



Program of Study: Master of Science in Professional Counseling

Program Description:

The Masters of Science in Professional Counseling Degree requires 60 credit hours. The program's courses were chosen to meet the academic requirements established by the National Board for Certified Counselors for the National Certified Counselor credential (NCC) and by Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners. A Masters Degree in Counseling is a required step in 48 states including Arizona for individuals seeking to become licensed as counselors. Graduates from this program of study are prepared to meet the academic requirements for licensure in Arizona as a:

- Licensed Associate Counselor (LAC)
- Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)
- Licensed Associate Substance Abuse Counselor (LASAC)
- Licensed Independent Substance Abuse Counselor (LISAC).

Additionally, graduates from most other states will be academically prepared to begin the process of seeking certification and/or licensure in their home state. Licensing and/or certification requirements may vary from state to state. It is the students' responsibility to check the licensing/certification requirements in their respective states.

Course Number	Course Title	Course Description	Credit Hours
PCN 505	Professional Counseling Ethics	This course provides a broad understanding of professional counseling ethics, legal standards, and responsibilities. An important goal of this course is to help the student develop a high standard of ethical performance in their career as professional counselor.	3
PCN 500	Counseling Theories	This course provides a comprehensive survey of the major counseling theories and principles. The coursework shall include the following theories: Psychoanalytic, Adlerian, Existential Psychotherapy, Behavioral, Cognitive Behavioral, Person Centered, Reality Therapy/Choice Theory and, Rational Emotive.	3
PCN 529	Co-occurring Disorders	This course introduces students to psychiatric disorders in combination with an alcohol and/or drug abuse disorder or co-occurring disorder. This course will examine how the treatment needs of persons with a co-occurring disorder differ significantly from the treatment needs of persons with only an alcohol and/or drug abuse disorder or a psychiatric disorder.	3
PCN 520	Group Counseling Theory and Practice	This course provides a broad understanding of group development, group dynamics, group counseling theories, and ethical standards. The course will also address group process components, appropriate selection criteria, developmental stage theories, group members' roles, and behaviors; group leadership styles and approaches.	3

PCN 509	Social and Cultural Diversity Issues in Counseling	This course provides a broad understanding of issues and trends in a multicultural and diverse society. Studies in this area shall include the following: attitudes and behaviors based on such factors as age, race, religious preference, physical disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity and culture, family patterns, gender, socioeconomic status and intellectual ability; individual, family, group, and community strategies for working with diverse populations; and theories of multicultural counseling, theories of identity development, and multicultural competencies.	3
PCN 527	Psychopharmacology & Addictions	This course provides a broad understanding of psychopharmacology theories of drug abuse, addiction, and treatment. The student is introduced to the basic principles of pharmacology, anatomy, and physiology as applied to the major classes of psychoactive drugs of abuse/addiction. It also examines the effects of various drugs on human behavior. The course introduces drugs that are being developed to support drug treatment such as methadone, suboxone and neloxone. Emphasis is placed on basic principles of drug ingestion, distribution, elimination, dose response relationships, neurotransmitter chemicals, and synaptic activity.	3
PCN 511	Introduction to Chemical Dependency Counseling	This course provides a broad understanding of the stages, processes, and effects of chemical dependency, social and psychological dynamics of chemical dependency, and the professional's role in prevention, intervention, and aftercare. This course will also explore theories of addiction, drug classification, assessment, and treatment.	3
PCN 515	Counseling Skills in the Helping Relationships	This course provides a broad understanding of counseling processes, including characteristics and behaviors that influence the helping processes. Included are age, gender, ethnic differences, verbal and nonverbal behaviors, personal characteristics, and orientations. The development of counseling skills to include the following will be emphasized: interviewing, the development of therapeutic relationships, establishment of appropriate counseling goals, strategies, evaluation of client outcome, and successful termination of the counseling relationship.	3
PCN 518	Human Growth and Development	This course provides an understanding of the nature and needs of individuals at all developmental levels. Theories of individual and family development, transitions across the life-span; theories of learning, theories of personality development; and strategies for facilitating optimum development over the life-span will be addressed.	3
PCN 521	Marriage and Family Therapy	This course provides a broad understanding of the structure and dynamics of the family, which may include assessment and methods of marital and family intervention and counseling.	3
PCN 523	Tests and Appraisal in Counseling	This course provides an introduction to basic tests and appraisal in counseling. Individual and group approaches to testing, assessment, evaluation, behavioral observations, computer-managed and computer-assisted methods will be addressed. The following statistical concepts will also be addressed: scales of measurement, measures of central tendency, and indices of variability, shapes and types of distributions, correlations, reliability, and validity.	3
PCN 525	Career Development and Counseling	This course provides a broad understanding of career development and related life factors including the following: psychotherapy, career counseling techniques and processes, career development theories, decision-making models, issues of diversity, interrelationships between work and family.	3
PCN 540	Research Methods	This course introduces research methods and basic statistical analysis, including the following: the importance of research, opportunities, and difficulties in conducting research. Research methods such as qualitative, quantitative, single-case designs, action research, and outcome-based research will be addressed.	3

PCN 605	Psychopathology and Counseling	This course introduces the study of mental illnesses and the science of psychopathology. The goal is to provide counseling students a conceptual understanding of psychological and behavioral dysfunction that occur in mental illnesses. The course includes a survey of major psychiatric disorders and their causes.	3
PCN 610	Diagnostics, Assessment, and Treatment	This course provides a conceptual framework for the use of assessment and diagnostic tools for the development of appropriate treatment interventions for a variety of behavioral health disorders. Included is an introduction to the use of the diagnostic tools including the DSM-VI TR, and the integration of diagnostic and assessment information, in the development of treatment plans.	3
PCN 615	Pre-Practicum	A pre-practicum or supervised field work experience under the supervision of a faculty member, which shall include either of the following: 100 total hours of pre-practicum activities, of which a minimum of 40 hours shall be direct client contact hours	3
PCN 660A	Practicum/Internship I	This supervised internship provides 150 contact hours of opportunity for students to develop their counseling skills and to perform all the activities that a regularly employed professional counselor would be expected to perform in a supervised setting. The internship will be preformed under the supervision of a faculty member and by an onsite supervisor approved by the college or university.	3
PCN 660B	Practicum/Internship II	The second of four required supervised internships providing 150 contact hours each of opportunity for students to develop their counseling skills and to perform all the activities that a regularly employed professional counselor would be expected to perform in a supervised setting. The internship will be preformed under the supervision of a faculty member and by an onsite supervisor approved by the college or university.	3
PCN 660C	Practicum/Internship III	The third of four required supervised internships providing 150 contact hours each of opportunity for students to develop their counseling skills and to perform all the activities that a regularly employed professional counselor would be expected to perform in a supervised setting. The internship will be preformed under the supervision of a faculty member and by an onsite supervisor approved by the college or university.	3
PCN 660D	Practicum/Internship IV	The fourth of four required supervised internships providing 150 contact hours each of opportunity for students to develop their counseling skills and to perform all the activities that a regularly employed professional counselor would be expected to perform in a supervised setting. The internship will be preformed under the supervision of a faculty member and by an onsite supervisor approved by the college or university.	3

Total Master of Science in Professional Counseling Credits: 60