



Counselor Education 2023 Admission FAQs

Is the Counselor Education PhD program accredited?

Yes, the program is accredited through the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP).

What makes UTK's Counselor Education doctoral program unique?

We provide a cohort-style doctoral program with multiple opportunities to teach, supervise, engage in research, expand counseling skills, and develop leadership and advocacy skills. Doctoral students actively support master's students in their clinical development, teach both undergraduate and graduate courses in our department, and participate in research projects. Additionally, our Counselor Training Clinic (CTC) offers doctoral students the opportunity to provide individual and small group counseling under supervision, with these hours counting towards clinical licensure. Lastly, multiple options for community outreach and a thriving CSI chapter are additional benefits to joining our program.

Are two years of post master's degree counseling related experience required for admission?

Two years post master's degree counseling experience is preferred, but not required for applicants.

How many students are admitted each year?

We typically admit 4-7 students each year. Most are full-time, but part-time options are available.

How long does it take to finish the program?

Most full-time students complete their degree in 3-4 years and part-time students typically complete the program in 5-6 years.

What about graduate assistantships?

Full-time doctoral students are eligible for graduate assistantships inclusive of tuition, fees, and health insurance. In recent years, we have been able to secure three years of funding for all students. For more information about costs and funding visit The Graduate School <https://gradschool.utk.edu/>

Do students conduct practicum and internship in the PhD program?

Doctoral students complete a 100+ hour clinical practicum and a 600-hour internship. Practicum

students are typically cross-placed, so those with school counseling experience complete their practicum in a clinical mental health setting and vice versa. Students with experience in both settings are placed by advisement. Internship is divided into six one-hour experiences: 1 clinical, 2 supervision, 2 teaching, and 1 leadership and advocacy or student's choice. All placements are identified and secured by our program.

How will I get involved with research while a student there?

You will have multiple opportunities to participate in research. Your dissertation will be a two-manuscript project with the topic selected by you. In addition to the dissertation, all doctoral students are placed on a research team beginning in year 1, where they learn about the research process and assist advanced doctoral students with their dissertation projects. Many doctoral students also join faculty research teams as desired. Doctoral students are also strongly encouraged to present at state, regional, and national counseling conferences, and funding support is available from both the department and the Graduate School for these.

Can I be admitted to your program if I graduated from a non-CACREP accredited program?

Yes, we admit students from non-CACREP accredited programs. Students must have completed coursework in the CACREP core areas, completed a minimum of 700 hours of supervised clinical work, and graduated from a 60-credit hour master's program to begin doctoral work. Any deficits in these areas can be completed during the first year in the doctoral program.