

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE UMES COUNSELOR EDUCATION PROGRAM

How many classes do I have to take to get my Master's degree?

The program is a 48-hour credit program. Part-time people usually spread their program out over five years, full-time students usually take 2-2 1/2 years to complete the program.

Is the program accredited?

The School Counseling track is approved by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). This approval shares reciprocity with a number of other states.

What's the program enrollment like? How large are the classes?

We have 40-50 students enrolled in the program and most are part-time students. Class size averages about 12 students.

What time of day are classes offered?

Classes in the Counselor Education Program are geared toward individuals who are working, therefore, classes are offered in the evening. Most meet once a week from 4-6:30 pm, 5 – 7:30 pm; and 5:30 – 8:00 pm. There are times when a course may meet later. There are a few courses that are offered in a weekend format.

Where do I park? Is the campus accessible?

There is parking adjacent to Hazel Hall. Students must purchase a parking sticker. Most of the campus parking lots allow student vehicles.

What kind of student organizations are available at the University?

The Department of Education has a chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, an international education honor society. Counselor Education students can be recommended for the campus chapter of Chi Sigma Iota, the honor society for counselor education.

Can I transfer in any credits?

Students are allowed to transfer in ***up to*** six approved credits from a regionally accredited institution.

What's the difference between school and community/agency counseling?

School and community/agency students take similar coursework. The school counseling specialization enables students to be eligible to become a certified school counselor.

Do I have to write a thesis?

At this time only a seminar paper is required to graduate.

Are there comprehensive examinations?

Yes, this examination must be passed in order to graduate. It is offered twice a year.

Can a working person do this program part-time? What about the practicum?

Yes, but the practicum could be problematic. The practicum is a total of **500** hours in the field. It is a **two semester, 6 credit hours** experience. Keeping in close communication with your advisor about what type of practicum setting you are interested in is key. Attempts will be made to make some of the practicum hours flexible. Nevertheless, in order to successfully complete this aspect of the program, it will probably require you to make some temporary adjustment in your work schedule.