600. Research Methods and Designs. Credit 3 hours. Prerequisite: Admission to the counseling program or permission of Department Head. Principles and foundations of designing and conducting research are examined. Instruction will focus on empirical, naturalistic, and critical approaches relevant to enacting the role of practitioner-researcher. This course is designed to prepare students to conceptualize, design, and carry out a behavioral research project.

601. Legal, Ethical, and Professional Issues. Credit 3 hours. Prerequisite: Admission to Counseling Program. Presents current legal, ethical, and professional information necessary for competent professional practice in the mental health field. The course includes an overview of the historical and current societal context of professional practice in counseling, marriage and family therapy, and related fields. The course will assist students in developing a work plan, referral guide, credential file, declaration statement, and curriculum vitae specific to their work setting and area of professional concentration.

604. Group Process. Credit 3 hours. Prerequisite: HD 601, CED 603, and CED 605. Major approaches to group dynamics and counseling, including theoretical assumptions and basic principles and techniques, are covered. A weekly lab component is required.

608. Human Growth & Development. Credit 3 hours. Prerequisite: Permission of the Department Head. Study of the emotional, physical, social, and intellectual factors of development across the lifespan.

625. Cross-cultural Issues. Credit 3 hours. Prerequisite: HD 601, CED 603, and CED 605; or permission of the Department Head. This course is designed to help counselors maximize their effectiveness in today’s pluralistic society by understanding: value systems and ways of life of culturally diverse groups; similarities and differences of various cultural groups; dynamics of multicultural interaction and communication; and processes of cultural transmissions in the “global village.”