services FAQ

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Q: *What is the program focus?*

A: The Solution-Focused Brief Therapy (SFBT or SF) approach is the thread that runs throughout the program. From the earliest clinical class (Helping Relationships) through Practicum, you will learn and apply this evidence-based approach that focuses on clients' preferred futures, strengths, and resources. Of course, you will learn about other counseling approaches, but we are committed to students knowing one approach well and being competent to counsel when they graduate. Concentrating on practicing SF is our way of preparing you.

To learn more about the SF approach, we encourage you to read the following: *Solution-Focused Brief Therapy* by Mo Yee Lee, PhD <http://socialwork.oxfordre.com/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780199975839.001.0001/acrefore-9780199975839-e-1039>

Q: *What are the specializations that you offer in counseling?*

A: We have three separate degree programs (all leading to M.Ed.):

1. School Counseling – Our fully online, 48-hour program is accredited by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) for school counselor certification. As of September 1, 2023, Texas no longer requires two years of teaching experience for certification. Out-of-state applicants can enroll but must complete their internship in Texas or at a Department of Defense school to qualify for Texas certification. We do not guarantee certification in other states. To become certified in Texas, candidates must complete practicum hours at a TEA- or TEPSAC-accredited school and pass the TExES School Counselor (252) exam. The program includes both synchronous and asynchronous coursework.
2. Clinical Mental Health Counseling – This CACREP-accredited 60-hour program meets the academic requirements for the professional counseling license (LPC) in Texas. For licensure, the state also requires 3000 hours of post-master's supervised experience by an LPC Supervisor.
3. Human Services – The M.Ed. in Human Services focuses on providing students with a 36-hour rigorous and strength-based program designed for students who are interested in providing social services in settings that do not require licensure or certification. This program is online, synchronously and asynchronously (coinciding with school counseling courses), and offers opportunity to take coursework from areas outside of counseling.

Q: *When and where are the classes?*

A: The Clinical Mental Health Counseling courses take place in-person on the TCU campus in Fort Worth, Texas, with some at our TCU Counseling Clinic. The majority of classes take place one evening per week beginning between 5:00-5:30pm (lasting 2 hours and 40 min) during the fall and spring semesters. Some classes are offered in the summer; these class meetings are longer and usually take place every day (Monday-Thursday) for 3-4 weeks. In rare cases, a class may meet with a weekend format (e.g., Friday evenings, Saturdays).

Q: *How is practicum/internship set up?*

A: Students will propose a counseling site and supervisor of their own choosing. The counseling faculty will consider each practicum/internship application for acceptance or rejection (counseling faculty can provide suggestions and answer questions about what makes for a successful site). In addition to working at their sites, practicum/internship students attend a weekly on-campus class for group supervision. Additionally, Clinical Mental Health Counseling students will complete a portion of their direct hours at TCU Counseling Clinic, located at the FWISD Riverside Family Resource Center, 1550 Bolton, Fort Worth, TX 76111.

Q: *How diverse is the program?*

A: We are proud of the student diversity in our MEd Programs. Our College of Education faculty celebrates diversity, so we are confident you will be accepted and respected. Our students range in age from early 20s to

60s. In some classes three or more languages, races, ethnicities, and/or cultures are represented. Every student gains cultural competence (an important part of counselor development) as we learn together, and our diversity enhances this competence.

Q: *Do students conduct research?*

A: All students are required to take Educational Program Evaluation & Research to learn about how research is conducted. Additionally, interested students may conduct research, write, and/or present at conferences alone or in consultation with peers and faculty members. If you wish to participate in activities like this, please initiate contact with the Counseling faculty or any other College of Education (COE) faculty member. Faculty research interests are listed under each faculty at <http://coe.tcu.edu/faculty-staff/>

Q: *What types of financial assistance do you provide?*

Pathways to Purpose scholarship-- This guaranteed scholarship provides financial support to newly admitted school counseling and clinical mental health counseling students, reducing the total degree cost to approximately \$30,000 for School Counseling and \$45,000 for Clinical Mental Health Counseling.

Q: *How are admissions decisions made?*

Each applicant's materials will be evaluated based on the rubric for program to which they are applying. The committee assigns points on elements such as academic preparedness, quality of essay and references, experiences connected to counseling/helping, and ability to matriculate through program in a timely manner (both School Counseling and Clinical Mental Health Counseling programs use a cohort model). Applicants who meet minimum score for written materials will be invited to interview.

Applicants who do not attend interview, regardless of reason, will be denied admission. Interviewees are evaluated based on rubric and must meet total minimum score for consideration. They will then be ranked according to points; they will be offered, waitlisted, or denied admission based on number of openings in the program (openings for School Counseling and Human Services are combined).

Q: *What if I think of more questions after the interview?*

A: Please ask! It is best to contact us through email:

- Dr. Emily Mills, emily.mills@tcu.edu (TCU Counseling Clinic Director)
- Dr. Citlali Molina, Citlali.e.molina@tcu.edu (Program Coordinator, School Counseling)
- Dr. Brandy Mounts, b.mounts@tcu.edu, visiting lecturer
- Dr. Marcella Stark, m.stark@tcu.edu (Program Coordinator, Clinical Mental Health Counseling)
- Dr. Becky Taylor, e.taylor@tcu.edu (Practicum/Internship Coordinator)