

**University of Texas at El Paso  
EPSS Counseling Program  
Admission Evaluation Guide**

- This is a tentative evaluation guide and may change in the near future. At present, Applicants must meet the cut-off score for each section (not an overall cut-off score). Therefore, incomplete applications (e.g. missing documents and required answers to questions provided) will not be reviewed by the faculty for the current admission cycle. Applicants are encouraged to reapply with a complete application”
- If applicants are approaching or fall into a close range of expectations, the admission coordinator may provide an applicant with a contingency plan that if followed will help applicants fully meet expectations for the next admission cycle. However, this plan must be approved by the admission committee.

<b>1. GPA</b> (Cumulative or minimum of last 60 hours; 0 pts min – 20 pts max in total)	
Below 2.75	0 pts
2.75-2.99	Up to 10 pts
3.00-3.24	11-15 pts
3.25-3.49	16-20 pts
3.50-4.00	21-25 pts

<b>Total Score (Cut Off Score is 11 pts)</b>	
<b>Admission Committee Notes:</b>	

<b>2. Letters of recommendations</b> (per letter; 0 pts min – 21 pts max in total)	
Non-professional letter, do not align with counseling profession; failed to respond or missing a letter; poorly written	Up to 3 pts
Professional letter/recommended, may or may not be specific to the counseling program or profession; fairly written	4-5 pts
Professional letter/highly recommended, specific to the counseling program and/or profession; well written	6-7 pts

<b>Total Score (Cut Off Score is 12 pts)</b>	
<b>Admission Committee Notes:</b>	

<b>3. Purpose of Statement</b> (0 pts min – 20 pts max in total)	
Academic/career goals do not fully align with counseling profession; failed to respond adequately; poorly to fairly written	0-10 pts
Academic career goal(s) clearly addressed and aligned with UTEP Counseling program objectives, well written (explicitly states the desire to become a school <b>or</b> mental health counselor)	11-15 pts

Academic/career goal(s) <b><i>strongly addressed</i></b> and aligned with UTEP Counseling program objectives, written at graduate level (APA format) (explicitly states the desire to become a school counselor)	16-20 pts
<b>Total Score (Cut Off Score is 11 pts)</b>	
<b>Admission Committee Notes:</b>	
<b>4. Response to Multicultural question (0 pts min – 20 pts max in total)</b>	
Failed to respond; poorly written; statement includes negative views about diversity and inclusion	0-10 pts
Evidence of multicultural awareness reflected; well written	11-15 pts
High level of multicultural awareness reflected; written at graduate level (APA format)	16-20 pts
<b>Total Score (Cut Off Score is 11 pts)</b>	
<b>Admission Committee Notes:</b>	
<b>5. Response to Interpersonal skill question (0 pts min – 20 pts max in total)</b>	
Failed to respond; poorly written; statement includes negative views about the value of interpersonal skills and relationships	0-10 pts
Evidence of interpersonal skills reflected; well written	11-15 pts
High level of interpersonal skills reflected; written at graduate level (APA format)	16-20 pts
<b>Total Score (Cut Off Score is 11 pts)</b>	
<b>Admission Committee Notes:</b>	
<b>6. Resume (0 pts min – 20 pts max in total)</b>	
Skills, experience, and education covered with little detail. Missing significant information; does not relevant professional employment information; is poorly written/grammatical errors.	Up to 10 pts
Skills, experience, and education covered in some detail. Resume has professional and relevant personal/volunteer information; well-written and organized; does not clearly state the intention to become a school <b>or</b> mental health counselor	11-15 pts
Skills, experience, and education covered in detail. Resume has professional and relevant personal/volunteer information; well-written	16-20 pts

and organized; clearly states the intention to become a school <b>or</b> mental health counselor.	
<b>Total Score (Cut Off Score is 11 pts)</b>	
<b>Admission Committee Notes:</b>	

Requirements for your application must include three well-written (and separate) statements (additional requirements for application can be found at

<https://www.utep.edu/education/epss/academic-programs/counseling/school/school-program.html>):

**1) Statement of Purpose:** Write a statement clearly stating the reasons you would like to become a school or mental health counselor. Please make sure you write this statement in reference to the specific program you are applying to (i.e., school counseling; mental health counseling).

**2) Interpersonal Skills Question:** Briefly describe an experience in which you acted in a helping role. What qualities do you possess that you believe will make an effective mental health counselor or school counselor, and what skills do you think you need to develop in your ability to help others? Please make sure you address these questions in reference to the specific program you are applying to (i.e., school counseling; mental health counseling).

**3) Diversity Question:** Appreciating diversity is an important value of our programs. Think about your experiences with various diverse groups and describe some of your experiences that show your commitment to diversity. How have these experiences helped you challenge various stereotypes? Address any personal assumptions, values or biases that could potentially provide difficulty for serving culturally diverse clients. Please make sure you address these questions in reference to the specific program you are applying to (i.e., school counseling; mental health counseling).

When you upload your Statement of Purpose document in Next Step, your document must include three sections, which are **1) your general Statement of Purpose; 2) your answer to Interpersonal Skills Question; and 3) your answer to Diversity Question.**