



Department of Counseling Using Advising for your Education

Students are generally assigned advisors when they take our introductory courses (COUN-501, 510, or 528). This advisor is a faculty member in the Department of Counseling and is there to help you get the most out of your education. While any faculty member can answer questions about the program and offer you guidance about your education, it is your advisor who will help you with a degree plan, answer questions about exams, identify forms for clinical instruction, offer advice and information about licensure & certification, etc... You will also receive information about the Counseling Program during the orientation lecture in COUN-501 and from the Master's Student Handbook.

How can you best use this advisor?

- 1) ***Admission process***—Your advisor can tell you about the admissions process and how to best manage and prepare the information you need to complete the process.
- 2) ***Which Courses Do I Take and When***—In order to move through the program in an efficient and effective manner it is wise to speak to your advisor about which courses to take at what time. A good education builds upon knowledge previously learned. While many of our courses do not have prerequisites, it is good to look at what order courses might be taken in so you can build a strong base for future learning and application. Other courses do have prerequisites or are designed to follow one another (clinical courses for example). Your advisor can help you identify those courses and help you build a strong foundation for learning.
- 3) ***Degree Plans***—All students who have been fully admitted into the program will need to file a degree plan. Your advisor can help you will this process. A degree plan spells out what courses you are going to take to obtain your degree.
- 4) ***Master's Comprehensive Exam***— Your advisor can offer you guidance and information about the Master's Comprehensive Exam and how you might prepare for it.
- 5) ***Clinical Courses***—Your education as a counselor will include the practical application of counseling skills learned in classes. Your advisor can tell you about the clinical application process and offer information on how to best manage this portion of the program.
- 6) ***Graduation***—As you approach the end of your program, your advisor can help you determine which courses are remaining to be taken and offer advice about other courses that may help to advance your education beyond the basic course work on your degree program.

If you do not have a faculty advisor or are unsure of who your advisor is, contact Sandy Bond at 903-886-5637 or email Sandy_Bond@tamu-commerce.edu for help. Also, remember, any faculty member would be happy to answer your questions.