

South Carolina State University Graduate Admission Process

Master of Arts in Rehabilitation Counseling

Prospective Student Guide | Updated September 2026

Purpose. This guide explains the two-stage admission process for applicants seeking entry to South Carolina State University’s Master of Arts in Rehabilitation Counseling program. Applicants must first satisfy Graduate School requirements and then complete the Rehabilitation Counseling Program’s screening and admission process. Applications are accepted year-round, and qualified students may be admitted for the fall, spring, or summer semester.

Program at a Glance

Item	Published Program Information
Degree	Master of Arts in Rehabilitation Counseling
Academic unit	Department of Human Services and College of Graduate and Professional Studies
Program length	60 graduate credit hours; approximately two years for full-time students
Delivery	Primarily face-to-face, with selected approved online courses
Clinical education	100-hour practicum and 600-hour internship
Accreditation	Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP)
Entry terms	Fall, spring, and summer
Application cycle	Applications are accepted throughout the year

What the University and Program Look For

Admission decisions consider an applicant’s readiness for rigorous graduate study and suitability for professional counselor preparation. The review includes academic performance, writing and communication, career goals, recommendations, relevant education or experience, professional dispositions, ethical judgment, cultural responsiveness, and the potential to work effectively with people with disabilities and diverse communities. Meeting minimum requirements makes an applicant eligible for consideration but does not guarantee program admission.

Academic Eligibility and GPA

- Applicants must hold a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited college or university before enrolling as a graduate student.

- For full admission to a master's program, the published Graduate Catalog identifies a minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA of 2.50 on a 4.00 scale.
- An applicant with a cumulative GPA below 2.50 may be considered for conditional admission when the GPA is at least 2.35 and the applicant demonstrates stronger performance during the final two undergraduate years. Conditional admission is determined by the Graduate Admissions and Retention Committee and may include specified courses, examinations, or other conditions.
- A conditionally admitted student must earn at least a B in required conditional coursework and complete all stated conditions within the period established by the Graduate School.
- After enrollment, graduate students are expected to maintain at least a 3.00 cumulative GPA. A 3.00 GPA is required for good academic standing and graduation eligibility under the published Graduate Catalog.

Required Graduate Application Materials

Application Item	What to Submit
Graduate application	Complete the University's online graduate application and select Rehabilitation Counseling as the intended program.
Application fee	Submit the non-refundable application fee. The 2022–2024 Graduate Catalog lists a \$25 fee; applicants should confirm the current amount in the application portal before submitting payment.
Official transcripts	Provide official transcripts from every college or university attended, including documentation of the earned bachelor's degree and any graduate study.
Enrollment objectives	Submit a clear statement explaining professional goals, reasons for pursuing graduate study, and interest in rehabilitation counseling.
Current resume	Provide an updated resume describing education, employment, volunteer service, leadership, certifications, and relevant experience.
Recommendations	Submit the required recommendation forms or letters. The published master's admission standard identifies two recommendations from professional educators, preferably former professors. Applicants should follow the current portal instructions if a different number is displayed.
Residency documentation	Complete the residency questionnaire and submit supporting documents when requested for tuition-classification purposes.
English proficiency requirement	Satisfy the University's English proficiency requirement. The published catalog describes the English Proficiency Examination and identifies certain GRE Verbal, MAT, prior-master's-degree, or international English-proficiency pathways. Confirm the currently accepted method with Graduate Admissions.

Rehabilitation Counseling Program Review

Graduate School admission and Rehabilitation Counseling Program admission are related but separate decisions. Upon receipt of the completed application and all required supporting documents, eligible applicants are required to interview with the Rehabilitation Counseling core faculty. After reviewing the

application, interview, and written or case-analysis response, the core faculty determine whether the applicant will be admitted to the program.

1. Program application review. Faculty review the applicant's academic record, statement of objectives, resume, recommendations, and other required materials.
2. Required core faculty interview. Upon receipt and review of the completed application, eligible applicants interview with the Rehabilitation Counseling core faculty. The interview addresses motivation, understanding of rehabilitation counseling, professional goals, interpersonal communication, roles and responsibilities, ethical judgment, multicultural awareness, and readiness for graduate study.
3. Writing and case analysis. Applicants complete a writing activity or case-based response that allows faculty to assess organization, critical thinking, professional reasoning, and written communication.
4. Faculty evaluation. The Rehabilitation Counseling core faculty conduct a holistic review of the completed application, interview, written or case-analysis response, academic preparation, professional goals, communication skills, and readiness for counselor training.
5. Program admission decision. Following the interview and review of the complete applicant file, the Rehabilitation Counseling core faculty determine the applicant's admission status in accordance with program procedures. Applicants should not assume admission until they receive official notification through the appropriate University and program channels.

Application Timing

Applications are accepted year-round, and students may be admitted for fall, spring, or summer entry. Applicants should submit all materials early enough for both the Graduate School review and the Rehabilitation Counseling Program review to be completed before registration.

Entry Term	Published Deadline	Planning Guidance
Fall	June 15	Apply earlier when possible, to allow time for document verification, the program interview, financial aid, and registration.
Spring	November 1	Complete the file before the deadline so both levels of review can occur before spring registration.
Summer	April 1	Confirm course availability and the appropriate summer session with the program before finalizing plans.

International Applicants

International applicants must meet the same academic and program requirements as domestic applicants and must also satisfy current University requirements for English-language proficiency, credential evaluation, immigration documentation, and evidence of financial support. Because international processing may require additional time, applicants should begin well before the intended entry term and follow the current instructions issued by Graduate Admissions and the University's international admissions office.

How to Apply

6. Review the current Graduate Admissions page, Graduate Catalog, and Rehabilitation Counseling Program page.
7. Create an account in the SC State online application portal and submit the graduate application.
8. Request official transcripts and recommendations early. Materials should be sent through the method identified by Graduate Admissions or the application portal.
9. Upload the enrollment-objectives statement, current resume, residency materials, and any required score reports or supporting documents.
10. Monitor the application portal and respond promptly to requests for missing or corrected information.
11. Complete the Rehabilitation Counseling interview and writing or case-analysis component when invited.
12. Wait for official admission notification before registering for Rehabilitation Counseling courses.

Applicant Checklist

- ☐ Bachelor's degree completed or scheduled for completion before enrollment
- ☐ Minimum GPA reviewed against full or conditional admission standards
- ☐ Online graduate application submitted
- ☐ Application fee submitted
- ☐ Official transcripts requested from every institution attended
- ☐ Enrollment-objectives statement completed
- ☐ Current resume uploaded
- ☐ Recommendation requests sent and completed
- ☐ Residency documents submitted, if applicable
- ☐ English proficiency or standardized test requirement confirmed
- ☐ Rehabilitation Counseling interview completed
- ☐ Writing or case-analysis requirement completed
- ☐ Official admission notification received

Important Notes

Admission policies, fees, testing expectations, document methods, and deadlines may be revised. Applicants should use this guide as an overview and verify all requirements in the current application portal and with Graduate Admissions before submitting materials. A complete application is necessary for review, and satisfying minimum standards does not guarantee admission to the Rehabilitation Counseling Program.

Official Information and Sources

[SC State Graduate Admissions](#) — University application requirements, published deadlines, application portal, and admissions contact information.

[SC State Rehabilitation Counseling Program](#) — Degree format, curriculum, clinical experience, accreditation, and program overview.

[SC State Graduate Catalog 2022–2024](#) — Published Graduate School standards for full and conditional admission, GPA, recommendations, English proficiency, fee, and academic standing.

[SC State Graduate Application](#) — Current application portal and applicant-specific submission instructions.