



MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY

AT HOLY FAMILY UNIVERSITY

The Counseling Psychology program at Holy Family University prepares students to become professional counselors with expertise in community, family and marital, school, higher education, or private settings. The program is designed primarily for part-time students who, under ordinary circumstances, can complete the program in approximately three to four years. Classes meet at our convenient Newtown location in the evenings and on Saturdays.

Academic Program

In addition to a 28-credit core curriculum, you will complete between 23 to 32 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.

Counseling in the Community

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 also will 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 guidance counseling certification program allows students to pursue only certification or both certification and licensure as a Professional Licensed 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 Professional Licensed 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:

- Counseling in the Community
- Family and Marital Counseling
- School Counseling Elementary – Certification and LPC
- School Counseling Secondary – Certification and LPC
- School Counseling Dual – Certification and LPC
- Counseling in Student Affairs in Higher Education

Program Goals

As a student in the Counseling Psychology program, you will develop an advanced understanding of human behavior throughout the lifespan; sensitivity to the differences inherent in different cultural, ethnic, and social groups; and mastery of counseling guidance theories and client evaluation skills. The program provides outstanding skill training and clinical preparation for students who are considering a doctoral degree. Specific program objectives are:

- To provide students with an understanding of human behavior throughout the life span.
- To expose students to the increasing diversity of our society and to help students develop a sensitivity to the differences inherent in different cultural, ethnic, and social groups.
- To train students in specific counseling and consultation skills.
- To facilitate the development of group counseling skills.
- To expose students to current practices in the field of career and lifestyle counseling.
- To give students an understanding of the basic individual, family, and group assessment and evaluation techniques.
- To provide students with a solid grounding in research methods and program evaluation techniques.
- To help students develop an understanding of the legal and ethical issues facing counselors.
- To educate students about the role of the counselor in the school, private, higher education, and community setting.
- To help students develop expertise as counselors working in the community, with families, with students in higher education, and with students in school settings.

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.)

Additional Prerequisite Requirements – School Counseling Certification Students

These prerequisites for School Counseling applicants only apply to students who have not already earned an education certificate:

- Six credits of undergraduate English (three credits of Composition and three credits of Literature).
- Six credits of undergraduate Mathematics.