

**COMMUNITY COUNSELING INFORMATION SHEET**  
**Department of Psychology, Counseling, & Special Education**  
**Texas A&M University-Commerce      Commerce, TX 75429      903/886-5637**

Required (46 semester hours—all are 3 credit hour courses except COUN 549, which is 1 credit hour):		
COUN 501*—Intro to Coun Prof COUN 510*—Coun Th & Tech COUN 512—Career Development COUN 516*—Pre-Practicum COUN 517—Assessment in Coun	COUN 522—Coun Diverse Populations COUN 528*—Grp Proc Coun & Dev COUN 530—Community Counseling COUN 545—Dev Iss & Strat in Couns COUN 549—Ethics in Prof Coun (1 hr)	COUN 551—Practicum COUN 552—Internship COUN 552—Internship (continued) COUN 595—Research Lit & Tech COUN One from 513, 564, 611 PSY 503—Abn Psy & Dev Psychopathlogy
Elective (3 semester hours) One course in addition to those above, typically from the following:		
COUN 513—Comm in Marriage COUN 514—School Coun & Dev COUN 534—Coun Ch & Adoles COUN 539—Intro to Play Therapy	COUN 560—Crisis Interv: Th & Prac COUN 564—Fam Crises & Resources COUN 580—Chem Dependency in Persp COUN 581— Assmt/Tmt of Chem Dep	COUN 590—Legal Iss in Coll Stu Affairs COUN 606—Stu Aff in Higher Ed COUN 607—The Contemp Coll St COUN 611—Intr Mar/Fam Coun

\*Admission to Candidacy requires grades of B or higher in COUN 501, 510, 516, & 528. Admission to Candidacy status is prerequisite for COUN 551.

The courses above include course requirements for counselor licensure (LPC) in Texas. Licensure requires additional supervised post-degree experience, as indicated elsewhere in this handbook.

An advisor in the department will assist students with the selection of an elective course that will best meet the individual student's needs as a community agency counselor.

**Counseling Program Mission Statement:** The Department exists to promote the highest professional counseling standards at the master's and doctoral levels in educating exemplary counselors, student affairs professionals, counselor educators, researchers, and leaders.

**Community Counseling Program Objectives**

Students in the community counseling program will identify, describe, explain, and/or apply knowledge of:

1. pertinent developments in historical, philosophical, societal, cultural, economic, and political contributions to the mental health movement;
2. the role(s), functions, and professional identity of counselors in a variety of community practice settings;
3. policies, laws, legislation, recognition, reimbursement, right-to-practice, and other issues relevant to community counseling;
4. ethical and legal considerations specifically related to the practice of community counseling (e.g., ethical codes of various professional counseling organizations);
5. the role of racial, ethnic, and cultural heritage, nationality, socioeconomic status, family structure, age, gender, sexual orientation, religious and spiritual beliefs, occupation, and physical and mental status, and equity issues in community counseling;
6. the roles of community counselors in various practice setting and the relationships between counselors and other professionals in these settings;
7. organizational, administrative, fiscal, and legal dimensions of community practice settings and institutions;
8. theories and strategies of community needs assessment in designing, implementing, and evaluating community counseling interventions, programs and systems;
9. general principles of community intervention, consultation, education, and outreach; and characteristics of human services programs and networks (public, private, and volunteer) in local communities;
10. characteristics of individuals seeking community counseling services, including but not limited to the effects of socioeconomic status, unemployment, aging, gender, culture, race, ethnicity, chronic illness, developmental transitions, and interpersonal, family, and community violence;
11. principles and methods of program development and service delivery for a normally developing clientele, including but not limited to prevention, implementation of support groups, peer facilitation training, parent education, career information and counseling, and encouragement of self-help;
12. effective strategies to promote client understanding of and access to community resources;
13. principles and models of biopsychosocial assessment, including techniques, and/or methods for conducting an intake interview, case-conceptualization, theories of human development and concepts of normalcy and psychopathology leading to diagnoses and appropriate treatment plans with regard to planning counseling interventions and tracking client progress;
14. principles of diagnosis and the use of current diagnostic tools, including the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual;
15. effective strategies for client advocacy in public policy and governmental relations; and
16. application of appropriate individual, couple, family, group, and systems modalities for initiating, maintaining, and terminating counseling services, including the use of crisis intervention, and brief, intermediate, and long-term approaches.