

# Residency FAQ

## Dept. of Clinical Counseling and Mental Health

Starting in Fall 2026, all new students must attend two in-person residencies; this FAQ explains timing, logistics, exceptions, and support.

### For Prospective Applicants

1. What is a residency and why is it required?

A residency is a short, in-person learning experience that brings students, faculty, and university staff together to demonstrate and assess clinical skills in real time. It supports CACREP's new requirement that counseling programs include in-person learning and evaluation of core competencies.

2. When does this policy take effect?

This requirement begins July 1, 2026. All students admitted for Fall 2026 or later will be required to attend two in-person Clinical Skills Residencies as part of their degree plan.

3. Does this include me if I'm already in the program?

No. Currently enrolled students will continue under their current degree plan without a residency requirement. Students that take a leave of absence or withdraw from their program will be subject to the residency curriculum upon returning.

4. How many residencies are required?

All students starting their program after July 1, 2026 must complete two in-person residencies successfully to meet program requirements.

5. How long are the residencies?

Residencies typically occur in a two to three day intensive format (e.g., Thursday - Saturday or Friday - Sunday). Length and schedule may vary slightly by academic year.

6. What is the residency format?

Residencies emphasize experiential learning – may include, but are not limited to: role-plays, simulated counseling sessions, individual and small-group skill practice, video review, and structured faculty feedback. Some professional development and networking activities are also included.

7. When are residencies scheduled in the program?

Students attend one residency early in the program before entering Practicum and a second one at a later date. Exact dates are announced each academic year to assist with degree planning.

8. Will I be assessed or graded during residency?

Yes. Each residency is a graded, credit-bearing course that includes performance-based assessment of counseling competencies and professional dispositions. Students receive feedback from faculty and peers during and after the experience.

9. Are there prerequisites to register for a residency?

Yes. Students must complete designated prerequisite courses before attending each residency. Prerequisites will be listed in the course descriptions and verified prior to registration.

10. Where will residencies be held?

Residencies are hosted in person at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center campuses in either Lubbock or Dallas, TX. Detailed venue information will be provided well in advance.

11. When will I know specific dates?

Residency dates are published at least one semester in advance, but typically will be available a year in advance. They are included in the academic schedule for planning purposes.

12. Are students responsible for travel and lodging costs?

Yes. Students are responsible for travel, lodging, and meals. The program may provide guidance on local hotel options and group rates.

13. Is financial assistance available for travel?

Students may contact the Financial Aid department for more information.

14. What if I live locally - do I still need to stay overnight?

Students who live within commuting distance are not required to stay overnight but must attend all scheduled sessions in person and on time.

15. What if I have a disability that requires accommodations?

Students should contact Student Services and the Program Director the semester before the residency to request accommodations. The university will work with you to identify reasonable accommodations.

16. What happens if I fail or do not meet expectations during residency?

Students who do not demonstrate satisfactory performance will receive feedback and a remediation plan, which may include re-enrollment in the residency course.

17. What should I bring or prepare?

Preparation typically includes pre-assigned readings, recorded counseling demonstrations, and professional attire. Specific materials and expectations will be communicated by course faculty.

18. Will there be childcare available?

No. Childcare services are not provided during residencies. Students should make arrangements in advance; residency dates are published early to assist with planning.

## For Current Students (Fall 2026 and Beyond)

19. Does this include me if I'm already in the program?

No. Students admitted before Fall 2026 will continue under their current degree plan without a residency requirement. Students that take a leave of absence or withdraw from their program will be subject to the residency curriculum upon returning.

20. How do I register for residency courses?

Residency courses are listed in the degree plan and follow normal registration procedures. Your enrollment coordinator will confirm eligibility and prerequisites.

21. What if I must miss due to an emergency?

If an emergency prevents attendance, contact your instructor immediately. Documentation may be required. You will need to reschedule the residency for a later term to maintain program progression.

22. What if I take a leave of absence?

You will complete the residency at the next available offering upon your return, subject to available space and program sequencing.

23. Will residencies interfere with other classes or practicum?

Residencies are designed to complement coursework and practicum, not replace them. Residency dates are published early to assist with planning. You need to make appropriate plans to attend the residency requirement.

24. What technology or materials are used?

Residencies may involve video recording, skills demonstrations, and use of assessment rubrics. All materials are provided or described in the course syllabus.

25. How will residency performance affect my progression?

Residency evaluations contribute to ongoing disposition and competency reviews. Satisfactory completion is required for promotion through the curriculum.

26. Are residencies considered part of contact or credit hours?

Yes. Each residency is tied to a specific credit-bearing course and contributes to total contact hours recognized by CACREP. Residency attendance/participation is not counted as contact hours for clinical coursework.

27. How will residency feedback be used?

Faculty use performance data to provide individualized feedback, inform advising, and monitor student readiness for clinical fieldwork.

## General & Policy Questions

28. Why is the university implementing this requirement?

CACREP (the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs) updated its policy requiring accredited counseling programs to include in-person experiences for skill evaluation. This ensures students receive hands-on, supervised training aligned with national standards for professional readiness.

29. Where can I read CACREP's policy?

CACREP's statement on in-person learning is available here:

[!\[\]\(aa53ad6fea213b8b2226d3077e30533a\_img.jpg\) CACREP A.2.e Policy Update](#)

30. How will this policy affect accreditation?

Implementing the Clinical Skills Residency ensures the program remains in full compliance with evolving CACREP standards and maintains accreditation eligibility.

31. Who should I contact with questions?

For residency logistics, contact your Program Director or Academic Advisor.

For accommodations, contact Student Disability Services, and CC your Program Director.

For financial questions, contact Financial Aid.

For degree questions, contact Enrollment Management.

32. How will policy changes or updates be communicated?

The programs review and update accreditation requirements regularly to remain in alignment with accreditation standards. Updates will be posted on the program website, shared through official email announcements, and incorporated into the student handbook each academic year.