COUNSELOR EDUCATION

Graduate Program Head
P. Karen Murphy

Program Code
CNED

Campus(es)
University Park (Ph.D., M.Ed.)

Degrees Conferred
Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)
Master of Education (M.Ed.)
Dual-Title Ph.D and M.Ed.
in Counselor Education and
Comparative and International
Education

The Graduate Faculty
View (https://secure.gradsch.psu.edu/gpms/?searchType=fac&prog=CNED)

Professional preparation is offered at the master's level (M.Ed.) with
emphasis areas in career counseling, clinical mental health counseling,
school counseling, and rehabilitation counseling.

The Ph.D. program prepares candidates for positions as counselor
education faculty members.

Admission Requirements

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Graduate School
application for admission (http://gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-
students/how-to-apply/). Requirements listed here are in addition to
Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions Policies
(http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/).

Scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) are required for
admission to the Ph.D. program. GRE scores are not required for the
M.Ed. program.

M.Ed. applications with a 3.0 junior/senior average (on a scale of
4.00) and with appropriate course backgrounds will be considered for
admission. The best-qualified applicants will be accepted up to the
number of spaces that are available for new students. Exceptions to the
minimum 3.0 grade-point average may be made for students with special
backgrounds, abilities, and interests.

Doctoral applicants must have completed a master's degree in counselor
education prior to admission into the Ph.D. program. A master's degree
is required for admission that must be comprised of a minimum of 48
credit hours that align with the standards of the Counsel for Accreditation
of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). All doctoral
applicants should present at least a 3.33 average in all graduate study
completed prior to admission.

The language of instruction at Penn State is English. English proficiency
test scores (TOEFL/IELTS) may be required for international applicants.
See GCAC-305 Admission Requirements for International Students
(http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-305-
admission-requirements-international-students/) for more information.

Degree Requirements

All candidates are expected to exhibit, in addition to academic
competence, effectiveness in interpersonal relations and in both written
and oral communication. They also must provide evidence in support
of professional counseling activities and involvement in professional
organizations. All degree options require students to participate in
extensive practicum or fieldwork experience under supervision.

Master of Education (M.Ed.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council
policies listed under GCAC-700 Professional Degree Policies (http://
gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/).

The M.Ed. program includes 60 to 61 credits depending on the area of
emphasis. This includes 36 credits of core requirements plus 24 to 25
credits depending on the area of emphasis. All courses must be taken at
the 400 or 500 level.

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council
policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Policies. (http://
gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/)

The Ph.D. program consists of a minimum of four academic years of
graduate level preparation (including master's-level preparation), defined
as eight semesters.

The Ph.D. program consists of a minimum of 96 credits including
master-level preparation in counselor education. Ph.D. students must
satisfy advanced degree requirements in the CACREP counselor
education core areas (36 credits including 6 credit hours of CNED 595I
doctoral internship), a specialty area of study (15 credits), and empirical
foundations (15 credits). Students in the Ph.D. program are expected
to complete a dissertation involving independent and original research.
Students are expected to use theoretical models of counseling to
investigate problems of importance to the field. The additional credits in
the Ph.D. program incorporate advanced course work in research design,
statistics, and counseling theory to prepare students for their subsequent
roles as faculty members in counselor education programs.

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All candidates are expected to exhibit, in addition to academic
competence, effectiveness in interpersonal relations and in both written
and oral communication. They also must provide evidence in support
of professional counseling activities and involvement in professional
organizations. All degree options require students to participate in
extensive practicum or fieldwork experience under supervision.

Master of Education (M.Ed.)

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policies listed under GCAC-700 Professional Degree Policies (http://
gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/).

The M.Ed. program includes 60 to 61 credits depending on the area of
emphasis. This includes 36 credits of core requirements plus 24 to 25
credits depending on the area of emphasis. All courses must be taken at
the 400 or 500 level.

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

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policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Policies. (http://
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Master of Education (M.Ed.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council
policies listed under GCAC-700 Professional Degree Policies (http://
gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/).

The M.Ed. program includes 60 to 61 credits depending on the area of
emphasis. This includes 36 credits of core requirements plus 24 to 25
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Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

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Master of Education (M.Ed.)

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gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/).

The M.Ed. program includes 60 to 61 credits depending on the area of
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Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council
policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Policies. (http://
gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/)

The Ph.D. program consists of a minimum of four academic years of
graduate level preparation (including master's-level preparation), defined
as eight semesters.
Students should not expect this to be the final version for submission of the complete dissertation for arranging and scheduling a time so that all members of the committee oral examination (defense) to be scheduled. The student is responsible to ensure that the dissertation is in near final form before allowing the final revisions to the satisfaction of the committee chair, who is expected to Ph.D. students should complete the writing of the dissertation and make Ph.D. students must include an assessment of the student's competence their final semester of required course work) and prior to the dissertation. Ph.D. students are required to take a written and oral comprehensive examination once their course work is completed (or when they are in Ph.D. students may take a qualifying examination. Given the requirement that doctoral students will have a master's degree in counselor education thereby demonstrating their ability to complete graduate work successfully, the nature of the qualifying examination will include a review of the following by the student's qualifying examination committee:

1. the student's professional resume,
2. a statement regarding the general direction of the student's research interests and possible areas of dissertation inquiry,
3. grades from completed graduate courses,
4. proposed course of study for subsequent semesters,
5. selected graduate papers written by the student, and
6. a statement regarding the student's professional goals.

In the qualifying examination, the student's qualifying examination committee determines the student's ability to continue in the program and to conduct doctoral research.

Comprehensive Examination
Ph.D. students are required to take a written and oral comprehensive examination once their course work is completed (or when they are in their final semester of required course work) and prior to the dissertation. The examination, prepared by the student's Ph.D. committee, covers all areas of the student's doctoral work. The comprehensive examination for Ph.D. students must include an assessment of the student's competence related to conducting independent and original research.

Ph.D. Committee Composition
The Ph.D. committee must meet all Graduate Council requirements (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-600/phd-dissertation-committee-formation/).

Doctoral Dissertation and Final Oral Examination
Ph.D. students should complete the writing of the dissertation and make revisions to the satisfaction of the committee chair, who is expected to ensure that the dissertation is in near final form before allowing the final oral examination (defense) to be scheduled. The student is responsible for arranging and scheduling a time so that all members of the committee can be present. The student must give each committee member a copy of the complete dissertation two weeks before the final oral examination. Students should not expect this to be the final version for submission to the Graduate School, as there are typically revisions after successful completion of the oral defense.

English Competence
Candidates for the Ph.D. program are required to demonstrate high-level competence in the use of English language, including reading, writing, and speaking. Counselor Education evaluates English language proficiency in several ways. Prior to admission all students are required to provide written goals statements and personal development statements that are evaluated by faculty as a portion of the application process. Additionally, international students must have either earned a master's degree in the United States or supply official minimum scores for the TOEFL. Once admitted to the program and prior to taking the qualifying examination, students are evaluated for their reading, writing, and speaking in class assignments and as a part of their first-year portfolio evaluation. When problems are identified, individual remediation programs are developed that utilize faculty and all appropriate University resources.

Dual-Titles
Dual-Title M.Ed. and Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Comparative and International Education
Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed in GCAC-208 Dual-Title Graduate Degree Programs (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-200/gcac-208-dual-title-graduate-degree-programs/).

Admissions Requirements
Students must apply and be admitted to the graduate program in Counselor Education and The Graduate School before they can apply for admission to the dual-title degree program. After admission to their primary program, students must apply for admission to and meet the admissions requirements of the Comparative and International Education dual-title program. Refer to the Admission Requirements section of the Comparative and International Education Bulletin page (http://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/comparative-international-education/). Doctoral students must be admitted into the dual-title degree program in Comparative and International Education prior to taking the qualifying examination in their primary graduate program.

Degree Requirements
To qualify for the dual-title degree, students must satisfy the degree requirements for the degree they are enrolled in Counselor Education, listed on the Degree Requirements tab. In addition, students must complete the degree requirements for the dual-title in Comparative and International Education, listed on the Comparative and International Education Bulletin page (http://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/comparative-international-education/).

The qualifying examination committee for the dual-title Ph.D. degree will be composed of Graduate Faculty from Counselor Education and must include at least one Graduate Faculty member from the Comparative and International Education program. Faculty members who hold appointments in both programs’ Graduate Faculty may serve in a combined role. There will be a single qualifying examination, containing elements of both Counselor Education and Comparative and International Education. Dual-title graduate degree students may require an additional semester to fulfill requirements for both areas of study and, therefore, the qualifying examination may be delayed one semester beyond the normal period allowable.
In addition to the general Graduate Council requirements for Ph.D. committees (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-600/phd-dissertation-committee-formation/), the Ph.D. committee of a Counselor Education and Comparative and International Education dual-title Ph.D. student must include at least one member of the Comparative and International Education Graduate Faculty. Faculty members who hold appointments in both programs’ Graduate Faculty may serve in a combined role. If the chair of the Ph.D. committee is not also a member of the Graduate Faculty in Comparative and International Education, the member of the committee representing Comparative and International Education must be appointed as co-chair. The Comparative and International Education representative on the student’s Ph.D. committee will develop questions for and participate in the evaluation of the comprehensive examination.

Students in the Ph.D. dual-title program are required to write and orally defend a dissertation on a topic that is approved in advance by their Ph.D. committee and reflects their interest and education in Counselor Education and Comparative and International Education. Upon completion of the doctoral dissertation, the candidate must pass a final oral examination (the dissertation defense) to earn the Ph.D. degree. The dissertation must be accepted by the Ph.D. committee, the head of the graduate program, and the Graduate School.

**Minor**

A graduate minor is available in any approved graduate major or dual-title program. The default requirements for a graduate minor are stated in Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Policies (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/) and GCAC-700 Professional Degree Policies (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/), depending on the type of degree the student is pursuing:

- GCAC-611 Minor - Research Doctorate (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-600/gcac-611-minor-research-doctorate/)
- GCAC-641 Minor - Research Master’s (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-600/gcac-641-minor-research-masters/)
- GCAC-709 Minor - Professional Doctorate (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-700/gcac-709-professional-doctoral-minor/)
- GCAC-741 Minor - Professional Master’s (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-700/gcac-741-masters-minor-professional/)

**Student Aid**

Graduate assistantships available to students in this program and other forms of student aid are described in the Tuition & Funding (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-funding/) section of The Graduate School’s website. Students on graduate assistantships must adhere to the course load limits (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gsad/gsad-900/gsad-901-graduate-assistants/) set by The Graduate School.

**Courses**

Graduate courses carry numbers from 500 to 699 and 800 to 899. Advanced undergraduate courses numbered between 400 and 499 may be used to meet some graduate degree requirements when taken by graduate students. Courses below the 400 level may not. A graduate student may register for or audit these courses in order to make up deficiencies or to fill in gaps in previous education but not to meet requirements for an advanced degree.

Counselor Education (CNED) Course List (https://bulletins.psu.edu/university-course-descriptions/graduate/cned/)

**Professional Licensure/Certification**

Many U.S. states and territories require professional licensure/certification to be employed. If you plan to pursue employment in a licensed profession after completing this program, please visit the Professional Licensure/Certification Disclosures by State (https://psu.edu/state-licensure-disclosures/) interactive map.

**Contact**

**Campus**

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**Graduate Program Head**

P Karen Murphy

**Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) or Professor-in-Charge (PIC)**

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**Program Contact**

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**Program Website**

View (https://ed.psu.edu/counselor-education-med/)