Counseling Psychology (Ph.D.)

Program Description

The doctoral Program in Counseling Psychology is offered through the Department of Educational and Psychological Studies in the School of Education. The Counseling Psychology Program has seven full-time faculty members. The Counseling Psychological faculty meet regularly and make recommendations to the Department regarding admissions, retention, scheduling of classes, revisions, and other matters of policy. In addition to the Counseling Psychology Program, the faculty is responsible for a Master’s Program in Counseling with two areas of specialization: Mental Health Counseling and Marriage and Family Therapy.

Doctoral students must complete at least three years of full-time study. A one-year predoctoral internship is also required. The Program is composed of a unified, intensive series of learning experiences. Specialty workshop courses in a variety of areas including marriage and couples therapy, substance abuse, projective testing, and supervision are offered during the summer.

Most students enter the program having already earned a master’s degree in the mental health field (e.g., in mental health counseling, marriage and family therapy, or counseling/clinical psychology programs). These students typically complete the program with four years of academic coursework, a year-long internship and the completion of their dissertations. The Program does consider applications from highly qualified students with only an undergraduate degree and may admit one or two such students each year. These students are required to complete an additional year of academic coursework and an additional year of practicum training.

In addition to the didactic coursework and supervised practice offered by the Counseling Psychology faculty and other department faculty, students take a minimum of four courses from the Department of Psychology.

The Counseling Psychology Program administers and staffs the Institute for Individual and Family Counseling, a community-based, psychological services center located on the University of Miami campus. Practicum students provide individual, couple, family, and group counseling, career and lifestyle counseling, psychological and educational assessment, and other related psychological services to non-student clients. Students are also placed in community settings for additional experience, including university counseling centers, public schools, community mental health agencies, behavioral medicine sites, and correctional institutions.

On completion of the academic coursework, practicum, and doctoral qualifying exams, students complete a full-time calendar year internship. The vast majority of students are trained in APA accredited internships in a variety of settings including college counseling centers, VA Medical Centers, general medical centers, community mental health agencies, correctional facilities among others.