

GRADUATE COUNSELING PROGRAM

Early Bird Accelerated Master's Pathway (AMP)

Program Overview

The Early Bird AMP allows eligible undergraduate human development & family studies (HDFS) and psychology majors to complete up to 12 graduate credit hours in counseling during their senior year. Courses count toward undergraduate degree requirements at undergraduate tuition rates, accelerating progress toward a master's degree in graduate counseling.

1. Eligibility & Admission Requirements

Basic Qualifying Criteria

- **Minimum GPA:** 3.25 cumulative GPA required at time of application
- **Application Timing:** Apply after completing 60 undergraduate credit hours
- **Coursework Start:** Earn at least 90 credit hours before starting graduate courses
- **GPA Recheck:** Verified prior to graduate course start; falling below 3.25 revokes eligibility
- **Required Approvals**: Advisor, Graduate Coordinator, Associate Registrar and Associate Provost

Programmatic & Financial Notes

- **Faculty Approval:** Majority vote from undergraduate major faculty who evaluated academic potential
- **Coordinator Sign-off:** Final approval by undergraduate and graduate program coordinators
- **Standard Admission:** Participants must still apply and meet all regular graduate counseling admission criteria
- **Tuition & Financial Aid:** AMP courses are billed at undergraduate tuition rates and covered by undergrad scholarships/financial aid

2. Early Bird AMP Coursework Pathways (12 Credit Hours)

Pathway	Graduate Course Title	Undergraduate Degree Application	Availability
HDFS (12 hrs)	EDF 540: Applied Research	Applied toward 9 hours of General Elective credits in HDFS	Fall or spring (senior year)
	EDF 580: Advanced Human Growth & Development		
	EDF 620: Social & Multicultural Foundations		
	EDC 517: Intimacy and Sexuality	Replaces undergraduate course FCS 407 (Human Sexuality)	Spring only (senior year)
Psychology (12 hrs)	EDF 540: Applied Research	Applied toward General Elective credits in Psychology	Fall or spring (senior year)
	EDF 580: Advanced Human Growth & Development		
	EDF 620: Social & Multicultural Foundations		
	EDC 556: DSM: Diagnosis & Treatment		

3. Applying Course Credit to Graduate Transcript

Graduate credit earned during undergraduate status will be formally applied to the student's graduate transcript once all the following conditions are satisfied:

- **Grade Requirement:** Complete each Early Bird course with a grade of 'B' or better
- **Academic Standing:** Maintain good academic standing throughout the program
- **Graduate Admission:** Formal admission and enrollment in a participating UM graduate program
- **First Semester:** Successfully complete the first semester of graduate study at Montevallo

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