BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT
THE M.Ed. IN COUNSELING
(SCHOOL COUNSELING EMPHASIS)
NAU—Yuma

**When is the next school counseling cohort?**

The next cohort will begin in the Fall of 2007 OR Fall 2008. A decision about the next cohort will take place in October, 2006, thus, please check this website at that time.

**When & Where do classes meet?**

Weekday Classes meet Mondays through Thursdays from 4:30pm – 9:30pm, 4:30pm-7:15pm, or from 7:15pm-9:30pm. Weekend classes vary, but generally are 9am – 4pm Saturdays, with some variations. Classes are held at NAU-Yuma.

Can I take classes online?
Occasionally, there are theories-based courses available online. Our philosophy involves training counselors face-to-face since that is the primary method in which school counselors work, and as such, our programs involve high levels of experiential activity in the classroom.

**What is the Application Process?**

The student will need to submit an autobiographical application, three letters of recommendation, undergraduate transcripts, and current G.R.E. scores to the Flagstaff campus.

The application packet can be accessed on the web at:

[http://coe.nau.edu/academics/EPS](http://coe.nau.edu/academics/EPS)

All applicants must take the G.R.E.—no exceptions. However, there is no cutoff score. Students are accepted into the program based on a multiple criteria system including the G.R.E. Although the deadline for taking the paper and pencil test may have passed, a student can still take the test via computer through the A.S.U. testing center, both main and west campuses. It is also available at Sylvan Learning Centers.
Does the student have to be a teacher to enter this program and become certified?

No. According to current Arizona Board of Education guidelines, the student does not need to be a teacher to receive K-12 guidance certification. If the student is admitted from a different career area, however, we recommend that he or she consider doing regular volunteer work in the teaching district where the practicum and internship may be done.

How many credits can be transferred from another program?

The NAU Graduate catalog states that a student may apply nine credit hours from one master’s degree to another.

In addition, the number of units you transfer from other institutions cannot exceed twenty-five percent of the total minimum units of credit required for your master’s degree. (from online 2005 catalog)

Several things to remember: First, NAU requires that a minimum of 45 classroom hours of instruction have been received for each 3-credit class. If a college did not provide this minimum number of classroom hours, units will not transfer “straight across.”

Secondly, all transferred classes to be applied towards the master’s degree must have been taken within six years of the date of graduation. If a transcript does not fall within this window of time, course work may not transfer.

Finally, classes transferred in must be equivalent to those required on the program of study. This evaluation is done on a case-by-case basis, after a student has been admitted to the school counseling program.

What about the program itself?

This is a 48-hour CACREP approved clinical program that normally takes about 2 to 3 years to complete, though most students complete it in 2 if they take 2-3 courses during the summer. Students typically take two weeknight courses, and sometimes one weekend course each semester. The student will also need to plan to take courses in the summer in order to finish during this period.
The program cannot be accelerated. A student will need to take scheduled classes at the same time as other cohort members.

At present (1/06), the cost for tuition is $239 per credit hour. Financial aid for graduate students is very limited, but scholarships are sometimes available through COE. Please check for links via our website.

**Can I counsel in the community college or college setting with this degree?**

This program is designed to train K-12 counselors. Your field work will primarily be done at a K-12 school. The degree is not designed for post-secondary counseling, however, community college counseling centers sometimes may hire counselors with this degree.

**Will this program transfer to other states?**

NAU cannot answer this question since it is within the purview of each state’s Department of Education to set hiring guidelines and standards for school counselors. However, since NAU’s School and Community Counseling programs are CACREP-accredited (a counseling-based national standard), it is very likely that other states’ DOE’s will accept this degree – however, it is incumbent upon each student to research other states’ standards on this issue.

**What about practicum and internship?**

The program requires a 100-hour practicum. Half of these practicum hours are done in a practicum counseling laboratory at NAU-Yuma, in which student-counselors provide counseling to children, adolescents, and adults from the community. The balance of the practicum hours must take place in a K-12 school setting doing counseling related activities under the supervision of a master’s level counselor. Usually, this K-12 based practicum involves about 5 hours per week minimum for one semester.

The internship is the final activity of the program, after all other classes in the program, including practicum have been completed. The internship is a 600-hour commitment to be completed in a K-12 school setting. Of these, only 240 hours must be direct client contact including activities such as one-on-one and group counseling. No more than 40 hours can be counted per week during internship.

The other 360 hours are supporting activities such as case conferences, writing up notes, researching client problems, or attending workshops related to counseling activities. Normally the internship is done at one school location. Supervision *must* be done by a certified school counselor.
Many students have completed some of their internship hours during the summer. They have accumulated hours working with alternative schools, or counseling at schools with 12-month programs. The balance of hours has then been completed during the subsequent fall and/or spring semesters.

**Can the student work and still complete the internship?**

Most of our students are working out of the home. If they are teachers, they fit internship into before-school, after-school, lunch-hour and prep period slots. If they work at other positions, many have gone to a flex-time situation in order to get all hours in. The internship does not have to be done full time, and can be spread over several semesters of part-time commitment.

**What if the student wants to take classes before being admitted to the program?**

First, the student must understand that admission to the program is not automatic, but rather through a selection process. This means that not everyone who applies is admitted.

With that in mind, if the student wants to take classes before admittance, we recommend 12 units (which is the limit which can be taken as an unclassified graduate student) chosen from following open enrollment classes:

- EPS 580—Human Development
- EPS 525—Introduction to Statistics
- EDR 610—Introduction to Research
- EPS 664—Tests and Measurements (Pre-req.: EPS 525)

**What about Certification after graduation?**

This CACREP approved program is designed to meet requirements for the Arizona Board of Education K-12 Guidance Counselor Certificate and the National School Certified Credential of the National Board for Certified Counselors.