

# Master of Science in Counseling Psychology

## Certificates

- Addictions Counseling Psychology
- Child and Family Counseling Psychology

Providing training in professional psychology at the graduate level, the Master of Science in Counseling Psychology program is designed for those pursuing further study in science-based counseling psychology. Our theoretical perspective is integrative, including cognitive-behavioral, family systems, developmental, feminist, multicultural, humanistic and brief therapies. We emphasize training in empirically supported treatments for children, adolescents, families and adults.

The Master of Science in Counseling Psychology program is accredited by the Masters in Psychology Accreditation Council.

A small faculty-student ratio creates opportunities for frequent, individual interaction throughout the program. Students develop counseling skills through learning about self, client, counselor-client relationships, and the importance of cultural contexts. Considerable attention is given not only to development of professional skills but also to personal development and multicultural awareness. These emphases reflect our belief that an effective counselor is one who is self-aware and receptive to consultation.

The evaluation of students is an integral feature of the program aimed at identifying the student's strengths, needs and characteristics that may need attention in promoting the development of counseling skills. Evaluation takes place several times during the program, including at the end of the first and second semesters of course work and at the time of degree candidacy.

For continuing study at the doctoral level, experience and knowledge gained in this program provide a firm foundation. Optional research opportunities prepare students for advanced graduate study in psychology. The Center for Children and Families offers unique research and service experiences. Two certificate programs provide specialized training in addictions counseling psychology and child and family counseling psychology. These can be completed within the 3-year program of study. All National Counselor Exam course areas are offered, and FSU offers this exam.

The normal length of the program is 2 years of full-time course work followed by a 1-year internship. Full- and part-time study is available. On completion of this program, students will have met all academic requirements for licensure for each state in the tri-state area (as well as much of the U.S.) in the area of professional counseling.

## Special Admission Criteria

In addition to the general admission requirements for all graduate programs, you are required to meet the following criteria:

1. You must have completed the baccalaureate degree at a regionally accredited institution of higher education (verified by an official transcript) with an undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. If you have NOT earned at least a 3.0 GPA, you must submit a minimum score of 410 on the MAT or a minimum score of 1,000 (V+Q) on the General Test of the GRE. Scores below the above criteria will be considered individually.
2. You must ask three professionals to complete reference forms concerning your suitability for graduate study in counseling psychology. At least two of these references must be from professors who have taught or supervised you.
3. You are to provide a resumé with your application for admission.
4. You are to provide a typewritten statement that will answer questions about yourself. These questions will be supplied by the Office of Graduate Services as part of your application for graduate study.
5. You must interview with the graduate program coordinator. If additional interviews are required, then the coordinator will arrange them. If you cannot arrange to come to the campus for an interview, the coordinator will arrange for a telephone interview. The purpose of the interview is to provide another source of information regarding the applicant's appropriateness for training as a counselor.
6. Undergraduate preparation must include the following courses for a total of 15 credit hours (or their equivalent as determined by the Psychology Admissions Committee):
  - a. Introduction/General Psychology
  - b. Psychological Statistics or Research Methods
  - c. Developmental Psychology (Child, Adolescent or Adult)
  - d. Abnormal Psychology (Adult or Child)
  - e. Elective in Psychology
7. Application Deadline: February 1 for the fall semester. Degree program admissions are made only for the fall semester.
8. Note: Some internships sites may require a criminal background check prior to approving students for internship placement.

## Coordinator:

Dr. Michael Murtagh  
Department of Psychology  
301.687.4446  
mpmurtagh@frostburg.edu

## Program Description

### Basic Preparation Courses

Although not required for admission, the following courses represent needed background for the more advanced courses in the program. If the student has not taken these courses at an advanced level as an undergraduate, these courses must be taken at Frostburg State University at the beginning of the student's program of study. If the student has taken some or all of these basic preparation courses at another institution but the courses are not comparable to FSU's, the student will be asked to either take the course(s) at FSU or take an equivalency exam to test out of the course(s):

- PSYC 508 Tests and Measurements
- Plus **one 3-credit hour course** addressing the physiological basis of behavior: Physiological Psychology (PSYC 520), Health Psychology (PSYC 530) or Addictions Issues and Treatment (PSYC 686) or their equivalent at another university

### Course Requirements (Total = 60 credits)

- Graduate course work listed below (42 credits):

PSYC 600 Introduction to Counseling and Assessment  
 PSYC 602<sup>1</sup> Advanced Research Evaluation and Interpretation (or PSYC 570)  
 PSYC 610 Small Group Dynamics/Group Counseling  
 PSYC 614 Advanced Developmental Psychology  
 PSYC 616<sup>2</sup> Psychological Issues in Career Counseling  
 PSYC 617 Adult Psychopathology  
 PSYC 618 Child Psychopathology  
 PSYC 619<sup>2</sup> Professional, Ethical & Legal Issues in Counseling  
 PSYC 630 Theories and Techniques of Counseling I  
 PSYC 640 Theories and Techniques of Counseling II  
 PSYC 650 Family Therapy  
 PSYC 660 Individual Assessment  
 PSYC 670 Multicultural Counseling Techniques  
 PSYC 686 Addiction Issues & Treatment

- A minimum of a total of 12 credits of internship across two semesters:

PSYC 695 Internship in Counseling (6-12 credits)  
 PSYC 696 Advanced Internship in Counseling (6-12 credits)

- Six additional credits consisting of up to two additional electives<sup>3</sup> or up to 6 additional credits of internship

### <sup>3</sup>Approved Electives

PSYC 504 Psychology of Exceptional Child  
 PSYC 520 Physiological Psychology  
 PSYC 530 Health Psychology  
 PSYC 544 The Male Experience  
 PSYC 570 Research Methods Applications  
 PSYC 581 History and Systems  
 PSYC 585 Behavioral App. to Human Problems  
 PSYC 590 Special Topics in Psychology  
 PSYC 591 Seminar in Psychology  
 Any 500-level PSYC course  
 PSYC 602\* Advanced Research Evaluation & Interpretation  
 PSYC 625 Counselor as a Person  
 PSYC 680 Advanced Treatment Strategies With Children, Adolescents & Families  
 PSYC 692 Adv. Seminar in Psychology  
 PSYC 698 Readings in Psychology  
 PSYC 699 Ind. Research in Psychology

### Approved Education Electives

SCCO 608 Lifestyle, Career Development & Decision Making  
 EDUC 523 AIDS: Information, Instruction and Counseling  
 EDUC 606 Developmental Theory & Experiential Growth  
 EDUC 590 Special Topics: AIDS: Peer Counseling and Education

<sup>1</sup>Students who have a strong Research Methods background are encouraged to substitute PSYC 602 with PSYC 570-Advanced Experimental Psychology. This course is ideal for those who wish to engage in research and prepare to go on for doctoral studies. You may wish to consult with your advisor to determine your eligibility to enroll in PSYC 570.

<sup>2</sup>To complete this program, students will have to take PSYC 616 and PSYC 619 during an intersession or summer session.

\*You may take both PSYC 570 and PSYC 602; one can count as the program requirement and one as an elective.

Other SCCO and EDUC courses with prior approval of MS Committee

## Internship

An important aspect of the program, not often found in master's level studies, is the two-semester internship. The opportunity to intern at one of a variety of sites, for up to 36 hours per week during a 9-month period, provides the student with unusually thorough preparation for eventual employment.

Areas for internship are generally restricted to the Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia region, within commuting distance of Frostburg.

Ongoing supervision is provided by an on-site supervisor. Some internship sites may require a criminal background check prior to approving students for the internship placement.

## Special Degree Requirements

### Personal Growth Experience

All students are required to participate in a counseling experience designed to enhance their self-growth and self-awareness. This may be individual or group counseling, or a structured workshop, and must be 12 hours.

### Degree Candidacy

Frostburg State University regards degree candidacy as an important element of the Master of Science in Counseling Psychology degree program. The purpose of degree candidacy is to provide a formal mechanism as part of your program of study whereby your academic performance and progress toward completion of degree requirements are evaluated. Criteria for this evaluation are found in the *MS in Counseling Psychology Graduate Student Handbook*.

### Conditions of Degree Candidacy and Internship

It is your responsibility to apply for degree candidacy. Application for degree candidacy must occur during the semester in which you will complete 12 or more credit hours of 600-level program requirements, including PSYC 640. To apply for degree candidacy you must:

1. Have completed all graduate credit taken as approved from Frostburg State University with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better
2. Have completed all undergraduate preparation courses and any other course deficiencies as they are listed on your study plan
3. Have completed all required basic preparation courses

Acceptance to degree candidacy must be approved before you apply for the internship. All course work except for electives must be completed prior to interning, and you must have achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or better to intern.

Internship is normally graded on a PASS/NON-PASS basis. To continue in the program and register for Advanced Internship (696), you must receive a PASS in Internship (695). Should you be unable to complete either PSYC 695 or 696 during the semester you initially enrolled, an incomplete (I) may be assigned.

### Graduation

In addition to satisfactorily completing the basic master's degree requirements described in this catalog, an exit interview and recommendation for graduation from your Master's Committee (your advisor and one other faculty member) are required. You must apply for graduation according to the schedule listed in the academic regulations section of this catalog.

## Psi Chi

Psi Chi is the national honor society in psychology. The major goals of Psi Chi are to honor outstanding psychology students by membership in this society and to foster a climate conducive to the creative development of the society. For complete information, contact the chair of the Department of Psychology.

# Graduate Certificate Programs

- ADDICTIONS COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY
- CHILD AND FAMILY COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY

## Certificate Programs

The Master of Science in Counseling Psychology program offers two, post-baccalaureate certificates: (1) Addictions Counseling Psychology and (2) Child and Family Counseling Psychology. In addition to FSU policies governing all post-baccalaureate programs (*see page 10 of this catalog*), these certificates have the following prerequisites and entrance requirements.

1. Certificates will be awarded only to those who have completed graduate degrees in the mental health counseling field. Appropriate master's degrees would include counseling or clinical psychology, school counseling, mental health counseling, clinical social work or equivalent degrees. Two master's degree programs at FSU meet this requirement: Master of Science in Counseling Psychology and Master of Education in School Counseling.
2. If you are not currently an FSU graduate student and you plan to enroll in courses in the certificate program as a non-degree-seeking student, OR if you are an FSU graduate student in the MEd School Counseling program, you must apply to the certificate program and then meet with the faculty contact person PRIOR to enrolling in your first course in the certificate program. Application requirements are listed below. Program faculty will determine if you have the necessary qualifications and prerequisites to begin certificate courses.
  - a. FSU MEd School Counseling students (SCCO). All entrance requirements for the SCCO program meet certificate admission requirements EXCEPT that students submitting MAT scores to qualify for admission to the SCCO program must achieve an MAT score of 410 for admission to the psychology graduate certificate programs. Verification of satisfying these admission standards must be submitted prior to meeting with the faculty contact person.
  - b. Non-degree-seeking students' requirements: Completion of a mental health counseling graduate degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education (verified by an official transcript) with a graduate GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Two letters of reference from mental health professionals who have taught or supervised the applicant. Transcript and reference must be submitted prior to meeting with the faculty contact person.
3. Some courses in the certificate programs have as prerequisites other certificate courses. Students are expected to take certificate courses in the sequence prescribed by prerequisites. Students will be asked to withdraw from any courses where they have not met the prerequisite(s) or obtained permission of the course instructor.
4. Professionals or students seeking this certification who are not enrolled in FSU's MS Counseling Psychology program will be required to complete one semester of internship through the MS Counseling Psychology program, and in this semester, 100 percent of internship direct services hours (i.e., 150 hours) must be in the service area related to the certificate. Students enrolled in FSU's MS Counseling Psychology program may complete their 150 hours over two semesters of internship.

# Addictions Counseling Psychology Graduate Certificate

- In addition to the listed courses, completion of a graduate degree in mental health counseling is required. Appropriate master's degrees would include counseling or clinical psychology, school counseling, mental health counseling, clinical social work or equivalent degrees. (This requirement is consistent with state of Maryland law; a master's degree is required in health or human services.)

### Faculty Advisor:

Dr. Michael Murtagh  
Department of Psychology  
301.687.4446  
mpmurtagh@frostburg.edu

## Program Description

### Required Courses (29 credits)

*Note: Some courses are prerequisites for others.*

PSYC 386\*\* Drugs & Behavior or equivalent  
(candidates may elect to complete this area by credit-by-examination)  
PSYC 570 or 602 Research Methods Appl. or Adv. Research Evaluation & Interpretation  
PSYC 600 Introduction to Counseling & Assessment  
PSYC 610 Group Counseling  
PSYC 614 Advanced Developmental Psychology  
PSYC 617 or 618 Adult or Child Psychopathology  
PSYC 670 Multicultural Counseling Techniques

PSYC 686 Addictions Issues and Treatment  
PSYC 695 and/or 696 Internship: 150 hours of supervised direct services in addictions counseling (5-credit minimum)\*

### Total: 29-credit minimum

*\*Professionals seeking this certification who are not graduates of FSU's MS Counseling Psychology program will be required to complete one semester of internship at FSU, and in this semester, 100 percent of internship direct services hours (i.e., 150 hours) must be with clients receiving addiction services. Students enrolled in FSU's MS Counseling Psychology program may complete their 150 hours over two semesters of internship.*

*\*\*Not an M.S Counseling Psychology program requirement*

# Child and Family Counseling Psychology Graduate Certificate

- In addition to the above courses, completion of a graduate degree in mental health counseling is required. Appropriate master's degrees would include counseling or clinical psychology, school counseling, mental health counseling, clinical social work or equivalent degrees.

### Faculty Advisor:

Dr. Jason H. Edwards  
Department of Psychology  
301.687.4204  
jedwards@frostburg.edu

## Program Description

### Required Courses (26 credits)

*Note: Some courses are prerequisites for others.*

PSYC 600 Introduction to Counseling & Assessment  
PSYC 570 or 602 Research Methods Appl. or Adv. Research Evaluation & Interpretation  
PSYC 614 Advanced Developmental Psychology  
PSYC 618 Child Psychopathology  
PSYC 630 Theories & Techniques of Counseling I  
PSYC 650 Family Therapy  
PSYC 680\*\* Advanced Treatment Strategies with Children, Adolescents & Families  
PSYC 695 and/or 696 Internship: 150 hours of supervised direct services with children/adolescents & families

### Total: 26-credit minimum

*\*Professionals seeking this certification who are not graduates of FSU's MS Counseling Psychology program will be required to complete one semester of internship at FSU, and in this semester, 100 percent of internship direct services hours (i.e., 150 hours) must be with children/adolescents and families. Students enrolled in FSU's MS Counseling Psychology program may complete their 150 hours over two semesters of internship. A criminal background check must be completed prior to interning.*

*\*\*Not an M.S Counseling Psychology program requirement*

