COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM

The doctoral program in Counseling Psychology began in 1978 and is based on a scientist-practitioner model. The program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association (Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation, 750 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002-4492, 202 336-5978). The program’s philosophy holds that theory, research, and practice are interdependent and complementary. The curriculum and practical experiences are designed to ensure professional competency in all three dimensions and facilitate their integration.

The program resides in the College of Education and Human Development and the Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology. The Counseling Psychology Training Committee is responsible for administering the program which leads to a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Counseling Psychology. Graduates of the program meet curriculum requirements for licensure as a psychologist in Michigan. Because the program is accredited by the APA, it is in compliance with all applicable requirements of state or local laws.

Requirements also involve course work in the specialization of Counseling Psychology including professional issues and ethics in counseling psychology, counseling theory and practice, supervision, vocational psychology, intellectual and personality assessment, supervised practica, and an emphasis in multicultural counseling psychology. Students are able to pursue specialty interests in Counseling Psychology through elective courses and other adjunctive experiences (e.g., involvement in faculty research, individual or group clinical supervision, etc.). In addition to course work and practica, students are required to successfully complete comprehensive examinations, a supervised APA-approved pre-doctoral internship, and a dissertation that is psychologically focused. The student's doctoral chair and committee, along with the Counseling Psychology Training Committee, are responsible for helping the student develop a program of study and for monitoring the student's progress through the program.

MULTICULTURAL AND DIVERSITY EMPHASIS

The program emphasizes the importance of addressing the needs of an increasingly diverse society. To that end the program strives to increase the educational opportunities of racial minorities and diverse student populations. The program creates an atmosphere where unique values and concerns receive attention and respect. Racial minority and other diversity concerns are integrated into coursework, practica, and supervision. Three courses in multicultural counseling are required: two of which have a focus on race and ethnicity and one in an elective area (e.g., further racial minority, gender, lesbian, gay, sexual identity, social issues, disability, metropolitan diversity, philosophical diversity, psychology of women, etc.). Many faculty and students maintain active professional and research interests concerning various aspects of multicultural and diversity studies.

The program is also committed to recruiting and supporting diverse faculty and students. Four out of our seven faculty members in the program are African American and half of our doctoral students are students of color: 50% are White or Caucasian, 32% are African American or Black, 11% are Asian, and 7% are Multiracial. Of the students admitted into the program since 2014, about half of students are U.S. racial or ethnic minorities and approximately 70% are female. Students are also diverse in a number of other ways (e.g., first generation, underrepresented in higher education, students with disabilities, etc.). There is also diversity among the faculty in regard to gender, age, sexual orientation, race/ethnicity, and other considerations.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Admission to the Ph.D. program in Counseling Psychology requires a record of successful study. Applicants may be admitted on the basis of a bachelor’s degree or a master’s degree.

Preference is given to applicants with academic backgrounds in psychology, counseling or a related area. Initial screening of application materials is based on an assessment of a student’s grade point average, Graduate Record Examination scores, appropriateness of academic preparation, relevance of professional experience, quality of references, appropriateness of career goals, and quality of submitted writing samples.

Applicants to the Counseling Psychology doctoral program should request current admission information from both the University Office of Admissions and from the Department of Counseling Education and Counseling Psychology. Admission to the Counseling Psychology Doctoral Program is offered for the fall semester only.

COSTS AND FINANCIAL AID

THE UNIVERSITY

Western Michigan University (WMU) was established by the Michigan Legislature in 1903. The University administration reported that 21 percent of the university’s nearly 24,000 students were enrolled in graduate study in 2015. The graduate college offers 34 doctoral degree programs, 78 master’s programs, one specialist program and 21 graduate certificates programs. The Carnegie Foundation classifies WMU as a higher-research doctoral university.

APPLICANTS

The number of applicants recommended for admission each year varies and is determined primarily by the availability of faculty advisors for incoming students. The program received 50 completed applications for 2017–18, and admitted 6 students.

ADMISSIONS PROCESS INFORMATION

Interested program applicants should be aware of the following time line relating to the admissions process. All the above materials must be received by December 1. If December 1 falls on a weekend or holiday, all application materials must be received by the next business day is recommended that you allow a minimum of two weeks for your materials to arrive by the deadline date.

In mid-February, selected applicants are scheduled for on-campus interviews. Those applicants not selected for interviews are so notified. Interviews take place sometime at the end of February. Selection is based on an assessment of the applicant’s professional goals, graduate record examination scores, appropriateness of academic preparation, and references. Admission to the Counseling Psychology Doctoral Program is offered for the fall semester only.

Applications to the counseling psychology doctoral program must be submitted to the University Office of Admissions. Applicants are reviewed for admission based on academic credentials, professional experience, and potential for graduate study. Applicants who are not recommended for admission will be notified by the University Office of Admissions.

Applicants should submit the following materials by December 1:

1. Official transcripts from all institutions attended.
2. Three (3) current letters of recommendation.
3. A current resume or vita.
4. An autobiography which includes a clear and complete statement of the development of the applicant's professional goals and how the applicant relates those goals to doctoral studies in Counseling Psychology.

A number of graduate assistantships are available within the College of Education and Counseling Psychology programs to assist with tuition and fees. A number of Graduate Associateships are available within the department that provide opportunities to gain clinical, teaching, research, and/or program development experience while also meeting financial needs. Department Associateships including stipend and tuition remission are approximately $29,618.97 (in-state) to $41,809.05 (out-of-state). The department also maintains a list of other units within the university that employ graduate assistants.

Requests for financial support from the Graduate College include: Graduate College Fellowships, Doctoral Assistantships, Dissertation Fellowships, Research Fellowships, and Thurgood Marshall Fellowships for qualified applicants. More information may be obtained from the Graduate College, 260 W. Walwood Hall, (269) 387-8212 or visit the following website: http://www.wmich.edu/grad/Information concerning additional sources of financial aid, including federal loans, grants, and work-study programs, may be obtained from the Student Financial Aid Office, 2510 Faunce Student Services Building, (269) 387-6000 or visit the following website: http://www.wmich.edu/finaid/ Western Michigan University prohibits discrimination or harassment which violates the law or which constitutes inappropriate or unprofessional limitations of employment, University facility access, or participation in University activities, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, protected disability, veteran status, height, weight, or marital status.