

OSU-Cascades Master of Counseling program and High Desert ESD are so excited to share our new Department of Education grant-funded program: Promoting and Advancing Training of High Desert School Counselors (PATH-SC). This program is intended to increase the number and diversity of qualified school counselors in high-needs, rural K-12 schools by providing financial support for participants and intentional relationship-building and mentoring throughout the program.

Eligible PATH-SC participants will benefit from full tuition funding and a \$1,000/mo stipend, in addition to the opportunity to work with and develop relationships with their future colleagues while interning at a high-needs school in one of four partnership districts. Upon availability of positions, PATH-SC participants are expected to apply and maintain employment for 2-3 years post-graduation, and the relationships built during the program will serve to support students' transitions into their professional career.

PATH-SC is available for individuals who apply to and are admitted to the School Counseling track in the OSU-Cascades Master of Counseling program. Once admitted, individuals may then apply for the PATH-SC program through a separate application on our website.

The OSU-Cascades Counseling program begins in June each year, and we have extended the application deadline for our June 2023 cohort until May 25th. You must be admitted into the program prior to applying for PATH-SC. You can review application requirements and start your application [here](#). We will be hosting a virtual open house to share information about the program on May 8 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. [Registration link here and is required for attendance](#). If you have any questions about the open house, PATH-SC, or the OSU-Cascades MCoun program, you can email Gillian C. Harper at gillian.harper@osucascades.edu.

We're looking forward to serving our Central Oregon High Desert communities through this grant, and we are hopeful we see your application come through!

FAQs

I'm already employed at a local school. Can I maintain my employment while participating?

There is a possibility you can complete your internship at the school in which you are employed if the school qualifies as high-needs (based on percentage participation in free and reduced lunch). Note that the required practicum field experience that occurs the year before internship is only held at one of two area schools, so it is likely that you would need to plan to participate in one day per week of the practicum experience in winter and spring of that year. Release time will likely be district dependent and for specific questions regarding this you should be in contact with your district.

I'd like to apply for the Clinical Mental Health Counseling track. Could I apply for PATH-SC funding while in that track?

No. PATH-SC is exclusively available to students in our School Counseling track.

I'm worried about my ability to submit a school counseling application ahead of the May 25 deadline. How long does it typically take to submit an application?

The application requires applicants to answer five questions that speak to their experiences, interests, and understanding related to the counseling profession. Along with these responses applicants must also upload a resume and provide undergraduate transcripts. Once you begin an application in the system you can save your responses and do not need to complete the application in one sitting. The time involved in this process may vary by person but does not require individuals to obtain letters of recommendation or take the GRE which significantly reduces the time to complete.