APPLIED CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

Graduate Program Head
Mark Kiselica

Program Code
ACPSY

Campus(es)
Erie (M.A.)
Harrisburg (M.A.)

Degrees Conferred
Master of Arts (M.A.)

The Master of Arts in Applied Clinical Psychology program helps
students prepare to work as mental health professionals in a variety
of settings and is intended to provide a broad training program in
empirically validated clinical psychology which, when accompanied by an
additional 12 credits in advanced graduate studies in psychology and/or
counseling, can provide the academic training necessary for graduates
to apply for master's level licensing as a professional counselor in the
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The M.A. program requires 48 credits of
course work.

The overall model emphasizes the scientific bases of behavior, including
biological, social, and individual difference factors. The training model
is health-oriented rather than pathology-oriented and emphasizes
the development of helping skills, including both assessment and
intervention.

The degree program is intended for both part- and full-time students.
Students are admitted fall semester only. The deadline for applications is
April 30.

Admission Requirements

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Graduate School
application for admission (http://gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-
students/how-to-apply). Requirements listed here are in addition to
Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions Policies
(http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies).

The language of instruction at Penn State is English. English proficiency
test scores (TOEFL/IELTS) may be required for international applicants. See GCAC-305 Admission Requirements for International Students
(http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-305-
admission-requirements-international-students) for more information.

Students will be admitted on a competitive basis and must submit the following:

- completed Graduate School application form (http://
  gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply) with the
  application fee
- official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended
  (http://gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply/new-
  applicants/requirements-for-graduate-admission)
- three professional letters of recommendation, two of which need to
  be from academic letter writers
- a brief (two-page) interest statement
- verbal, quantitative, and analytical scores on the Graduate Record
  Examinations

The applicant must have a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited
academic institution or the equivalent, must have completed at least 18
credits in psychology, and must have a cumulative grade-point average of
3.0 or above in the last 60 credits of undergraduate course work. The
undergraduate work must include a statistics course and a psychology
research methods course with grades of B or higher. A personal interview
is required.

Applications are processed on a rolling basis with admission to the
program granted only in a fall semester.

Transfer Credits

Credits earned at other institutions but not used to earn a degree may
be applied toward the requirements for a graduate degree, subject
to restrictions outlined in GCAC-309 Transfer Credit (http://
gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300-
transfer-credit).

Degree Requirements

Master of Arts (M.A.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council
policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Policies. (http://
gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies)

The M.A. in Applied Clinical Psychology requires 48 credits of course
work. At least 20 credits must be earned at the established graduate
campus where the program is offered. Included in the core courses
are 100 hours of clinical practicum, 600 hours of supervised internship
experience, and a master's research paper completed in association with
PSYC 530.

Psychology Core Courses (21 credits) provide a foundation in
professional ethics, individual differences and cultural diversity, the
scientific bases of behavior, and scientific research skills. These courses
are intended to facilitate the development of an awareness of the context
in which clients live and in which interventions must work and are
grounded in research.

Clinical Core Courses (27 credits) provide a general background in clinical
diagnosis, assessment, and interventions with appropriate supervised
experience to allow students to develop the clinical skills appropriate for
master's level practitioners.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 500</td>
<td>Ethics and Professional Practice in Psychology and Counseling</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 501</td>
<td>Cultural Competency in Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 520</td>
<td>Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 521</td>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 524</td>
<td>Biological Basis of Behavior</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 573</td>
<td>Career Counseling: Research, Assessment, and Intervention</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 510</td>
<td>Human Development and Growth</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 517</td>
<td>Psychopathology</td>
<td>3</td>
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Grade-Point Average
Students must have a minimum 3.00 grade-point average to graduate from the program.

Student Aid
Graduate assistantships available to students in this program and other forms of student aid are described in the Tuition & Funding (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-funding) section of The Graduate School’s website. Students on graduate assistantships must adhere to the course load limits (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gsad/gsad-900/gsad-901-graduate-assistants) set by The Graduate School.

There are a limited number of scholarships and research grants available, as well as graduate assistantships.

Courses
Graduate courses carry numbers from 500 to 699 and 800 to 899. Advanced undergraduate courses numbered between 400 and 499 may be used to meet some graduate degree requirements when taken by graduate students. Courses below the 400 level may not. A graduate student may register for or audit these courses in order to make up deficiencies or to fill in gaps in previous education but not to meet requirements for an advanced degree.

Psychology (PSYC) Course List (https://bulletins.psu.edu/university-course-descriptions/graduate/psyc)

Learning Outcomes
1. **KNOW.** Graduates will be able to demonstrate conceptual understanding and proficiency in clinical psychology and counseling at the level required to contribute to the discipline.

2. **RESEARCH/THINK.** Graduates will be able to develop and use appropriate research methods and techniques to apply knowledge or create new knowledge aimed at significant questions in clinical psychology and counseling.

3. **COMMUNICATE.** Graduates will be able to effectively communicate research and practice applicable to the field in formal presentations and in written works.

4. **CRITICAL THINKING.** Graduates will be able to conceptualize therapeutic cases in a theoretical framework.

5. **PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE.** Graduates will demonstrate the ability to work effectively and ethically in a clinical/counseling setting with actual clients.