

# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY

## **Course Requirements**

The Master of Science in Counseling Psychology (MSCP) degree is a 48-term-hour graduate program which has as its objective the training of professional counselors. This curriculum is specifically designed to meet the academic requirements of the current Louisiana state licensing act for Licensed Professional Counselors, which requires a 48-hour master's degree in counseling including eight specific curricular areas. Accordingly, there is a core of six courses (18 term hours) that provides a basis for further study emphasizing increasing theoretical knowledge and practical application skills in a variety of counseling specialty areas. The 10 courses (30 term hours) devoted to theory and applications include a 100-clock-hour practicum and two terms, 300 clock hours each, of internship experience. In the practicum and internship experiences, students are under the guidance and supervision of both University-based faculty and field-based practitioners.

## **Admission Procedures**

In addition to the general university requirements for admission to graduate studies as outlined in the university catalog, an applicant for admission to the Master of Science in Counseling Psychology degree program must meet program requirements as stated below:

*All applicants:* Complete all foundational or prerequisite courses with a grade of "C" or better.

### **FOUNDATION COURSES**

PSYC 152	Introduction to Psychology
PSYC 216	Introduction to Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences
PSYC 350	Introduction to Psychometrics
PSYC 404/604	Theories of Personality
PSYC 411/611	History of Psychology
PSYC 422/622	Physiological Psychology

All students will initiate the process of admission to precandidacy in the MSCP program by setting an appointment with their assigned advisor, who, together with the student, will evaluate the appropriateness of their entry to the program as a precandidate, on either a regular or provisional basis. The culmination of this application process will be the development of a tentative program of study, and the issuance of a letter from the Program Coordinator establishing the student's status as a precandidate in the MSCP program. If the result of the initial advisement indicates that entry into the program is inappropriate at that time, due to the student's not meeting provisional admission requirements, the student will be issued a letter to that effect, indicating deficiencies that would need to be rectified prior to reconsideration for admission.

## **Regular admission to precandidacy**

- Complete an application for admission to graduate studies (a student may not apply for admission to candidacy for the Master of Science in Counseling Psychology degree program without having qualified for regular admission to graduate study at the University);
- Submit official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended;
- Submit GRE scores that reflect a combined score of 800 or higher on the verbal (GRE-V) and quantitative (GRE-Q) areas, and have earned an overall undergraduate grade point average of 2.75 or higher. Exception will only be considered by student appeal to the MSCP Program Committee.
- File a Program of Study within the first 12 hours or prior to a third term of enrollment
- Have a "B" or better on all graduate transfer credits.

## **Regular admission to precandidacy**

This may be granted immediately upon receipt of all required credentials. All applicants for the Master of Science in Counseling Psychology degree program who meet the requirements stipulated above are initially admitted as pre-candidates. However, some applicants who meet basic admission requirements may not be approved for precandidacy status. Limited space in the program requires that applicants be evaluated on a

competitive basis. Those students accepted as pre-candidates may be continued through the completion of 12 term credit hours of work at LSUS, whereupon continuing students must apply for admission to candidacy.

### **Admission to Candidacy for the Master of Science in Counseling Psychology Program**

A student enrolled in the Master of Science in Counseling Psychology curriculum may be admitted to candidacy for the degree after meeting the following standards:

- a) Complete an application for admission to candidacy in the Master of Science in Counseling Psychology degree program (forms available in the Department of Psychology office). Such application may include the completion of a professional portfolio, case presentation, or other appropriate assessments of the applicant's readiness for candidacy status, as determined by the Committee.
- b) Application must be made as soon as 12 graduate term credit hours toward the degree have been earned with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher.
- c) Submit GRE scores that reflect a combined score of 800 or higher on the verbal (GRE-V) and quantitative (GRE-Q) areas.
- d) Secure three (3) references (forms available in the Department of Psychology office): one from a current faculty member, and two from the student's choice. Reference forms must be sent to the Master of Science in Counseling Psychology Program Committee, Department of Psychology, LSUS, One University Place, Shreveport, LA 71115.
- e) Complete the required prerequisites in Introduction to Psychology, Introductory Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences, Introduction to Psychometrics, Theories of Personality, History of Psychology, and Physiological Psychology.
- f) Provide evidence of freedom from emotional and physical limitations that would jeopardize success as a professional counselor.

The admission to candidacy procedure will be coordinated by the Master of Science in Counseling Psychology Program Committee, which will make its recommendations for admission to candidacy through the Program Coordinator and Department Chair to the Dean of Graduate Studies. Due to limited space in the program, approval for candidacy in the program is on a competitive basis.

### **Grade Policy**

A GPA of 3.0 or higher is required for graduation from the Master of Science in Counseling Psychology degree program. Students are expected to maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA throughout the program. After any term in which a student's GPA drops below 3.0, the student will be placed on probation. The student is expected to return to a GPA of 3.0 or higher the following term. Only one (1) grade of "C" is allowed toward the completion of the degree. A second grade of "C" must be repeated, with a minimal grade of "B" required on the repeated course for a student to remain in the MSCP program. A third earned grade of "C" will result in dismissal from the program. All grades earned in graduate course work, whether at LSUS or elsewhere, will be included in the computation of the minimum 3.0 GPA required for graduation. Undergraduate courses taken as prerequisites while in graduate status are not so included.

### **Transfer Credit**

A maximum of 12 term hours may be accepted by routine transcript and course content review and approval by the Master of Science in Counseling Psychology Program Committee and/or the Program Coordinator, and an additional 12 hours may be considered for approval at the discretion of the program committee on an individual basis. Courses taken as part of a completed, related graduate degree may be considered by the committee for transfer in the context of the degree.

### **Comprehensive Examination**

Students will be expected to successfully complete a comprehensive examination prior to placement in the internship. Only candidates in the Masters program are allowed to sit for the examination. The program has adopted the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination (CPCE). It is an objective standardized measurement exam developed by the Center for Credentialing and Education, an affiliate of the National Board of Certified Counselors, Inc. (NBCC). The purpose of the exam is to assess students' knowledge of

counseling information viewed as important by counselor education programs. The committee will use the exam to measure students' competency in the subjects deemed important by counselor licensing/accreditations boards. The CPCE was designed to provide summative evaluation of pertinent and professional relevant knowledge obtained through the program. The CPCE consists of 160 items that reflect the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Program (CACREP) eight required training areas:

- Human Growth and Development
- Social and cultural Foundations
- Helping Relationships
- Group Work
- Career and Lifestyle Development
- Appraisal
- Research and Program Evaluation
- Professional Orientation and Ethics

The CPCE registration fee is the responsibility of the student. The LSUS Department of Psychology will coordinate administration of the CPCE. Individuals who perform well on the CPCE should perform similarly on the LPC licensure exams. Students who do not pass the comprehensive examination may retake the comprehensive exam twice. Failing the comprehensive exam a third time will result in dismissal from the program. The Committee sets the comprehensive exam dates and at least two dates will be offered per academic year.

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### Total Hours: 48

<b>FIRST YEAR</b>					
<u>FALL TERM</u>	<u>Sem. Hrs.</u>	<u>SPRING TERM</u>	<u>Sem. Hrs.</u>	<u>SUMMER TERM</u>	<u>Sem. Hrs.</u>
Psychology 701/ED 750	3	Psychology 721	3	Psychology 605	3
Psychology 720	3	Psychology 723	3	Psychology Elective	<u>3</u>
Psychology 716	3	Psychology 718	3		6
Psychology 628	<u>3</u>	Psychology 709	<u>3</u>		
	12		12		
<b>SECOND YEAR</b>					
<u>FALL TERM</u>	<u>Sem. Hrs.</u>	<u>SPRING TERM</u>	<u>Sem. Hrs.</u>	<u>SUMMER TERM</u>	<u>Sem Hrs</u>
Psychology 732	3	Psychology 786	3	Psychology 787	3
Psychology 722	3	Psychology 733	<u>3</u>		
Psychology 783	<u>3</u>		6		
	9				

*Prerequisite courses: PSYC 152, PSYC 216, PSYC 350, PSYC 404/604, PSYC 411/611, PSYC 422/622*

*Electives (3 hours required): PSYC 702, PSYC 714, PSYC 724, PSYC 626, or PSYC 799.*