

Applicant FAQs for Counselor Education Programs at USA

Please check the Department and Programs' Webpages frequently for information. The student handbook, practicum/internship handbook, and program of study are all on the counseling program website.

What are the minimum grade requirements?

A grade of "B" or better is required in the professional major sequences. Any grade below a "B" requires the course to be repeated. Students who earn a grade lower than a "B" will need to meet with their advisor to discuss their program, course sequence, etc.

What graduate examinations do I need to take?

Students within the counseling programs will take multiple examinations during their second year of schooling. Your advisor will keep you updated on when and how you must schedule these tests. The examinations are as followed:

School Counseling:

School Counselor Praxis Exam- Fall of 2nd Year

<https://www.ets.org/praxis/site/test-takers/resources/prep-materials.html?examId=5422>

USA Comprehensive Exam- Spring of 2nd Year

<https://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/ceps/gradschool/comps.html>

National Counselor Examination- Spring of 2nd Year or after graduation

<https://www.nbcc.org/certification/ncc>

Clinical Mental Health Counseling:

USA Comprehensive Exam- Spring of 2nd Year

<https://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/ceps/gradschool/comps.html>

National Counselor Examination- Spring of 2nd Year or after graduation

<https://www.nbcc.org/certification/ncc>

Are there professional organizations I can join?

Students who maintain a GPA of 3.5 and exhibit professional counselor dispositions may be invited to join the Chi Sigma Iota Honor Society and will be inducted near the end of their second semester. Many other organizations are available to join as a student within a counseling program. These include but are not limited to:

American Counseling Association (ACA): <https://www.counseling.org>

American School Counseling Association (ASCA): <https://www.schoolcounselor.org>

Alabama Counseling Association (ALCA): <http://www.alabamacounseling.org>

Alabama School Counseling Association (ALSCA): <https://www.alabamaschoolcounselors.org>

How do I apply for graduate assistantships?

Graduate Students interested in Graduate Assistantship positions should fill out the graduate assistant application. Make sure and sign the form in the top section. Once completed send the form to Dominique

House, the graduate records specialist, dhouse@southalabama.edu Ms. House will then place your application along with your admissions materials into a shared Google Drive folder where all the department chairs in the College can review your materials and consider you for an assistantship in their department. Please contact your graduate program director/coordinator, Dr. Yvette Getch at ygetch@southalabama.edu for information on available assistantship positions. Allowing faculty in your program to know you are interested in an assistantship assists them in serving as a reference for you with department chairs. Students most often obtain assistantships in their second year, and more rarely during their first year. The application form and due dates are linked below:

<https://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/graduateschool/resources/gta-supplemental-appointment-form.pdf>

<https://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/graduateschool/resources/gradassistantduedates2023-2024.pdf>

What is my program of study? What courses will I take and When?

School Counseling:

<https://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/ceps/cins/resources/cedscha.pdf>

Clinical Mental Health Counseling:

<https://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/ceps/cins/resources/cmhcms.pdf>

Are there any scholarships available in the College of Education and Professional Studies?

There are many scholarships available and they can be found at:

<https://www.southalabama.edu/departments/financialaffairs/scholarships/>

Does the University of South Alabama have an academic calendar?

The academic calendar can be found here:

<https://www.southalabama.edu/academiccalendar/>

Counseling Program Websites:

Department of Counseling and Instructional Sciences:

<https://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/ceps/cins/>

School Counseling:

<https://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/ceps/cins/school-counseling.html>

Clinical Mental Health Counseling:

<https://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/ceps/cins/mentalhealth-counseling.html>

2020-2021 USA Student Handbook:

<https://www.southalabama.edu/departments/studentaffairs/resources/lowdown20-21.pdf>

Counselor Education Program Student Handbook

https://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/ceps/cins/resources/counseloreducationprogramhandbook_august2021.pdf

Practicum/Internship Handbook:

School Counseling: <https://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/ceps/cins/resources/sc-practicum-internshipandbook.pdf>

Clinical Mental Health Counseling:
https://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/ceps/cins/resources/cmhc_practicum_internship_manual.pdf

Helpful Resource Links:

Canvas Login:
<https://www.southalabama.edu/departments/usaonline/>

University of South Alabama Counseling:
<https://www.southalabama.edu/departments/counseling/individualcounseling.html>

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) : <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

University of South Alabama Financial Aid Office: <https://www.southalabama.edu/departments/finaid/>

Marx Library:
<https://www.southalabama.edu/departments/library/>

Housing Options:

University of South Alabama Housing-
<https://www.southalabama.edu/departments/housing/>

Apartments near University of South Alabama-
<https://www.apartments.com/off-campus-housing/al/mobile/university-of-south-alabama/>

Anticipated and Potential Expenses

Below are expenses that are associated with our degree program. While there may be other expenses, this list will help you anticipate many of the costs associated with our program and when these may occur. Please note, Counseling is a Professional Program and there may be additional costs that are not listed.

-Tuition and associated fees each semester. For the cost of tuition and associated fees, please contact the registrar's office and/or work with financial aid.

-Assessment and repository program currently LIVETEXT (approximate cost \$139) should be purchased your first semester by December 1st at the latest. LIVETEXT is our assessment and repository program for the College. LIVETEXT is used throughout the program by faculty and students are required to upload certain documentation into the system. Beginning in Fall 2021, students will upload specific artifacts from courses into livetext. Additionally, our Counselor Disposition Scale and Evaluation will be in LIVETEXT.

This scale is completed by students and faculty at least 4x during the program. This program is also used during practicum and internship for evaluations, contracts, documentation of hours, site contracts, etc.

*****Please note, we are likely changing the repository system in Fall 2023. We will keep new students posted.*

-Typically graduate students can expect to purchase 2-3 texts per class which may also include the purchase of supplementary materials (Skillsetter, student workbooks, etc) for each course.

Supplementary materials are not considered add-ons. These are essential materials used for the course and learning purposes.

-Lab fees associated with particular courses including, but not limited to,
EPY 555 (Assessment)

CED 588 (Career)

CED 574 Group Counseling, Theories, & Process- Currently \$90

Practicum/Skills Class for Simulation Lab. This is an expensive fee around \$200. The fee is set by the simulation lab and may increase.

**These are typically attached to tuition and fees. Please note that the fees can fluctuate. We list these to provide you with approximate costs associated with fees. The University also has flat/set fees for classes, typically these fees are \$22. Field experiences also have associated fees which are typically \$37. Remember, all fees are subject to change.*

-Skillsetter *which is utilized in CED 586 Counseling Skills and Process and costs approximately \$59 (this is an example of course materials)*

-Liability Insurance must be purchased prior to the beginning of the summer semester for CMHC students. For SC students, this must be purchased prior to the Fall Semester in which Practicum occurs. Proof of Liability insurance must be shown prior to the first day of Practicum Class, Liability Proof must be uploaded to LIVETEXT prior to the first day of class and to CANVAS no later than the first class meeting.

-Telehealth training-*Although we attempt to find telemental/telebehavioral health training that is of no cost to students, there is a possibility that students may incur costs for telemental/telebehavioral health training. Proof of completed training must be uploaded to LIVETEXT by April 30th during CED 586: Counseling Skills and Process. You will also be required to upload proof of training to CANVAS.*

Practicum and internship background checks, drug screens, etc. *may or may not be covered by the internship site. We suggest that students be prepared to pay for background checks and drug screening. Additionally, service learning activities and other opportunities may require background checks and to participate students may need to pay for a background check prior to practicum or internship.*