The Counseling Psychology program at Holy Family University prepares students to become professional counselors with expertise in community, school, family and marital, higher education, and pastoral settings. The program takes approximately three to four years to complete studying on a part-time basis. Classes meet at our convenient Newtown location in the evening and on Saturdays.

Academic Program

In addition to a 25-credit core curriculum, you will complete between 26 to 35 additional credits in electives and concentration requirements. The program’s available concentrations are:

**COUNSELING IN STUDENT AFFAIRS IN HIGHER EDUCATION**
Prepares master-level counselors to work with students in a variety of higher education settings. This concentration trains students to attend to the intellectual, social, emotional, and developmental needs of college and university students. Graduates of this program will be prepared to work in such areas as counseling centers, career centers, residence life, student activities, academic advising, and special needs programs.

**CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING**
Prepares master-level counselors to work with adolescents and adults in a community setting. This concentration is designed for students wishing to develop expertise in counseling adolescents and adults. Students will also gain the credentials to assume a supervisory position in community agency settings.

**FAMILY AND MARITAL COUNSELING**
Prepares master-level counselors to work with families, couples, and children. This concentration is designed for students interested in gaining expertise in counseling and working with families. Graduates of this concentration will be prepared to work in the human service profession either publicly or privately.

**SCHOOL COUNSELING**
Prepares master-level counselors to work as school counselors in the elementary, secondary, or both elementary and secondary settings. The Pennsylvania Department of Education-approved school counseling certification program allows students to pursue only certification or both certification and licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor.

**PASTORAL COUNSELING**
Prepares master-level counselors to work in a variety of pastoral settings including but not limited to churches, synagogues, hospitals, jails, schools, and community settings. The program provides a holistic approach that integrates counseling practice and theory with Judeo-Christian theology and philosophy to assist individuals and families in academic, clinical, faith and spiritual based counseling settings.

**POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMS**
Holy Family also offers two postgraduate programs: a licensure program for practicing master-level counselors and a school counseling certification program for those with a master’s degree wishing to become certified as an elementary or secondary school guidance counselor. These postgraduate programs each call for their own admission requirements. Ask your admissions counselor for details.

**ELIGIBILITY FOR LICENSURE AS A LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR (LPC)**
Several concentrations in the graduate counseling psychology program fulfill the educational requirements for licensure in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey. Licensure eligible programs are:

- Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- Family and Marital Counseling
- School Counseling
- Pastoral Counseling
- Counseling in Student Affairs in Higher Education
Program Mission Statement

The mission of the Graduate Program in Professional Counseling is to prepare professional counselors to engage in critical, logical and ethical thinking. The program adopts a standards-based curriculum to educate counselors who will promote respect for human dignity and diversity and engage in activities that enhance and enrich human development and improve quality of life. Students will obtain the knowledge and skill necessary for certification/licensure as competent professional counselors utilizing evidence-based practices. Consistent with Holy Family’s tradition of “Teneor Votis” (I am bound by my responsibilities) students are inspired to advocate for social justice, shape public policy and witness to the dignity of each person and the oneness of the human family.

Program Outcomes

The graduate of the Graduate Program in Professional Counseling recognizes that counseling is more than a profession. It is in this program's view that counseling is a way of living where one is committed to social justice, empathy and life-long learning. This involves connection with all of humanity while maintaining individuality. The Program Outcomes reflect this belief and expectation. Upon completion of the program students will confidently be able to:

1. Articulate a professional counseling identity,
2. Demonstrate flexibility, adaptability, independence, humility, and the courage to be vulnerable,
3. Demonstrate a multicultural perspective and competence in working with clients,
4. Apply professional counseling skills and knowledge to client needs (based on the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs competencies),
5. Practice professional counseling in a manner consistent with the ethical guidelines of the American Counseling Association and its divisions,
6. Embrace the philosophy of a “life-long learner” by being able to critically evaluate and integrate new knowledge into existing knowledge sets,
7. Implement advocacy skills and interventions with regard to social justice issues,
8. Understand and contribute to the scholarship in the field of professional counseling,
9. Recognize the self as a developing imperfect person with consideration to counseling, personal growth and development, one’s sense of spirituality, and self care and wellness strategies especially as these impact on the self and client.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must possess the following qualifications for admission to the MS in Counseling Psychology program:

• A baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university.
• An undergraduate cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 or better on a four-point scale. Applicants with an undergraduate cumulative grade-point average less than 3.0 must submit results of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) prior to being considered for admission.
• Two satisfactory letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with the applicant’s academic or professional work.
• An application form with a nonrefundable $25 application fee.
• A 250- to 500-word personal statement of applicant’s interests in the field, future professional plans and goals, and reasons for requesting admission. The quality of the applicant’s statement will be of critical importance to the success of the application for admission.
• Official transcripts of all previous college or university work.

Applicants will be considered based on their academic ability, expression of interests and goals, life experience, and personal interview. Admissions are rolling with the majority in the fall semester and a limited number in the spring. Prior to admission, selected applicants will be invited to complete a personal interview with Counseling Psychology faculty. Notification of acceptance into the program usually is completed within two weeks of the personal interview.

Please note that the program is limited in size because of the intensive training requirements. Although many applicants meet the criteria for admission, it may not be possible to admit all qualified students.

Prerequisite Requirements

An undergraduate course in General Psychology is required prior to admission into the program. In addition, two undergraduate prerequisites are required prior to enrollment in select courses in the counseling psychology program:

• Statistics
• Research Methods or Experimental Psychology (This can be any general course in experimental psychology, a research methods course, or a course in one of the specific areas of experimental psychology such as learning or cognition.)