



University of Central Arkansas
College of Education
Department of Leadership Studies
M.S. in School Counseling Program

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

revised Fall 2023

WELCOME!

Agenda:

- ▶ Faculty Introductions
- ▶ Overview of Program
- ▶ Plan of Study
- ▶ Admissions
- ▶ Exit Requirements



PROGRAM FACULTY

- ▶ Department Chair of Leadership Studies:
 - ▶ Dr. Louis Nadelson
- ▶ Program Faculty Members:
 - ▶ Dr. Valerie Couture, Program Coordinator
 - ▶ Dr. Odunola Oyeniyi, Internship/Practicum Field Coordinator
- ▶ Affiliate Faculty Members:
 - ▶ Mrs. Susan Whatley
 - ▶ Mrs. Donna Wilchie

Professional School Counseling Program Overview

Accreditation:

- ▶ The UCA Master's Program in School Counseling is approved by the Arkansas Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)
- ▶ The UCA Master's Program in School Counseling is accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Education Programs (CAEP)

Program Design-K-12 Licensure

- ▶ Our Candidates:
 - ▶ Approximately 70 students currently enrolled
 - ▶ Majority are employed full-time as K-12 teachers
 - ▶ Initial Licensure Candidates comprise approximately 25% of enrolled students
 - ▶ Approximately 15 candidates are employed as counselors
 - ▶ State-wide representation & out-of-state
 - ▶ One in four already have a Master's Degree

Designed for Accreditation

Strive to meet standards:

- ▶ Arkansas state standards modeled after CACREP Standards
- ▶ Designed to incorporate ASCA National Standards
- ▶ All appropriate state laws and rules for licensure

Advising

Degree Works-UCA Advising Program

- ▶ Student access to keep track of program requirements and your progress towards graduation.
- ▶ Access Degree Works in MyUCA page.
- ▶ Dr. Couture and Dr. Oyeniyi are the advisors for the program. Your advisor is on your program admittance letter. It is the student's responsibility to reach out to their advisor.
- ▶ Students must receive advising each semester before registering for classes.

Program Requirements in School Counseling

All Candidates

- ▶ Must take the Praxis School Counseling exam by the end of the program. Usually students take it in Internship 1.
- ▶ Must satisfy all key assessments for the program
- ▶ Must complete a 100 clock hour practicum and a 600 clock hour internship split between elementary (K-6) and secondary (7-12) levels

Program Areas in School Counseling

Initial Licensure Candidates: Additional Requirements

- ▶ One additional course: SCCN 6332: Counselors and Schooling Practices (only offered in Spring semester)
- ▶ Background checks prior to Practicum and Internship

Program Goals

We are committed to the development of:

- ▶ Professional competence, accountability, and leadership
- ▶ Respect for diversity and advocacy for students
- ▶ Self-awareness, personal and professional growth, professional identity
- ▶ Technological Literacy

Program Courses

- ▶ Recommended Course Sequence:
- ▶ First Sequence Courses:
 - ▶ SCCN 6320 Foundations
 - ▶ LEAD 6330 Individual and Group
 - ▶ SCCN 6380 School Counseling Interventions
 - ▶ LEAD 6321 Research Methods

Program Courses

- ▶ Second Sequence Courses:
 - ▶ SCCN 6330 Multicultural
 - ▶ SCCN 6340 Career
 - ▶ SCCN 6360 Consultant
 - ▶ SCCN 6390 Practicum

Program Courses

- ▶ Third Sequence Courses:
 - ▶ SCCN 6365 Educational Assessment
 - ▶ SCCN 6395 Internship I
 - ▶ SCCN 6395 Internship II

***If using federal financial aid, you will need to be in 6 credit hours each semester to receive it.

Other Required Courses

- ▶ Take as best fits your schedule:
 - ▶ SCCN 6332 Counselors and Schooling Practices (*initial license only, offered in the Spring*)
 - ▶ ELSE 6366 Ed Prog-Mild Disabilities– *offered every semester*
 - ▶ SLMA 6325 Visionary School Leadership – *offered every semester*
 - ▶ SCCN 6324 Life-Span Development- *offered Fall and Summer*)

Professional Development

- ❖ Candidates are encouraged to join the **American School Counselor Association (ASCA)** and the **Arkansas School Counselor Association (ArSCA)**.

Graduate student pricing is reasonable and benefits of being a member are numerous.

- Opportunities for professional development
- Announcement of state department of ed updates
- School counseling resources
- Networking with school counselors

Field Experiences-Weekly on-site and university supervision

- ▶ **Practicum**-Immersion experience of 100 hours in the K-12 school setting, providing direct and indirect counseling experiences with students. Completed in the middle of the program.
- ▶ **Internship**-Immersion experiences of 600 hours in both K-6 and 7-12 settings: 240 hours must be Direct Services to students.
- ▶ In some situations, the internship may be completed in one semester (Only candidates in full-time school counseling position or unemployed candidates).
- ▶ Most candidates will require two semesters to complete the internship.

Practicum-Definition

- ▶ A practicum is:
 - ▶ A pre-Internship experience
 - ▶ One semester
 - ▶ A supervised 100 clock hour field experience over the course of one semester
 - ▶ 40 hours of direct service, individual counseling and group work completed in a K-12 accredited school
 - ▶ 60 hours of indirect, activities not directly with students
 - ▶ An introduction to the role and function of school counselors

Internship-Definition

- ▶ Supervised field experiences in BOTH K-6 AND 7-12 accredited schools
- ▶ 600 total hours, 240 of which must be direct services with students
- ▶ Typically taken in two semesters but under certain circumstances, internship may be completed in one semester
- ▶ Candidates engage and participate in the roles, duties, and responsibilities of a professional school counselor and receive feedback from site and university supervisor

Practicum/Internship Requirements

- ▶ For those candidates in the program who are not licensed teachers, you must have successful fingerprinting, background checks, and trainings BEFORE you begin your Practicum and Internship.

Key Assessments

1. SCCN 6320 Foundations- School Counselor Foundations Comprehensive Paper
2. LEAD 6330 Individual & Group Counseling – Counseling Skills Summative Video
3. SCCN 6365 Assessment – School Counselor Assessment Accountability Assignment
4. SCCN 6395 Internship II – TESS Supervisor Evaluation
5. SCCN 6395 Internship II – Comprehensive Case Study Exam
6. Praxis School Counselor Exam #5422 – Passing Score 146

***Possible some key assessments may change in future.*

Anthology (formerly Chalk and Wire)

- ▶ What is Anthology?
- ▶ *Anthology* is a password protected, electronic portfolio system used throughout programs in the UCA College of Education.
- ▶ How do I get access to Anthology?
- ▶ If your course requires one or more assignments to be submitted through Anthology, you will need to purchase an access code from the UCA Bookstore. You can view pricing and subscription length on the [UCA Bookstore's website](#).
- ▶ Please contact the Technology Learning Center Help Desk by e-mail at tlc@uca.edu or by phone at (501) 450-3400 for assistance.

<http://uca.edu/tlc/chalkandwire/>

Anthology

- ▶ All candidates are required to purchase a Anthology account from the bookstore.
- ▶ Anthology is where you upload all required program key assessments into your individual portfolio.
- ▶ All required documents must be uploaded during the course in which it is assigned. Candidates will receive an Incomplete until such time as documents are uploaded.
- ▶ All documents must be in Anthology as part of graduation requirements.

Exit Requirements

- All candidates must take the Praxis School Counselor exam before graduation.
- All candidates must successfully complete all required coursework.

Program Details for Course Delivery

- ▶ Most courses will have a mixture of delivery methods including asynchronous online activities and evening synchronous live meetings using Blackboard Collaborate Ultra, Zoom, or another virtual conferencing tool.
- ▶ When live, face-to-face sessions are held, candidates are required to attend online and participate in class discussions.

Online Classes

- ▶ Candidates are expected to purchase a headset and microphone to communicate effectively with the professor and other students online.
- ▶ Cell phones or tablets are not acceptable means for entering the synchronous classroom.
- ▶ Candidates are expected to communicate on a regular basis with their professor.
- ▶ Professors communicate frequently through email, so, check your UCA email daily.

Expected Completion Time

- ▶ To date, the typical student completes the program in 7 semesters, including summers.
- ▶ UCA requires all courses for a master's degree to be completed within a 6 year timeframe.

Technology Requirements

- ▶ Use a **headset with microphone** for attending class
- ▶ Use a **laptop or desktop computer** for attending class
 - ▶ You will not have full functional capabilities of Blackboard by using Apps for Tablets or Smartphones
 - ▶ Full functionality is expected for you to participate in all class activities

Student Assessment

- ▶ Quantitatively:
 - ▶ Course assignments and projects
 - ▶ Quizzes & Exams
 - ▶ Key Assessments
 - ▶ Praxis School Counseling Licensure Exam

- ▶ Qualitatively:
 - ▶ Participation in class and group projects
 - ▶ Attendance & Punctuality (Class sessions & course work)
 - ▶ Other Professional *Behaviors & Attributes*



Questions?

Please contact
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