The Counseling Psychology program at Holy Family University prepares students to become professional counselors with expertise in community, school, marriage and family therapy, higher education, correctional and pastoral settings. The program takes approximately two to three years to complete studying on a part-time basis. Classes meet at our convenient Newtown location in the evening and on Saturdays with limited blended and online offerings.

Academic Programs
All programs offered meet the educational requirements for licensure as a Professional Counselor in the states of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. In addition to a 25-credit core curriculum, you will complete between 26 to 35 additional credits in electives and concentration requirements. The program’s available concentrations are:

- Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- Correctional Counseling
- Counseling in Student Affairs in Higher Education
- Marriage and Family Therapy
- Pastoral Counseling
- School Counseling

Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Prepares master-level counselors to work with adolescents and adults in a community setting. This concentration is designed for students wishing to develop expertise in counseling adolescents and adults. Students also will gain the credentials to assume a supervisory position in community agency settings.

Correctional Counseling
Prepares master-level counselors to work in a wide array of settings including, but not limited to federal and state prisons, court clinics, forensic psychiatric units, child advocacy centers, reintegration programs and other institutional and community-based correctional programs. This concentration provides a basic foundation in counseling theory and skills with additional coursework in criminological theory, victimology, and correctional counseling practice. It also offers an opportunity for criminal justice students to expand their passion to include rehabilitation services for offenders and their families.

Counseling in Student Affairs in Higher Education
Prepares master-level counselors to work with students in a variety of higher education settings. This concentration trains students to attend to the intellectual, social, emotional, and developmental needs of college and university students. Graduates of this program will be prepared to work in such areas as counseling centers, career centers, residence life, student activities, academic advising, and special needs programs.

Marriage and Family Therapy
Prepares master-level counselors to work with families, couples, adolescents and children. This concentration is designed for students interested in gaining expertise in counseling using a systemic approach. Graduates of this concentration will be eligible to pursue both LPC and/or LMFT licensure and with LMFT are able to work with Medicare (geriatrics) and a wide variety of clients in the public and private sector.

Pastoral Counseling
Prepares master-level counselors to work in a variety of pastoral settings including but not limited to churches, synagogues, hospitals, jails, schools, and community settings. The program provides a holistic approach that integrates counseling practice and theory with Judeo-Christian theology and philosophy to assist individuals and families in academic, clinical, faith and spiritual based counseling settings.

School Counseling
Prepares master-level counselors to work as school counselors in PreK-12 settings. The Pennsylvania Department of Education-approved school counseling certification program allows students to pursue only certification or both certification and licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor.

Postgraduate Programs
Holy Family also offers two postgraduate programs: a licensure program for practicing master-level counselors and a school counseling certification program for those with a master’s degree wishing to become certified as a PreK-12 school guidance counselor. These postgraduate programs have specific admission requirements. Ask your admissions counselor for details.
Program Mission Statement
The mission of the Graduate Program in Counseling Psychology is to graduate well rounded scholar-practitioners who can integrate theory, research and practice.

In fulfillment of this mission the program:
• Emphasizes service, self-reflection, ethical behavior and professional competence
• Adopts a standards based curriculum
• Promotes respect for human dignity and diversity
• Engages in activities that enhance and enrich human development and improve quality of life
• Provides the knowledge and skills necessary for certification/licensure
• Utilizes evidence based practices

Consistent with Holy Family’s tradition of “Teneor Votis” (I am bound by my responsibilities) students are inspired to advocate for social justice, shape public policy and witness to the dignity of each person and the oneness of the human family.

Program Outcomes
Graduates of the Graduate Program in Counseling Psychology recognize that counseling is more than a profession. The program outcomes reflect this belief and expectation.

Upon completion of the program students will confidently be able to:
1. Articulate a professional counseling identity,
2. Demonstrate flexibility, adaptability, independence, humility, and the courage to be vulnerable,
3. Demonstrate a multicultural perspective and competence in working with diverse clients,
4. Apply professional counseling skills and knowledge to client needs,
5. Practice professional counseling in a manner consistent with established ethical guidelines,
6. Embrace the philosophy of a “life-long learner” by being able to critically evaluate and integrate new knowledge into existing knowledge sets,
7. Implement advocacy skills and interventions with regard to social justice issues,
8. Understand and contribute to scholarship in the field of professional counseling,
9. Recognize the self as a developing imperfect person with consideration to counseling, personal growth and development,
10. Maintain one’s sense of spirituality, self-care and wellness especially as they impact on the self and client.

Prerequisite Requirements
An undergraduate course in General Psychology is required prior to admission into the program. In addition, two undergraduate prerequisites are required prior to enrollment in select courses in the counseling psychology program:
• Statistics
• Research Methods or Experimental Psychology (This can be any general course in experimental psychology, a research methods course, or a course in one of the specific areas of experimental psychology such as learning or cognition.)

Admission Requirements
Applicants must possess the following qualifications for admission to the MS in Counseling Psychology program:
• A baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university.
• An undergraduate cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 or better on a four-point scale. Applicants with an undergraduate cumulative grade-point average less than 3.0 must submit results of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) prior to being considered for admission.
• Two satisfactory letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with the applicant’s academic or professional work.
• An application form with a nonrefundable $25 application fee.
• A 250- to 500-word personal statement of applicant’s interests in the field, future professional plans and goals, and reasons for requesting admission. The quality of the applicant’s statement will be of critical importance to the success of the application for admission.
• Official transcripts of all previous college or university work.

Consistent with Holy Family’s tradition of “Teneor Votis” (I am bound by my responsibilities) students are inspired to advocate for social justice, shape public policy and witness to the dignity of each person and the oneness of the human family.

Our Non-Discrimination Statement can be found at holyfamily.edu/ndstatement or call 267-341-3479.

For More Information
visit: holyfamily.edu
call: 267-341-3327
e-mail: gradstudy@holyfamily.edu