COUNSELOR EDUCATION, MASTER OF EDUCATION (M.ED.) WITH A CONCENTRATION IN COLLEGE COUNSELING AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Program goal

The M.Ed. in Counselor Education with a concentration in college counseling and student affairs is a 60-credit-hour program designed to prepare counselors for higher education and community agencies throughout Virginia and the nation. The college counseling and student affairs concentration provides students with the specialized knowledge and skills necessary for employment as student affairs professionals in higher education settings. The program requires a minimum of two years of study to complete.

The faculty makes every effort to assist students in individualizing a graduate program to match their professional needs and interests. However, individualization takes place in an environment of legitimate constraints revolving around institutional, accreditation and licensure requirements. Faculty members view each program as more than simply an aggregate of courses, and students should plan all program work with their faculty advisers.

Student learning outcomes

Counselor education core outcomes

1. Students will obtain theoretical knowledge grounded in research and reflective of current national and state standards in the areas of individual and group counseling, human development, multicultural counseling, wellness and career counseling.
2. Students will develop the skills and knowledge to support and enhance students' and clients' resiliency from a multicultural framework.
3. Students will demonstrate the knowledge and skills to be critical consumers of research in their roles as counselors.
4. Students will develop and demonstrate advocacy, social justice and leadership skills through their professional development and extracurricular learning activities.
5. Students will continue their personal and professional development by adhering to the professional ethical codes of professional counseling organizations and the counselor education program dispositions.

College counseling and student affairs concentration specific outcome

1. Students will demonstrate competency in counseling, assessment, program evaluation and consultation skills in higher education settings.

VCU Graduate Bulletin, VCU Graduate School and general academic policies and regulations for all graduate students in all graduate programs

The VCU Graduate Bulletin website documents the official admission and academic rules and regulations that govern graduate education for all graduate programs at the university. These policies are established by the graduate faculty of the university through their elected representatives to the University Graduate Council.

It is the responsibility of all graduate students, both on- and off-campus, to be familiar with the VCU Graduate Bulletin as well as the Graduate School website (http://www.graduate.vcu.edu/) and academic regulations in individual school and department publications and on program websites. However, in all cases, the official policies and procedures of the University Graduate Council, as published on the VCU Graduate Bulletin and Graduate School websites, take precedence over individual program policies and guidelines.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (https://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/)

Degree candidacy requirements

A graduate student admitted to a program or concentration requiring a final research project, work of art, thesis or dissertation, must qualify for continuing master's or doctoral status according to the degree candidacy requirements of the student's graduate program. Admission to degree candidacy, if applicable, is a formal statement by the graduate student's faculty regarding the student's academic achievements and the student's readiness to proceed to the final research phase of the degree program.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following degree candidacy policy as published in the VCU Graduate Bulletin for complete information and instructions.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (https://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/candidacy/)

Graduation requirements

As graduate students approach the end of their academic programs and the final semester of matriculation, they must make formal application to graduate. No degrees will be conferred until the application to graduate has been finalized.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following graduation requirements as published in the Graduate Bulletin for a complete list of instructions and a graduation checklist.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on graduation requirements. (https://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/graduation-info/)

Other information

Students accepted into the counselor education program must make satisfactory progress toward their degrees. Students who earn unsatisfactory grades and/or exhibit unprofessional conduct may be terminated from the program. More specific information about satisfactory academic progress (https://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/

grad/satisfactory-academic-progress/) can be found in the academic regulations section of this website.

Apply online today. (https://www.vcu.edu/admissions/apply/graduate/)

Admission requirements

Degree:	Semester(s) of entry:	Deadline dates:	Test requirements:
M.Ed.	Summer	Jan 15	

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (https://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/study/admission-graduate-study/admission-requirements/), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Bachelor's degree
2. Three letters of recommendation addressing the student's potential for graduate study in education
3. Statement of intent
4. Transcripts of all previous college work
5. Personal interview

Please visit the School of Education website (https://soe.vcu.edu/academics/masters-programs/med-counselor-education/) for further information.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (https://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/graduation-info/), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students are required to complete a minimum of 60 credit hours.
2. Grade requirements: Receipt of a grade of C or below in two courses constitutes automatic dismissal from the program. Courses with a grade below C cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.
3. Internship requirements: Students must complete an approved internship.
4. Testing requirements: Students must provide an acceptable score on a comprehensive exam.

Curriculum requirements

Course	Title	Hours
Core courses		
CLED 600	Professional Orientation and Ethical Practice in Counseling	3
CLED 601	Theories of Counseling	3
CLED 602	Techniques of Counseling	3
CLED 603	Group Procedures in Counseling	3
CLED 605	Career Information and Exploration	3
CLED 606	Assessment Techniques for Counselors	3
CLED 607	Multicultural Counseling in Educational Settings	3
CLED 612	Wellness Counseling	3
CLED 615	Lifespan Development: A Gender Perspective	3
CLED 640	Marriage, Couples and Family Counseling	3
CLED 650	Addiction Counseling	3
CLED 660	Mental Disorders, Diagnosis and Treatment Planning	3
EDUS 660	Research Methods in Education	3
Elective		
Approved elective		3
Concentration courses		
CLED 608	Practicum: College Student Development and Counseling	3
CLED 620	Student Development Services in Higher Education	3
CLED 672	Internship	6
EDUS/CLED 631	American College and University	3
Concentration elective		3
Total Hours		**60**

The minimum number of graduate credit hours required for this degree is 60.

Accelerated opportunities

The department offers opportunities for qualified undergraduate students to earn both an undergraduate and graduate degree in a minimum of five years by completing approved graduate courses during the senior year of their undergraduate program. **See the program page in the Undergraduate Bulletin** for details.

Contact
Office of Strategic Recruitment
soeinfo@vcu.edu
(804) 827-6847

Additional contacts
Abigail H. Conley, Ph.D.
Associate professor and graduate program director
ahconley@vcu.edu
(804) 828-1332

Program website: soe.vcu.edu/academics/masters-programs/med-counselor-education (https://soe.vcu.edu/academics/masters-programs/med-counselor-education/)