FAQ Questions with Answers

Application Process

Q: How do you apply for the program?
A: Apply online here. See our doctoral application checklist for specific application requirements.

Q: When is the application deadline?
A: December 1 for fall admission in the following year.

Application Requirements

Q: What are the application requirements?
A: 1. Complete and submit the online Graduate School application. Visit the “How to apply” to the graduate program link at: http://www.umsl.edu/gradschool/prospective/how-to-apply.html

In addition to the general requirements for admission to the Graduate School, other special provisions apply to international students. Prospective students should contact the Office of International Student Services (Phone 314-516-5229; e-mail: iss@umsl.edu or visit the website of the Office of International Student and Scholar Services). More information for graduate admissions requirements for international students can also be found here.

2. Pay the application fee if you are a first-time UM-St. Louis graduate student

3. Request an official transcript of each University you have attended to be sent to the Graduate Admissions Office.

4. Request letters of recommendation to be submitted to the Graduate Admissions Office. Use the standard graduate school forms. Three letters of reference are required.

5. Submit supplemental application documents through the Counseling doctoral program email portal at CounselingDocApps@umsl.edu The documents must be in PDF format and must include:
   - Your professional resume
   - A copy of a paper you have written on a scholarly topic, as a writing sample. Please limit to 20 pages or less.

6. Answers to the questions below. Please provide typed (double spaced) questions and responses that are saved as a PDF document and sent to the Counseling doctoral program email portal at CounselingDocApps@umsl.edu

Informational Questions:

1. Do you currently have a license to practice counseling independently in the United States or its territories? If yes, please list your licenses (type of license and state) including the date of first issuance.
2. Please list any human service jobs you have held, the dates and length of employment, the employer, and the nature of the work that you performed.

Narrative Questions - Please limit your responses to about 300 words per question:

1. How do you envision the University of Missouri—St. Louis doctoral program preparing you to meet your career goals?

2. Briefly describe your experiences working with diverse populations and what you have learned from those experiences.

3. What personal qualities do you possess that relate to your interest in doctoral education in counseling?

Important Note: All email submissions to the counseling program doctoral application email portal must be in PDF format. Please save the file as LastNameFirstName.pdf [ex: BankenAmy.pdf] Please be sure to include your name and identification information in the email subject space for each submitted document. Review the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) webpage at: www.umsl.edu/gradschool/prospective/admissions-faq.html

Q: What transcripts do I need to submit?

A: Admission to all graduate programs at UMSL require official transcripts from every college or university you have attended. International students must request official certified transcripts. International students should contact International Student and Scholar Services with any questions or for more detailed information.

Official transcripts must be received directly from the issuing college/university. We can receive them via paper mail or electronic submission.

Unofficial transcripts may be uploaded into your online application. Please note that this is optional. If/when you are admitted to the university, you will need to have official copies sent.

UMSL Alumni: Your undergraduate records are accessible by Graduate Admissions and you do not need to send an UMSL transcript or resend previously submitted final transcripts.

Send transcripts to the following addresses

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domestic Students</th>
<th>International Students / International Universities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Missouri - St. Louis Graduate Admissions</td>
<td>University of Missouri - St. Louis International Student Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>121 Woods Hall</td>
<td>362 Social Sciences Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 University Blvd.</td>
<td>1 University Blvd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saint Louis, MO 63121-4400</td>
<td>Saint Louis, MO 63121-4400</td>
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</tbody>
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Q: What makes a successful candidate for this program?

A: The UMSL faculty reviews all applications holistically within the context of each individual’s life experiences and identities. So, even if you do not meet all of the following requirements, we still encourage you to apply! An undergraduate and graduate GPA of at least 3.5, work experience as a counselor, a social justice orientation, excellent recommendation letters, strong writing ability, and demonstrated potential for scholarly work (e.g., research, presentations) are preferred.

Q: What happens after I submit my application?

A: The counseling faculty will review all applications and some prospective students will be invited for an on campus interview in January or February. The daylong interview will consist of a group activity, a writing sample, individual interviews with faculty, opportunities to meet with current doctoral students, and more. Although on campus interviews are preferred, virtual interviews may be offered for prospective students far from the St. Louis area.

Q: Can I apply to the program with only a bachelor’s degree?

A: No, a master’s degree is required to be considered for the program.

Q: Can I apply to this program with a master’s degree from a different field?

A: Yes, but you may be required to take master’s level counseling courses unless you have completed related coursework in a similar field (e.g., counseling psychology, social work). You may transfer in a maximum of 45 credits from outside the program.

Tuition, Fees, & Funding Opportunities

Q: What scholarships, graduate apprenticeships, and other funding opportunities are available?

A: Numerous opportunities are available for scholarships, graduate assistantships, and jobs at UMSL. Most of our students who want a graduate assistantship are able to get one. Many students get jobs working on campus too. Graduate assistantships typically involve 20 hours of work per week either teaching courses or working as research assistants for a professor(s). Students who have graduate assistantships are not allowed to work off campus. Also, the UMSL College of Education dissertation and travel grant subcommittee offers opportunities for doctoral students to receive funding for travel to professional conferences and for their dissertation research. Information about these opportunities is sent out twice yearly each fall and spring through email.

Q: How much does the program cost?

A: For more information about the tuition and fees, visiting the Cashier’s Office website.

Q: Are application fee waivers available?
A: Your fee can be waived if you have previously applied to the graduate school at UMSL or previously been enrolled as a graduate student at UMSL. It can also be waived if you are a veteran or a McNair scholar (You must submit a letter confirming this to the graduate admissions office).

Q: I paid an application fee for a previous graduate application; do I need to pay the fee again?
A: Once you have paid the application fee once, you do not need to pay it again, even if you submit multiple applications.

About the Program

Q: Is the doctoral program CACREP-accredited?
A: Yes.

Q: When are courses offered?
A: Most courses are offered on campus once a week from 5:30pm to 8:20pm. A few courses are offered synchronously or asynchronously online.

Q: What are the program course requirements?
A: See the 3rd page of our doctoral application checklist for degree program requirements. The program includes a 600 hour internship split between at least 3 different experiences of the student’s choice (i.e., teaching, research, counseling, supervision, and leadership and advocacy). The program also requires a doctoral counseling practicum (typically taken during the fall and spring of the first year) that requires accruing counseling hours outside of class time. Additionally, the supervision class requires that students supervise multiple master’s level counseling students while taking the course.

Q: Can I transfer into the program from another PhD program?
A: Yes. Students who have completed a master’s degree in a CACREP-accredited program typically transfer in most or all of the required master’s level coursework for the program. Students can transfer in credits from non-CACREP-accredited master’s programs or from programs in related fields at the discretion of the faculty. Students cannot transfer in more than 33 credits from their master’s programs. For students transferring in from other doctoral programs over half of their coursework must be completed at UMSL (up to 45 credits).

Q: How long does the program take to complete?
A: Our program is structured in a way that is flexible based on the lives of our students. Our doctoral students go through the program at different speeds, but typically students complete the program in about 4 to 5 years.

Q: What opportunities are there for getting involved in the program?
A: Doctoral students take an active leadership role in our program through participating in the student lead Doctoral Student Leadership and Service Committee, the Doctoral program committee, and as leaders in Chi Sigma Iota. At our Counseling and Social Advocacy Center
(CSAC), our program’s counseling center, doctoral students play active roles in partnering with the local community to organize and present at conferences, which focus on an array of topics, including play therapy, grief, and trauma.

**Q: What do students do after they graduate?**

A: Our students work as counselor educators, private practice counselors, school counselors, and in other leadership roles in the field. The vast majority of our students work in the field after they graduate.

**International Students**

**Q: What are the admissions requirements for international students?**

A: Information for graduate admissions requirements for international students can be found here.

International students whose native language is not English and who have spent less than two of the last three years in an English-speaking country are required to submit scores from an internationally accepted standardized examination before a decision is made on admission. Teaching assistantships will be awarded only to students with demonstrated oral English proficiency. For information on the online TOEFL test, visit the ETS website. Another acceptable standardized English exam in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). For more information on English Language Requirements, visit this site.

Students must also submit official copies of their international transcripts translated into English as necessary. For more information on transcript requirements, visit this site.

**Q: I’m an international student with a conferred degree in the United States. May I be exempt from the English Language Requirement?**

A: Yes, if you have spent more than two of the last three years in an English-speaking country, you are not required to submit English Language Testing scores. For more information on English Language Requirements, visit this site.

**Q: What do I need to score on the TOEFL test to be admitted?**

A: It is recommended that students have a 79 TOEFL, 6.5 IELTS, or 53 PTE-A, 105-110 Duolingo. You may be able to be admitted conditionally with lower scores. For more information on English Language Requirements, visit this site.

**Q: What is entailed in the VISA process?**

A: For more information about F-1 and J-1 Visa regulations and tax information, visit the UMSL international student & Scholar Services site. For more information about H-1B Visas, visit this link.

**Q: How many credits are required to be a full time student?**

A: 9 credits. International students must be full time students (excluding summer semesters).
Q: What employment opportunities are there for international students?
A: Please visit this UMSL global page for more information on employment opportunities and internship.

St. Louis & Campus Resources

Q: What does St. Louis have to offer?
A: The St. Louis metropolitan area is close to many cultural, athletic, and entertainment venues. For more information on what Saint Louis has to offer, please visit https://explorestlouis.com/.

Q: What public transportation options are available?
A: While mass transit is available, with Metrolink (light rail) and bus service on the campus, many students find a car necessary.

Q: What housing options are available?
A: Students are generally able to find affordable and acceptable housing on campus or within a short commuting distance from the University.

Q: What resources are available on campus?
A: Child Care

Information on childcare can be obtained from the University of Missouri-St. Louis, University Child Development Center (130 South Campus Classroom Bldg.), One University Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63121-4499. Phone: 314-516-5658; FAX: 314-516-5227. Website: https://www.umsl.edu/~kids/

The Triton Pantry

The Triton Pantry is a food resource for all enrolled students that are experiencing or are at risk of food insecurity or hunger. The Triton Pantry is located at 170 Millennium Student Center, in the hallway to the right of The Nosh. The Triton Mobile Pantry is a one day, outdoor food resource open to everyone - UMSL students, staff and faculty, and members of the community. Mobile Pantries are held on the Parking Lot VV on UMSL's south campus, directly outside Marillac Hall (2940 Bellerive Dr., St. Louis, MO 63121). For more information visit: https://www.umsl.edu/studentsocialservices/triton-pantry/index.html

Housing Counseling

Housing counseling helps students who do not have stable housing or are facing homelessness and includes services such as: Linkage to community services/resources related to emergency housing, rental assistance, legal assistance, utility assistance, and credit repair; Exploration and planning of available and appropriate housing options; Individualized budgeting; Creation of a sustainable housing plan; Advocacy for appropriate on-campus resources and Housing crisis intervention. For more information visit: https://www.umsl.edu/studentsocialservices/services/housingcounseling.html
Public Assistance

For information and assistance with child care subsidy, food stamps, temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) or health care access visit the following website:
https://www.umsl.edu/studentsocialservices/services/publicassistance.html

Case Management

Students who are experiencing life issues, hardship, or unmet needs that impede their ability to be a successful student can receive case management from student social services. Case management can assist students with issues of homelessness, food insecurity, public assistance applications and healthcare access. For more information visit:
https://www.umsl.edu/studentsocialservices/services/casemanagement.html

Counseling Services

The counselors and psychologists at Counseling Services provide personal counseling sessions for students, faculty, and staff at UMSL. To schedule an appointment with a counselor, you can call 314-516-5711 or stop by Counseling Services during office hours. [Monday through Friday; 8 am - 5 pm]. The Counseling Services are located in the Millennium Student Center (North Campus) office suite 131. For more information visit:
https://www.umsl.edu/hcdas/counseling/index.html