

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-KINGSVILLE®



Counseling Program New Student Orientation – Spring 2025 January 16, 2024, 6:30-8:30 PM (CDT)

<https://tamuk-edu.zoom.us/j/91859383650>



PowerPoint materials initiated by Dr. Liang in 2020
Updated by Dr. Liang on January 9, 2025



**Department Chair: Kelly Hall, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Educational Leadership
and Counseling Department**


Program Core Faculty

- Steve Bain, D.Min., LPC-S, NCC
Professor, RMH Transcript Certificate Coordinator, Advisor
Taught in our program since 2009
- Kristopher Garza, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC
Associate Professor, CACREP Liaison, Advisor
Taught in our program since 2012
- Ya-Wen Melissa Liang, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC, Certified Humanistic Sandtray Therapist
Associate Professor, Sandtray Therapy Transcript Certificate Coordinator, Advisor,
Chapter Faculty Advisor of Chi Sigma Iota
Taught in our program since 2016
- Evelyne Fitzgerald, Ph.D., LPC-S, LCDC, RPT-S
Clinical Assistant Professor, Practicum/Internship/CPCE Coordinator, Advisor
Taught in our program since 2024
- Lorena Albarran-Rosenbaum, Ph.D., LPC-S
Full-time Lecturer
Taught in our program since 2015



Career Opportunities

Your career opportunities with us include but not limited to

- Licensed Professional Counselor
 - Certified School Counselor
 - University Counselor/Advising
 - Inpatient & Outpatient Counseling
 - Mental Health & Psychiatric Hospital
 - Rural Mental Health Counseling
 - Clinical Mental Health Professional
 - State and Federal Detention Counselor
 - Student Affairs Counselor/Service
 - Case Manager / CPS
 - Residential Advising
 - Private Practice
 - Veteran Counseling
 - MHMR
 - Crisis Counseling
 - Addiction Counseling
 - Trauma Counseling
 - Rehabilitation Counseling
 - Sandtray Therapy
 - Career Counseling
 - Non-profit Organization
 - Community Agency
- 

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Tips for a successful semester:

- Read the entire syllabus thoroughly this week.
- Time Management – Invest 9 hours weekly for every 3-credit-hour course, including reading textbooks, Chapter PowerPoints, Blackboard course content, and preparing assignments
- Reach out to your course instructor.
- Reach out to your academic advisor



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Our faculty academic advisors are assigned to counseling students for degree plans and inquiries.

- Students with last name initials A-F: Dr. Evelyne Fitzgerald (evelyne.fitzgerald@tamuk.edu)
- Students with last name initials G-L: Dr. Kristopher Garza (kristopher.garza@tamuk.edu)
- Students with last name initials M-R: Dr. Ya-Wen Melissa Liang (ya-wen.liang@tamuk.edu)
- Students with last name initials S-Z & ALL on-campus advisement: Dr. Steve Bain (steve.bain@tamuk.edu)



Textbook Information:

EDCG 5310

- Erford, B. T. (2018). *Orientation to the counseling profession: Advocacy, ethics, and essential professional foundations* (3rd Ed.). Boston, MA: Person. ISBN-13: 978-0134387796
- The APA manual (2019): *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (2019) (7th ed.). ISBN-13: 978-1433832178

EDCG 5311 (Purchase instead of renting textbooks because you need these two throughout the program and your practice.)

- Corey, Gerald. (2023). *Theory and practice of counseling and psychotherapy* (11th ed), Cengage Learning. ISBN-13: 978-1305263727 or 978-0357671429, used \$56.60, new \$65
* The 10th edition (2020) is acceptable if you have a limited budget
- The APA manual (2019)

EDCG 5339

- Berk, L. (2017). *Exploring Lifespan Development*. 4th Ed. Up Saddle River, NJ. Allyn & Bacon/Pearson. ISBN-13: 9780134419701
- ~~The APA manual (2019)~~



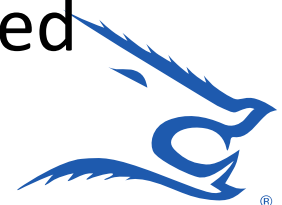
**Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and
Related Educational Programs (CACREP)**

Dr. Kristopher Garza, CACREP Liaison

Our Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC) program is now CACREP accredited.



CACREP accredits master's and doctoral degree programs in counseling and its specialties that are offered by colleges and universities in the United States and throughout the world.



CACREP Accreditation

In order to become accredited, a counselor education program must fulfill certain **requirements** or **standards** with regard to the following:

- Institutional settings
- Program mission and objectives
- Program content
- Practicum experiences
- Student selection and advising
- Faculty qualifications and workload
- Program governance
- Instructional support
- Self-evaluation



CACREP Accredited 60-hour Degree Plan



- 60-hour-degree: Texas licensure requirements for LPC.
- Three emphases in
 - “School Counseling” to prepare you to be eligible to take the School Counselor Exam for a Certified School Counselor (CSC); Beginning Fall 2023; no teaching experience is required. (asynchronous 5354 & 5358, summer only)
 - Rural Mental Health Counseling (asynchronous 5360 & 5362)
 - Sandtray Therapy (15-hour virtual classes & group supervision 5343 * 5344, summer only)



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Degree Requirements: 18 Core courses + 2 Elective courses

1. EDCG 5310 Intro to Counseling and Ethical Practice (**Fall & Spring only**)
2. EDCG 5311 Theories of Counseling (**Fall & Spring only**)
3. EDCG 5339 Human Growth & Development (**Fall & Spring only**)
4. EDCG 5312 Counseling Techniques
5. EDCG 5315 Ethics and Legal Issues
6. EDCG 5324 Assessment in Counseling
7. EDCG 5347 Multicultural Counseling
8. EDCG 5323 Group Counseling Techniques
9. EDCG 5329 Research in Counseling
10. EDCG 5355 Career Counseling
11. EDCG 5357 Field Practicum for Counselors
12. EDCG 5321 Abnormal Human Behavior
13. EDCG 5345 Diagnosis & Psychopharmacology (**Fall & Spring only**)
14. EDCG 5350 Marriage, Couple, & Family Counseling
15. EDCG 5366 Internship I (**Fall & Spring only**)
16. EDCG 5322 Addictions Counseling
17. EDCG 5364 Crisis Counseling
18. EDCG 5368 Internship II (**Fall & Spring only**)



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Degree Requirements: 18 Core courses + 2 Elective courses

Emphasis/Elective Courses (6 credit hours)

You must take TWO elective courses.

- You are welcome to take more than two.
 - Summer electives are 5 weeks in length.
 - Spring & Fall electives are 16 weeks in length.
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1. EDCG 5343 Basic Sandtray Therapy, Summer I only: 9 hours virtual class
 2. EDCG 5344 Advanced Sandtray Therapy, Summer II only: 6 hours virtual class
 3. EDCG 5354 Program Development for School Counselors, Summer only
 4. EDCG 5358 School Counseling Techniques, Summer only
 5. EDCG 5360 Community/Rural Mental Health Counseling
 6. EDCG 5362 Leadership & Advocacy in Rural Communities



Graduate Transcript Certificate in Rural Mental Health: Dr. Bain

- This fully online, unique certificate will support the mission of Texas A&M University, Kingsville.
- Will meet the educational needs for current mental health students both locally and abroad.
- An incentive to gain further credentials for those professional counselors who already have their certification in School Counseling or Licensure as Professional counselors across the nation.
- Attractive to international students or mental health professionals who are working with rural populations.
- This certificate will serve as a professional complement to the educational goals of mental health counselors across the globe.

Graduate Transcript Certificate in Sandtray Therapy will be coming soon, Fall 2025!



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Graduate Transcript Certificate in Sandtray Therapy: Dr. Liang



A blue plastic bin filled with white sand, containing various toys and objects. In the foreground, there are several pink, spiky, worm-like creatures. To the left, a Mickey Mouse figure is next to a small Eiffel Tower replica. In the center, a Spider-Man figure stands on a black base. To the right, there are several small figurines, including a clown and a witch, and a small treasure chest filled with red gems. Several 'PLAY MONEY' bills are scattered on the sand.

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Additions



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A collection of colorful plastic toys, including dinosaurs, a bridge, and a boat, arranged on a light-colored surface. The toys are made of various colored plastic and are arranged in a row. From left to right, there is a small blue and red toy, a green dinosaur, a yellow dinosaur, a blue dinosaur, a purple dinosaur, a red dinosaur, a green dinosaur, a pink dinosaur, and a small blue and red toy. In the background, there is a small brown boat and a green dinosaur. The toys are arranged on a light-colored surface, possibly a table or a floor.




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Tau Alpha Kappa Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota (CSI) Dr. Ya-Wen Melissa Liang, Chapter Faculty Advisor



Chi Sigma Iota
Counseling Academic & Professional Honor Society International
Member, Association of College Honor Societies

Chi Sigma Iota is an international honor society that values academic and professional excellence in counseling. We promote a strong professional identity through members (professional counselors, counselor educators, and students) who contribute to the realization of a healthy society by fostering wellness and human dignity.



Practicum and CPCE Course Requirements

- EDCG 5310: Intro to Counseling and Guidance
- EDCG 5311: Theories of Counseling
- EDCG 5312: Counseling Techniques
- EDCG 5315: Ethics and Legal Issues
- EDCG 5321: Abnormal Human Behavior
- EDCG 5323: Group Counseling
- EDCG 5339: Human Growth and Development
- EDCG 5347: Culturally Different
- EDCG 5329: Research
- EDCG 5355: Career Development



Field Experience

- Semester before Practicum-submit an application that is approved by your advisor-found on pg. 5 of the Handbook.
- If you completed 5343 & 5344 in the Sandtray emphasis-take the Sandtray Practicum
- If you completed 5354 & 5358 in the school counseling emphasis-take the school counseling Practicum
 - Contact Maria.candales@tamuk.edu to enroll in the school counseling emphasis as soon as possible



Clinical Information

- You are responsible for finding your site-we do have a general list
- Practicum -100 clinical hours 60 indirect and 40 direct
- Internship 1 & 2 -300 hours per semester
- Out of State Students-find sites in your state that meet our program requirements-refer to the Field Practicum Handbook

Please contact Dr. Fitzgerald for additional information
Evelyne.fitzgerald@tamuk.edu



Site Supervisor Requirements

- availability of necessary learning experiences.
- availability of appropriate weekly supervision.
- agency/organization support of the student's placement, including allowing the site supervisor sufficient time for student supervision (minimum one hour per week).
- agency/organization non-discriminatory practices (i.e., hiring, acceptance of students or clients).
- site supervisor willingness to participate in meeting with practicum/internship instructor, supervisor training
- agency/organization agreement to inform student's practicum/internship instructor of any changes in the student's supervision as soon as possible.
- agency/organization provision of training and/or orientation designed to protect student safety as appropriate to the site.
- site supervisors who have at least a Master's degree in counseling or a closely related field (i.e., psychology, social work), are licensed and certified in their fields, and have at least two years of pertinent professional experience. Students may not see clients if their site supervisors are absent unless there is another qualified supervisor on site. In the case of prolonged unavailability of the site supervisor, the student will likely need to seek a secondary site in order to complete direct hours.
- Students are not to be left alone at the site
- Only 50% can be telehealth
- Telehealth must be conducted in an office and not in the student's home.
- Supervisors cannot charge students for supervision.
- If any issues arise with the student, the site supervisor agrees to implement a Remediation Plan (See page 6)
- It is the responsibility of the student and site supervisor to know the licensing requirements for the residing state.



Comprehensive Exams

- Taken during Practicum or Internship 1 or 2
- Must be completed 12 weeks before graduation
- 3 chances to pass the exam
- Can be taken offsite at a testing center or at your home.
- If you are going to require accommodations, it may take up to 3-4 additional weeks to secure a testing site.
- [Comprehensive Exam Information](#)



Core Content/Courses

1. Human Growth and Development-EDCG 5339
2. Social and Cultural Diversity EDCG 5347
3. Helping Relationships-EDCG 5311 & EDCG 5312
4. Group Work- EDCG 5323
5. Career Development-EDCG 5355
6. Assessment-EDCG 5324
7. Research and Program Evaluation-EDCG 5329
8. Professional Orientation and Ethical Practice EDCG 5310 & EDCG 5315



Questions?

