Master of Science in Counseling Psychology

Program Description
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. The program offers two areas of emphasis to provide specialized training in addictions counseling psychology and child and family counseling psychology. These areas of emphasis can be completed within the 3-year program of study. All National Counselor Exam course areas are offered.

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.

Emphasis Options
- Addictions Counseling Psychology
- Child and Family Counseling Psychology

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) (for tests taken prior to August 1, 2011) or 300 (V+Q) (for tests taken on or after August 1, 2011) 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 15 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.

Program Requirements
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)
- or 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):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 600</td>
<td>Introduction to Counseling and Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 602</td>
<td>Advanced Research Evaluation and Interpretation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 610</td>
<td>Small Group Dynamics/Group Counseling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 614</td>
<td>Advanced Developmental Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 616</td>
<td>Psychological Issues in Career Counseling</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 617</td>
<td>Adult Psychopathology</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 618</td>
<td>Child Psychopathology</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 619</td>
<td>Professional, Ethical &amp; Legal Issues in Counseling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 630</td>
<td>Theories and Techniques of Counseling I</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 640</td>
<td>Theories and Techniques of Counseling II</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 650</td>
<td>Family Therapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 660</td>
<td>Individual Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 670</td>
<td>Multicultural Counseling Techniques</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 686</td>
<td>Addiction Issues &amp; Treatment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A minimum of a total of 14 credits of internship across two semesters:
- PSYC 695 Internship in Counseling (6-12 credits)
- PSYC 696 Advanced Internship in Counseling (6-12 credits)

Four additional credits consisting of electives and/or additional credits of internship:

- PSYC 504 Psychology of Exceptional Child
- PSYC 520 Physiological Psychology
- PSYC 530 Health Psychology
- 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 680 Advanced Treatment Strategies With Children, Adolescents & Families

### 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 completed through the form of individual counseling and must be 6 hours.

#### Grade Requirement

Students will be dismissed from the Counseling Psychology Program if they fail a required course (receive an F grade) or obtain two grades below the level of B at any time throughout the program of study. Students may appeal dismissal according to the dismissal appeal policies outlined in the graduate catalog. However, the dean will refer all appeals to the department’s Master of Science Policy Committee for recommendation.

### 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.

Transfer/Proficiency Credit
Up to 9 graduate credits may be transferred into this program, based on the requirements set forth in the graduate catalog. Note that credit by examination is not offered as a part of this program.

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.

Emphasis Options

- Addictions Counseling Psychology
- Child and Family Counseling Psychology

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

1. Only those who have completed graduate degrees in the mental health counseling field can be approved to take courses in the emphasis option. 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 as a non-degree-seeking student, OR if you are an FSU graduate student in the MEd School Counseling program, you must receive approval to take these courses from the coordinator of the Masters in Counseling Psychology program and then meet with the faculty contact person PRIOR to enrolling in your first course. Application requirements are listed below. Program faculty will determine if you have the necessary qualifications and prerequisites to begin emphasis courses.

   a. FSU M.Ed. School Counseling students (SCCO). All entrance requirements for the SCCO program meet certificate admission requirements EXCEPT that students submitting GRE scores to qualify for admission to the SCCO program must achieve admission test scores required for admission to the Counseling Psychology program. 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 emphases have prerequisites. Students are expected to take 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 either emphasis 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 emphasis. Students enrolled in FSU's MS Counseling Psychology program may complete their 150 hours over two semesters of internship.
## Addictions Counseling Psychology

**Graduate Emphasis**
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.)

### Program Curriculum

**Required Courses (29 credits)**
Note: Some courses are prerequisites for others.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<td>PSYC 386**</td>
<td>Drugs &amp; Behavior or equivalent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 570 or 602</td>
<td>Research Methods Appl. or Adv. Research Evaluation &amp; Interpretation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 600</td>
<td>Introduction to Counseling &amp; Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 610</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 614</td>
<td>Advanced Developmental Psychology</td>
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<td>PSYC 670</td>
<td>Multicultural Counseling Techniques</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 686</td>
<td>Addictions Issues and Treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 695 and/or 696</td>
<td>Internship: 150 hours of supervised direct services in addictions counseling (5-credit minimum)*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 29-credit minimum

*Professionals seeking this emphasis 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 MS Counseling Psychology program requirement

## Child and Family Counseling Psychology

**Graduate Emphasis**
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.

### Program Curriculum

**Required Courses (26 credits)**
Note: Some courses are prerequisites for others.

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<td>PSYC 680**</td>
<td>Advanced Treatment Strategies with Children, Adolescents &amp; Families</td>
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<td>PSYC 695 and/or 696</td>
<td>Internship: 150 hours of supervised direct services with children/adolescents &amp; families</td>
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Total: 26-credit minimum

*Professionals seeking this emphasis 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 MS Counseling Psychology program requirement