Admission Requirements

Admission to graduate training in counseling involves acceptance by the Western Illinois University School of Graduate Studies, completion of a Department of Counselor Education application packet, and participation in a screening interview.

- Applicants must have completed a bachelor’s degree (undergraduate coursework) in any field from a regionally accredited university.
- Applicants should apply to the School of Graduate Studies for admission to Western. There is a $30 nonrefundable fee required. See wiu.edu/grad and click on “Apply Online” for more information.
- Applicants should complete the Counselor Education department application form and supply two letters of reference and two of the completed reference forms provided. (See wiu.edu/counselored and click on “Prospective Students,” and then on “Admission to the Program” for more information.)
- The Counselor Education Selection and Retention Committee must recommend applicants for admission to the graduate program in Counselor Education. The Selection Committee will review the CNED application, two reference forms/letters, transcripts, GRE scores (no more than five years old), and an essay. Students applying to the program must also attend a screening interview. Screening interviews are conducted twice a year. Deadlines for submission of application materials are September 1 for the October screening dates and February 1 for the March screening dates.
- Applicants must have a 3.0 cumulative undergraduate grade point average or 3.25 for the last 60 semester hours (sh). Any student failing to meet the minimum requirements may be admitted on probation with a cumulative GPA of 2.75 to 2.99. Probationary students must petition for full admission after completing nine graduate hours from any of the following courses: CN 540, CN 541, CN 545, CN 551, CN 554, or EIS 500. Applicants must earn a cumulative GPA of 3.25 in these 9 sh.
- Applicants with a cumulative GPA between 2.6 and 2.74 may request consideration for probationary admission after the Counselor Education Selection and Retention Committee reviews an additional portfolio submitted by the applicant. The additional material included in the portfolio is intended to assist the Selection and Retention Committee’s evaluation of the applicant’s potential success as a graduate student in the Counselor Education department.
- Applicants not meeting the above requirements may request consideration based upon exceptional circumstances. Applicants must contact the Chair of the Counselor Education department for further information.
- Accepted students will be required to complete a criminal background check.
- Accepted students will be required to take the CPCE examination while in internship.
- Applicants seeking school counseling certification for Illinois or Iowa should contact the Chair of the Department of Counselor Education for those requirements. Screening interviews will not be granted until all required documents are received.

Degree Requirements

The Department of Counselor Education offers a Master of Science in Education degree in Counseling at Western Illinois University–Quad Cities in Moline, Illinois. The Counseling curriculum offers a unique blend of courses designed to provide the skills and knowledge necessary to become a competent counseling professional. Solid academic performance and experiential mastery are required. Students may select one of two options: (1) School Counseling or (2) Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC). The School Counseling option requires 52 SH for completion, and the CMHC option requires 60 SH for completion.

School Counseling

The School Counseling option prepares students for work as elementary and/or secondary school counselors. Public and private
schools offer a diverse audience and challenging forum for certified school counselors. The Department of Counselor Education is committed to preparing well-trained school counselors in the National Standards for School Counseling. Western’s approved program has been preparing candidates for certification as school counselors since the 1940s. If you are seeking school counseling certification for Illinois or Iowa, contact the Department of Counselor Education for those requirements. This is the only department at Western that prepares students for school counselor certification.

Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC)
The CMHC option prepares students for work as clinical mental health counselors in a variety of clinical settings, which include mental health centers, rehabilitation hospitals, recovery centers, private practice, university counseling centers, and employee assistance programs.

Accreditation
The Counseling Program is accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) and was the first counseling program accredited in Illinois in 1987. Because of its CACREP accreditation, Western’s Counseling Program graduates and interns are automatically eligible to sit for the National Board of Counselors examination. (Note: The Clinical Mental Health Counseling program is currently accredited under the 2001 standards for Community Counseling programs as a Community Counseling program. The CACREP 2009 standards combine the Community Counseling and Mental Health Counseling standards into standards for Clinical Mental Health Counseling programs. The Counseling Program intends to seek accreditation for this program as a Clinical Mental Health Counseling program when it comes up for reaccreditation in 2016 per CACREP guidelines).

The School Counseling option is also accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) as well as by the Illinois and Iowa State Boards of Education (ISBE) and the Iowa Educational Examiners Board.

Organizations
The Western Illinois University–Quad Cities Counseling Association promotes counselor development through education and community involvement. This association is a Chapter of the Illinois Counseling Association (ICA).

Chi Sigma Iota (CSI) is the international honor society for counseling students, counselor educators, and professional counselors. 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 field of counseling.

Graduate Assistantships
Graduate assistantships are awarded through a competitive process to full-time students enrolled in 9 SH of coursework. Recipients of graduate assistantships receive a tuition waiver and a stipend in exchange for 20 hours of work per week.

Western Illinois University is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity employer with a strong commitment to diversity. In that spirit, we are particularly interested in receiving applications from a broad spectrum of people, including, but not limited to, minorities, women, and individuals with disabilities. WIU has a non-discrimination policy that includes sex, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, and veteran status.

Contact Information
For admissions process and general program information, contact Admissions, Western Illinois University–Quad Cities, 3561 60th Street, Moline, IL 61265, (309) 762-1495, WIU-QC-Admissions@wiu.edu, wiu.edu/qc.

For specific program questions, contact the Department of Counselor Education, Western Illinois University–Quad Cities, 3561 60th Street, Moline, IL 61265, (309) 762-1876, CNED@wiu.edu, wiu.edu/counselored.

“The Counselor Education department at Western Illinois University has allowed me to make connections; hone my craft; and, most importantly, become a better version of myself.”

– Jamie Cullen
Current Student

wIu.eDu/COuNSeL0Red