

How to Succeed in an Online Counseling Degree Program

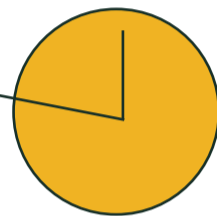
If you are seriously considering getting a master's degree online, follow these steps to make the most of your time before and during your program.

Phase One: Set Yourself Up for Success

Understand the time commitment.

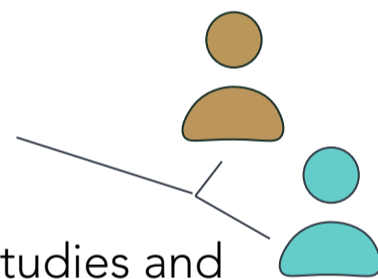
Before enrolling in a part- or full-time online counseling degree program, you should ask yourself a few questions:

1. How many hours per week are you able to commit?
2. How quickly do you want to earn your degree?
3. Do you have any work or family obligations that might require you to take a leave of absence?



Build a personal support network.

Identify the individuals in your life who will encourage you to stay on track with your studies and provide emotional support throughout your graduate school journey. In addition to benefiting from their support, telling others about your realistic and achievable goals renders you more accountable to reach them.



Test your technology.

If you plan on earning your master's in counseling online, make sure you're equipped with the tools you need to succeed.

- How well does your laptop or desktop computer run?
- Where will you be completing the bulk of your coursework?
- Does your work area have a reliable internet connection?



Phase Two: Maximize Your Time in the Program

Take advantage of the faculty.

Online students should feel just as empowered as those in residential programs to connect with faculty members, ask for advice and seek feedback.



Develop relationships with your peers.

Online learning does not mean impersonal learning. Depending on the program, you may progress through your master's with the same set of students. Get to know one another!



Capitalize on in-person experiences.

Some online counseling degree programs include a residential requirement, which is a fantastic time to network with faculty members, your peers in the program and other students at the university.

