The Doctorate of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Counselor Education provides the highest professional degree available to students who aspire to leadership positions in counselor education and school counseling. The doctoral degree is awarded on the basis of successful completion of prescribed coursework and completion of a major research study resulting in the presentation and defense of a dissertation. The Doctorate of Philosophy in Counselor Education program follows a cohort model.

Applicants should have a master’s degree in counseling or a closely related field (one that is accepted by the Texas Board of Licensed Professional Counselors). The master’s degree and additional coursework should be a minimum of 48 hours and cover the core curriculum areas required by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP).

Applicants seeking admission to the doctoral program in Counselor Education must submit the following directly to the Office of Graduate Admissions:

1. Graduate Application
2. Application Fee
3. Official transcript showing receipt of a baccalaureate degree and a master’s degree from an accredited institution.
4. Applicants’ graduate GPA should be 3.5 or higher.
5. Official GRE scores
6. Personal statement (1000 words maximum)
7. Five Reference Evaluation Forms
   a. Three reference forms from officials in schools or mental health agencies where the applicant has been employed
   b. Two reference forms from current or former graduate-level professors.

The doctoral admissions committee will review the pool of applicants, and will recommend the top candidates for the on-campus interview process. Applicants invited for the interview will be given specific guidelines for the process, which will include an interview with the doctoral admissions committee and an on-site writing proficiency assessment. All qualified doctoral students are admitted under regular admission to the program.