

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

**New College Institute
Martinsville, Virginia
Old Dominion University
Counseling Master's Degree Program**

Deadlines for Admission

- Completed applications are considered as they are received for New College Institute master's degree program applicants. Admissions decisions are made soon after all application materials have been received.
- Graduate students who have not been admitted to the master's degree program may take up to 12 credits as an Old Dominion University non-degree graduate student prior to being admitted. In the event students are later admitted to the master's degree program, the 12 credits completed will be applied to the degree program. Taking and completing courses as a non-degree graduate student does not guarantee admission to the program. Courses available to non-degree students are restricted to COUN 601, COUN 633, COUN 635, and COUN 650. Students who wish to take graduate courses as a non-degree graduate student should apply to ODU online and should indicate they are NOT applying for a degree program. Once admitted, non-degree graduate students may register online for the four courses that are listed above.

Criteria Used to Review Applicants

- Clear goal of becoming a professional counselor. Indicators include career goals that are clearly within the profession of counseling (as opposed to psychology, social work, or a related field); interest in becoming certified or licensed by a state department of education as a school counselor or becoming licensed by a state as a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC); or self descriptions of future job titles that include professional counselor or counselor (as opposed to psychologist, social worker, or therapist).
- Potential for success in the counseling profession. Indicators include successful experiences as a student, as an employee, or as a member of an organization or community group.
- Successful experience in counseling related activities. Indicators include leadership positions, jobs, or volunteer activities related to counseling.
- Academic aptitude for graduate study. Indicators include a high GRE score; a high grade point average in bachelor's degree program; and a high grade point average in any graduate course work completed.
- Verbal and written communication skills. Indicators include effective written communications in application materials; writing score on the GRE; or proficiency in the English language if an applicant's native language is other than English.

- Evidence of potential for completing a graduate program. Indicators include a strong desire to obtain a master's degree; past history of achieving goals, completing projects, and persisting with difficult tasks; ability to work autonomously with little need for direct supervision; and receptivity to feedback with desire to perform at a high level.
- Interpersonal skills. Indicators include a history of positive relationships with peers, professors, employers, friends, and family; demonstrated ability to interact effectively in an academic environment; ability to handle stressful situations effectively, and no evidence of having acted unethically.
- Interest in a counseling specialty area (college counseling, community counseling, school counseling, or mental health counseling) needed to balance the program. Indicators include indication of interest in a needed specialty area; or experience or background in a needed specialty area.

Application Requirements

- When applying for the New College Institute Counseling Master's Degree Program, be sure to clearly indicate on your application that you are applying for that program, and not for the master's degree program located on the Norfolk campus.
- Complete and submit the application for graduate studies available at the Office of Graduate Admissions which can be found online at <http://admissions.odu.edu/graduate.php>. Click on "I Want to Apply." Have a resume ready to upload that includes your social security number before you begin to complete the online graduate application.
- Submit official transcripts to the Graduate Admissions Office, 129 Koch Hall, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA 23529. You must submit official transcripts from all universities you have attended (whether or not you earned degrees at those universities). There is no minimum GPA required.
- If you have questions regarding your application for graduate studies or receipt of your official transcripts, contact the Office of Graduate Admissions, Email: gradadmit@odu.edu. Telephone numbers (757) 683-3685 or toll-free (800) 348-7926. Fax (757) 683-3255. Mail address: ATTN: Graduate Admissions, 129 Koch Hall, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA 23529.
- Other than the ODU Graduate Application and official transcripts (which must be submitted to the ODU Office of Graduate Admissions) submit all other application materials via e-mail attachment to the Counseling Graduate Admissions Assistant, Ms. Cynthia Walley, at cwalley@odu.edu.
- You are encouraged to submit your application materials via email attachment. You will receive notification of receipt of materials that you submit. If you mail or deliver application materials, use the following address:

Ms. Cynthia Walley
Counseling Graduate Admissions
110 Education Building
Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling
Old Dominion University
Norfolk, VA 23529

- Application materials that must be submitted to the Counseling Graduate Program include the following (see details below):

GRE scores
3 letters of recommendation
Essay
Current resume

- Submit a letter that lists your unofficial Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores that were earned in the last five years. Also have a copy of your official Graduate Record Examination scores sent to ODU. There are no minimum scores required on the GRE examination. If you hold a master's degree or higher earned at ODU, the requirement that the scores be earned in the last five years may be waived if you can document the scores you earned when you applied to ODU for your previous degree program.
- Submit three letters of recommendation that assess your potential for success in a counseling master's degree program. If possible, include at least two letters from faculty members you have taken courses from and at least one letter from a supervisor from a field placement experience, job, or volunteer position. Letters are acceptable from any three persons who can objectively evaluate your potential for success in a counseling master's degree program. Those recommending you may either submit a letter or complete the recommendation form found at http://admissions.odu.edu/forms/ODU_GRAD_REC.pdf . If a letter is submitted, the recommendation form is not required.
- Write and submit an original double-spaced 500 word essay that will be reviewed for content and will be used to judge your written communication skills. Your essay should include how your work and life experiences have influenced your academic and professional goals, a self-evaluation regarding the criteria listed above that are used to review applicants, your reasons for wanting to earn a master's degree in counseling, how the concept of social diversity influences your thinking and will influence your future work, and the reasons you are interested in this particular master's degree program in counseling at Old Dominion University.
- Submit a current resume that includes details regarding your past education and work experiences, and other information about you that is relevant to your application.

Admission Requirements

- A bachelor's degree in any field.
- At least 12 undergraduate college credits in social sciences courses.
- Applicants whose native language is other than English must submit a current score for the Test of English as Foreign Language (TOEFL) of at least 600.

9/29/08