



GRADUATE PROGRAM  
IN COUNSELING

**Master's Degree**  
Master of Arts in Counseling

**CAGS**

Certificate in Advanced Graduate Studies (with and without Field Experience)

<b>Admissions Requirements:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Official transcripts indicating a Bachelor's or Master's degree earned
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Completed application</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> Cumulative GPA of 3.0 (< 3.0 will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis)
<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Statement of Purpose: Your 300-500 word statement should describe your preparations for graduate work, your reasons for applying for this particular graduate program at Messiah University and how this graduate program will help you meet your professional and educational goals
<input type="checkbox"/> Counseling Admissions Program Questions (prompt below)*
<input type="checkbox"/> Successful completion of nine (9) credits of behavior science courses (e.g. psychology, human development & family science, sociology, anthropology, early childhood studies, social work) *
<input type="checkbox"/> Two letters of recommendations (addressing your professional experience and/or academic performance, excluding relatives)*
<input type="checkbox"/> Résumé*
<input type="checkbox"/> A live interview (in person or online)*

***\*Not required for the CAGS w/out Field Experience***

If you have questions, please contact:

**Leah Powel Smock**  
lsmock@messiah.edu  
717-796-5061

### **Counseling Admissions Program Questions**

Describe your strengths and challenges in each of the four areas below. Address how you intend to strengthen areas that may be a challenge for you (150 words for each of the four essays). This can be uploaded after you have submitted your application.

1. **Interpersonal and Professional Competence** (how you relate to peers, faculty, professionals, the public, and individuals from diverse backgrounds or histories), as well as how you resolve problems or issues that interfere with professional development or function in a satisfactory manner (e.g. by responding constructively to feedback from supervisors or program faculty; by participating in personal therapy in order to resolve problems or issues).
2. **Self-awareness, Self-reflection, and Self-evaluation** (e.g., knowledge of the content and potential impact of your own beliefs and values on peers, faculty, professionals, the public, and individuals from diverse backgrounds or histories), as well as an openness to the process of supervision (e.g., the ability and willingness to explore issues that either interfere with the appropriate provision of care or impede professional development or functioning).
3. **Written and Oral Communication** (e.g., clearly articulating ideas, thoughts, and concepts at a professional level appropriate to the discipline), as well as knowledge and use of APA style format.
4. **Quality of Work** (e.g., timely completion of all work at a satisfactory level, working collaboratively and cooperatively with others, and actively participating in discussion boards, synchronous experiences, and other class-related activities) as well as obtaining knowledge and understanding of content and applicability and application of skills.