

PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Amberton Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Counseling degree program is to develop ethically, spiritually, and culturally aware mental health counselors and counselor educators. Amberton seeks to foster experts in the field who demonstrate values, knowledge, skills, and personal disposition to promote the mental health and holistic wellness of individuals, groups, couples, and families. Completing the Ed.D. in a Counseling degree program will offer students the opportunity to impart what they have studied to others and turn knowledge into wisdom. The degree focuses on applied research and management, making graduates ideal candidates for roles that drive systemic change and organizational improvement.

The comprehensive examination in the Professional Counseling Doctoral program is a summative assessment covering all completed coursework and core knowledge areas of the curriculum. The exam is designed to evaluate the student's integrated understanding of professional counseling theory, research, ethics, and practice in preparation for advanced doctoral work. Students must complete the Comprehensive Exam before they are eligible to enroll in Applied Doctoral Project I (ADP). Students must enroll in CSL7999 Doctoral Comprehensive Exam course (non-credit course) and pay the appropriate fees to take the Comprehensive Exam. The Comprehensive Exam will be conducted orally by three members of the faculty and consists of 8 questions prepared by the faculty council.

PLEASE NOTE:

Students who complete the Amberton University Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Counseling degree do NOT meet the Academic requirements for becoming a Licensed Professional Counselor in the State of Texas (LPC). Students who are interested in pursuing the LPC license in the state of Texas must take Professional Orientation to Counseling (CSL6780), take and pass the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Exam (CPCE), and complete Practicum 1 (CSL6840) and Practicum 2 (CSL6845). To be eligible for practicum, students must complete all coursework required for the degree and pass the CPCE. Questions regarding licensure in the State of Texas can be answered by visiting the Texas Behavior Health Executive Council at this website address: [Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council](https://www.texasbehaviorhealth.org/). Students interested in National Certification should visit the NBCC website for more information. The website address is: [NBCC | National Board for Certified Counselors. urs](https://www.nbcc.org/)



DOCTOR of EDUCATION

COUNSELING



Program Overview

The Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Counseling Degree is designed to prepare students to work with individuals, groups, couples, and families in community, social services, academic, and private settings. The degree program emphasizes a systems-based approach with a focus on working with diverse populations in diverse settings. Its purpose is to provide quality doctoral-level training for future practitioners, educators, and researchers who wish to emphasize applications that promote the health and well-being of children, adolescents, adults, and families. The curriculum comprises sixty (60) doctoral level credit hours. Students must pass an Oral Departmental Comprehensive Exam and submit an applied final project approved by the faculty.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Students may take courses in any order they choose except for Quantitative Research & Statistics in Counseling (RGS7010) and Qualitative Research & Statistics in Counseling (RGS7005). The Qualitative Research course must be taken within the first 12 hours of the program. The Quantitative Research course will serve as preparation for the Applied Doctoral Project and must be taken after all other coursework has been completed.

Students must pass all courses and the comprehensive exam before enrolling in the Applied Doctoral Project courses.

Applied Doctoral Project I

Students will complete, submit and defend the Applied Project.

Applied Doctoral Project II

Students will defend the completed Applied Project.

The Applied Doctoral Project (ADP) involves applying theoretical knowledge and research methods to solve a real-world practical problem in a specific professional context, rather than generating entirely new knowledge. This project may include creating a new curriculum, a program evaluation, a policy proposal, or a clinical protocol, culminating in a practical deliverable and a final report that demonstrates mastery of the subject and the ability to bridge theory and practice to benefit a profession or organization. The primary goal is to address a current issue in a professional field by applying existing knowledge and research to propose a tangible solution. Students will be required to submit and defend their research projects.

I. Required Doctoral Studies:		54 hours
Plus the non-credit Doctoral Comprehensive Exam		
CSL7020	Advanced Counseling Theories & Techniques	3 Hours
CSL7025	Advanced Counseling Skills & Techniques	3 Hours
CSL7030	Human Growth & Development	3 Hours
CSL7035	Advanced Group Counseling Skills	3 Hours
CSL7040	Advanced Crisis Counseling: Skills & Application	3 Hours
CSL7045	Advanced Trauma Counseling Techniques	3 Hours
CSL7050	Advanced Multicultural Counseling: Skills & Application	3 Hours
CSL7055	Diagnosis & Treatment of Addictive Behaviors	3 Hours
CSS7060	Advanced Psychopathology	3 Hours
CSL7065	Advanced Assessment in Counseling	3 Hours
CSL7070	Family Therapy in Clinical Practice	3 Hours
CSL7075	Counseling Ethics in Professional Practice	3 Hours
CSL7080	Advanced Career Counseling in Professional Practice	3 Hours
CSL7085	Advanced Child & Adolescents Development	3 Hours
CSL7090	Intimacy and Sexuality in Relationships	3 Hours
CSL7095	Supervision in Counseling	3 Hours
RGS7005	Qualitative Research & Statistics in Counseling	3 Hours
RGS7010	Quantitative Research & Statistics in Counseling	3 Hours
CSL7999	Comprehensive Examination	0 Hours

II. Applied Doctoral Project

6 Hours

CSL8010 Applied Doctoral Project (ADP) 1 (Submission Defense) 3 Hours

CSL8015 Applied Doctoral Project (ADP) 2 (Final Defense) 3 Hours

Totals: 60 Hours

Graduation Requirement

Doctoral candidates must complete a minimum of sixty (60) credit hours, including 6 hours for the Applied Doctoral Project. To be eligible for graduation, students must complete all required coursework with a GPA of at least 3.0, be in good standing with the university, pass the Comprehensive Examination, and successfully submit and defend the Applied Doctoral Project. Students should review the Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Counseling Program handbook for the process of applying for graduation.