

SESL Counseling Programs FAQ

I want to apply for the counseling programs? How do I do that and what is the process?

- Both the mental health and professional school counseling programs require that interest person apply to the program through the Office of Graduate Studies at <https://www.nsu.edu/graduate-studies/forms>. After the application is completed with the necessary document, the department sets up interview dates with the faculty. The process can take up to 3 (three) weeks from the time of the interview to a decision being rendered by the department admission committee.

How many hours are required for the degree? How many hours credit hours is the program?

- The program is 60 semester hours or 20 courses. 15 courses are common courses and 5 are in the degree tracks of either professional school or mental health counseling.

How many hours are required for financial aid? How many hours are normally taken during the semester?

- 6 credit hours or two courses are required for financial aid. Normally students take 9 hours or 3 courses.

Can I get both a degree in school and mental health counseling?

- No. Students can earn a degree in either track, but they can also take courses in the sister track. Program switching is not encouraged.

How are the classes offered in the program?

- The classes are offered online and in person on the main campus, the Virginia Beach Higher Education Center and the Norfolk Naval Base.

Does the program offer assistantship?

- The department does not directly offer assistantships. Graduate assistantships are offered through the Department of Graduate Studies. Students are encouraged to apply for any and all financial assistance opportunities.

What courses are being offered next semester?

- It depends. Some courses are only offered at certain times during the semester. Courses are not guaranteed to be offered based on student enrollment. Please check with your advisor about the courses you are interested in or need to take.

How do I sign up for courses that I need? Can I be signed up over the phone?

- Once you are accepted as a degree seeking or non-degree seeking student, you have the choice to sign yourself up for courses or wait to meet with your advisor. The best practice is to email the program coordinator or department chair or advisor the courses you want to take, and your request will be emailed to the registrar. Once enrolled in the course, you have 48 hours to pay for the course before you are dropped.

I cannot get in touch with my advisor. They are not returning my telephone calls to their office.

- The professors have office hours but also have university responsibilities. Even during their office hours, they have meetings. It is best to email your professor and include a phone number and they will return your email usually in 48 hours or less. If you email, the professor might have feedback on their email if they are in a meeting or out doing university business. Please remember that faculty members do not reply to emails on holidays and weekends. Emails sent during those times will be answered starting the next business day.

Can I use my job as my internship?

- For school counseling, no. The Office of Clinical Experiences places professional counseling students at internship in the local school systems.
- For mental health counseling, possibly. Mental health students are responsible for securing their own placements based on their schedules. Getting a different practicum/internship site encourages students to experience counseling in another settings or field.

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I graduated from the program when it was less than 60 hours. Can I return to complete my degree?

- No you completed a degree already. You can return as a non-degree seeking student to get anywhere from 4 to 8 courses depending on your degree transcript.
- If you graduated with 48 hours, then you will need four course COED 680, 700, 710C and UED 720.

If you graduated with 36 or 39 hours then you will need these courses which varies according to your transcript: Ethics (COED 620), Family Systems (COED 640), Multiculturalism (UED 606), Addictions (COED 644), Diagnosis & Treatment (COED 650), Introduction to Counseling Supervision (COED 680), Psychopathology (COED 700), Counseling Practicum (COED 710C), Crisis and Intervention (UED 720) and Internship II (UED 794 or 794C) to make a 600 hour internship. All internships at 36 and 39 hours were only 400 hours.

You can check the website for the 60-credit hour list and compare to what you have completed.

Is there any financial aid for the extra courses past my degree?

- No. Only degree seeking students receive financial aid. However, students are encouraged to search for scholarships both locally and nationally to assist with tuition. Check to see if your employment provides tuition reimbursement which means payment out of pocket might have to come first.

I want my licensure paper completed by the school can I get that done in a week?

- No. After completing the verification form, the requests can take 10 business days to complete excluding holidays and weekends. The time starts once the form is received. There is no expediting process.

I need my licensure paperwork filled out. Can I drop it off at the office to be filled out and have it emailed to me?

- QMHP documents can be emailed from the university to the QMHP Dropbox. Licensure documents for actual LPC must be completed and submitted to the licensure board's email to be added to the applicant's online application. Because these documents contain identifying information personal information, a verification form to release this information must be completed by the applicant and returned first before their request is put in que.

If I do not have a 600-hour internship, how do I get the extra hours for the needed 500 hours for a QMHP?

- Extra hours must be completed through the current place of employment.
- Please remember the department can only verify what hours you completed enrolled in the counseling education program ONLY.
- The counseling department cannot verify hours from another program graduate on or off campus or undergraduate.

I checked with the Virginia Counseling Board and they do not have my paperwork from the NSU. What is the holdup?

When applying for LPC, it is best to complete the application online which creates an applicant portal. The university will submit NSU verification documents to the board and the board will upload the documents to the applicant's portal. The board gets thousands of applications monthly, so allow extra time from when NSU submits the completed documents to the board via email to the applicant's portal. Once you submit the application and the university submits the verification documents, please allow the licensure board at least 3 weeks to process the complete application in the portal.

Note: When applying for QMHP, once NSU submits the applicant's documents to the QMHP Dropbox and copies the applicant on the email, the applicant needs to follow-up with the board with any questions.

Note: When applying for LPC, once NSU submits the applicant's documents to the Virginia Board of Counseling email, the applicant needs to follow-up with the board with any questions.