



Master of Arts in Counseling: Application Checklist (International Student)

- Admission criteria:**
 - A minimum cumulative GPA of at least 2.75 (or 2.9 in the last 60 credits) is required for admission.
 - Completion of at least 9 credits in the behavioral sciences is required for admission.
- Graduate Program application:**
 - Please create an account and apply online at: www.loras.edu/apply. There is no application fee.
- Three recommendations:**
 - The recommendations need to be from individuals who can speak to your character, academic capability, and motivation/interest exhibited in obtaining an advanced degree in this field.
 - Please enter the email addresses for three references in the “References” section of your online application. An email will be sent to those three references asking them to complete and submit an online recommendation form. (They are welcome to provide an optional supplemental letter in addition to the form as well).
- Current resume:**
 - Some exposure to the counseling field is preferred (volunteer work, internships, service work, or semi-professional work).
 - Please upload your resume to the “Materials” section of your online application.
- Personal statement:**
 - The personal statement is a typewritten paper outlining your interests and professional goals (maximum of 2 pages double spaced). This statement is an integral part of your application. Please address the following information:
 - How did you become interested in counseling?
 - What specific factors have led you to apply to Loras College?
 - What do you consider to be your outstanding strengths and weaknesses? Please also comment on your specific skills, talents, aptitudes.
 - Please briefly describe any participation in research or employment which might be relevant to your application.
 - What are your professional goals?
 - Please upload your personal statement to the “Materials” section of your online application.
- Unofficial transcript from each college/university you have attended, including undergraduate and graduate:**
 - Please upload unofficial transcripts to the “Materials” section of your online application. You do NOT need to send us copies of your official transcripts.
- Copy of your passport photo:**
 - Please upload to the “Materials” section of your online application.
- Official foreign credential evaluation report:**
 - The report must show the United States equivalency for academic credentials earned in other countries. Loras College accepts evaluations directly from either Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc. (<https://www.ece.org/ECE>) or Foreign Credits, Inc. (<https://www.foreigncredits.com/>). You should contact Graduate Admissions if you have already received a foreign credential evaluation report from an organization other than ECE or Foreign Credits.
 - Official foreign credential evaluation report can be mailed to:
Loras College Graduate Admission
Attn: Megan Henderson
1450 Alta Vista Street
Dubuque, IA 52001
- Proof of English language proficiency:**
 - Applicants must submit one of the official test scores below (unless you have received a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university in Australia, Barbados, Canada, Jamaica, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, Singapore, United Kingdom, or the United States). Proficiency scores must be sent directly to Loras College from the testing center and must not be more than 2 years old.
 - TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)
 - Internet-based test – score of 80 or higher
 - Paper-based test – score of 550 or higher
 - IELTS (International English Language Testing System)
 - 6.5 or higher
 - ACT
 - 21 or higher on both English and Reading sections
 - SAT
 - 500 or higher on evidence-based Reading and Writing sections

- Official English language proficiency test scores can be mailed to:
Loras College Graduate Admission
Attn: Megan Henderson
1450 Alta Vista Street
Dubuque, IA 52001

Please note that you will be required to enter the 3 reference email addresses, and upload your resume, personal statement, unofficial transcripts, and copy of your passport photo before you can submit your online application. However, you may start the application and return to it at a later time to upload those documents. It does not all have to be completed at once.

Application deadlines:

Spring enrollment – all materials due by December 1
Summer enrollment – all materials due by April 1
Fall enrollment – all materials due by July 1
Applications submitted after these deadlines will be considered on an individual basis.

Interview and admission decision:

Immediately following receipt of all application materials, your file will be reviewed by the Program Director to determine whether to move forward with an interview. You will then be contacted with information about your next steps. After completion of your interview (or after review of your file), you will be notified of an admission decision in your online Applicant Status Portal. At that time, you will be sent a Certification of Finances form to complete and send back to us so that we can start the I-20 process. Please note that if admitted, and after payment of your confirmation deposit, your enrollment in the program is contingent upon successful completion of a background check by the first day of class.