

MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY

<https://education.pacific.edu/education/benerd-education-programs/ma-in-education-counseling-psychology>

Degree Program

Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology

An emphasis is offered in the following:

- Marriage and Family Therapy
- Professional Clinical Counseling
- Child and Adolescent Counseling

Admissions Requirement

- A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better for the last 60 units of college or post-baccalaureate work
- A Bachelor's degree from an accredited university
- A completed application portfolio to Graduate Admissions, an essay indicating qualifications for the program, official transcripts from all college-level coursework including official verification of the awarding of degrees, and three letters of recommendation that attests to the candidate's ability to undertake graduate studies
- Program Interview
- Evidence of qualities and character in keeping with the philosophy and standards of this University and Benerd Education Programs

Master's Oral Competency Examination

A final oral examination, conducted by program faculty, is held in accordance with the deadline established by the university. This oral exam concerns itself with assessing program outcomes. Supplemental information is available in student handbooks.

Licensing

The emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy is designed to prepare students with the graduate education to become a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT). Similarly, the emphasis in Professional Clinical Counseling is designed to prepare students with the graduate education to become a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC). The graduate education is one step in the licensing process; therefore, students should review licensure requirements set forth by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences.

Doctoral Units

Students who take PsyD courses at part of a MA degree completed at Pacific may count those units towards their PsyD.

Learning Outcomes

- Counseling – Students will be able to and apply major theories of mental health counseling and psychotherapeutic techniques to individuals, groups, and families, with diverse needs.
- Assessment – Students will be able to administer and interpret results from major assessment instruments and use assessment findings to diagnose mental health problems and inform treatment plans.
- Cultural Competency – Students will be able to interrogate structures of power from the standpoint of cultural inheritance and critically reflect upon their own cultural biases.
- Research – Students will be able to locate appropriate resources of and critically evaluate psychological research literature.

- Self-Reflection – Students will be able to reflect on their professional strengths and weaknesses and develop plans to grow professionally.

Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology

The Master of Arts (MA) in Counseling Psychology requires a minimum of 32 units, of which 18 units must be in courses 200 or above and from the Benerd College, with a Pacific cumulative grade point average of 3.0. Based upon state and federal laws, additional units and requirements may be necessary for those students electing to earn a credential, certification or license along with the graduate degree. Students interested in earning a credential, certification or license should work closely with their advisor and the credential staff. The requirements of some concentration options may also be guided by external standards that direct completion of specified courses and achievement of specific learning outcomes.

I. Core

(15 units)

CPSY 370	Techniques of Research	3
CPSY 371	Statistical Thinking and Communication	3
CPSY 328	Theories of Multicultural Family Therapy and Collaboration	3
CPSY 320 or CPSY 321	Psychotherapeutic Interventions Psychotherapeutic Interventions for Children and their Caregivers	3
CPSY 355	Psychological Assessment	3

II. Field Experience

(2-6 units)

CPSY 394	Counseling Practicum	1-6
CPSY 396	School Psychology Fieldwork	1-3

III. Capstone Experience

Students will be required to complete a capstone experience (e.g., oral exam, portfolio, thesis, action research project and/or written comprehensive exam). The capstone experience will be determined within each concentration. For students who do not elect to earn a concentration, their advisor will select an appropriate capstone experience.

IV. Emphasis

Students may elect to pursue an emphasis in one or more specific areas. To earn an emphasis, students must fulfill the general requirements listed above as well as specific concentration requirements listed below. A single course may be used to fulfill requirements in two or more concentrations, but the units will not count twice.

Marriage and Family Therapy

Select 41 units of the following:

CPSY 303	Nature and Conditions of Learning	3
CPSY 302	Introduction to Counseling	1
CPSY 327	Theories of Multicultural Couples Therapy	3
CPSY 305	Advanced Human Development Across the Lifespan	3
CPSY 306	Advanced Human Development I	3
CPSY 307	Advanced Human Development II	4
CPSY 308	Advanced Human Development III	2

CPSY 325	Group Counseling	3	CPSY 358	Behavior and Personality Assessment	3
CPSY 340	Consultation Methods	3	CPSY 360	Neuropsychology	3
CPSY 322	Advanced Psychotherapeutic Interventions	3	CPSY 333	Abuse and Crisis Intervention for Families	3
CPSY 310	History and Systems in Psychology	3	Or any Special Topics course (CPSY 393)		
CPSY 313	Law and Professional Ethics for Mental Health Professionals	3			
CPSY 363	Psychopathology and Wellness Promotion	3			
CPSY 360	Neuropsychology	3			
CPSY 316	Psychopharmacology for Mental Health Professionals	3			
CPSY 333	Abuse and Crisis Intervention for Families	3			
CPSY 337	Alcoholism and Chemical Substance Abuse Dependency	3			
CPSY 317	Human Sexuality	1			
Or any Special Topics course (CPSY 393)					
Professional Clinical Counseling					
Select 40 units of the following:					
CPSY 303	Nature and Conditions of Learning	3			
CPSY 302	Introduction to Counseling	1			
CPSY 305	Advanced Human Development Across the Lifespan	3			
CPSY 329	Career Counseling	3			
CPSY 325	Group Counseling	3			
CPSY 332	Crisis Intervention	3			
CPSY 340	Consultation Methods	3			
CPSY 322	Advanced Psychotherapeutic Interventions	3			
CPSY 313	Law and Professional Ethics for Mental Health Professionals	3			
CPSY 363	Psychopathology and Wellness Promotion	3			
CPSY 360	Neuropsychology	3			
CPSY 316	Psychopharmacology for Mental Health Professionals	3			
CPSY 334	Spousal and Partner Abuse, Detection, and Intervention	1			
CPSY 337	Alcoholism and Chemical Substance Abuse Dependency	3			
CPSY 335	Child Abuse Assessment and Reporting	1			
CPSY 317	Human Sexuality	1			
Or any Special Topics course (CPSY 393)					
Child and Adolescent Counseling					
Select 16 units of the following:					
CPSY 303	Nature and Conditions of Learning	3			
CPSY 374	Program Evaluation	3			
CPSY 305	Advanced Human Development Across the Lifespan	3			
CPSY 325	Group Counseling	3			
CPSY 332	Crisis Intervention	3			
CPSY 340	Consultation Methods	3			
CPSY 301	Introduction to School Psychology	1			
CPSY 310	History and Systems in Psychology	3			
CPSY 313	Law and Professional Ethics for Mental Health Professionals	3			
CPSY 363	Psychopathology and Wellness Promotion	3			
CPSY 350	Behavior Assessment and Intervention	3			
CPSY 351	Academic Assessment and Intervention	3			