The Counseling Psychology Program at Holy Family University prepares students to become professional counselors who will work in community mental health, school, correctional and art therapy settings. The program takes approximately three and a half years to complete studying on a part-time basis. Classes meet at our convenient Newtown location in the evening, Mondays through Thursdays with some blended and online offerings.

**Academic Programs**

All programs offered meet the educational requirements for licensure as a Professional Counselor (LPC) in the states of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. In addition to the 27-credit core curriculum, you will complete 33 additional credits in electives and concentration requirements. The program's available concentrations are as follows:

**Art Therapy**
The Art Therapy concentration prepares master-level counselors in the clinical use of art therapy. Art therapists are knowledgeable about human development, psychological theories, clinical practice, spiritual, multicultural and artistic traditions and the healing potential of art in working with a variety of clients in hospitals, treatment programs, schools and private practice. Graduates of the art therapy concentration are prepared to work in a variety of settings as LPCs. Students completing the Art Therapy concentration will, as part of their degree program, also complete the educational requirements to be eligible to apply for the credential of registered Art Therapist (ATR).

**Clinical Mental Health Counseling**
The Clinical Mental Health Counseling concentration prepares students with a professional identity that embeds a multicultural perspective and competence in working with a variety of clients. Graduates of the program will have the ability to apply ethical, professional counseling skills and knowledge to a variety of client needs and will find themselves working in a variety of fields and settings that include community mental health programs, mental health facilities, drug and alcohol programs, prison systems, residential treatment centers, hospitals and private practice. Graduates have the opportunity to work with children, adolescents and adults counseling individuals, groups, couples and families. Graduates of the Clinical Mental Health counseling concentration meet the educational requirements to become LPCs.

**Correctional Counseling**
The Correctional Counseling concentration 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 community-based programs that serve crime survivors. This concentration provides a basic foundation in counseling theory and skills with additional coursework in criminological theory, victimology, and correctional counseling practice. It offers an opportunity for criminal justice students to expand their passion to include rehabilitation services for offenders and their families. Graduates of the Correctional Counseling concentration meet the educational requirements to become an LPC.

**School Counseling**
The School Counseling concentration prepares students with a basic foundation in counseling theory and skills with additional coursework that focuses on preparing master-level counselors to work in a PreK-12 school setting. Students are trained to develop a comprehensive program that promotes student success and meets all student needs-academic, career, and personal/social development. The Pennsylvania Department of Education-approved school counseling certification program allows students to pursue school counselor certification and also licensure as a LPC.

**Postgraduate Programs**
The Counseling Psychology program offers post-graduate programs for two of its concentrations (Clinical Mental Health Counseling and School Counseling) for those interested in obtaining their LPC or other concentration specific credentials. Each post-graduate student plan is developed on a case-by-case basis Post-grad plans are recommended by a counseling psychology advisor, but must ultimately be approved by the respective licensing or credentialing board. These post-graduate programs have specific admission requirements. Ask your admissions counselor for details.
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 a 3.0 may be asked to 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. Letters from friends, family members or clergy are not acceptable
• A 250-to 500-word personal statement of the applicant’s interests in the field, future professional 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
• An application form with a nonrefundable $25 application fee

Background Questionnaire
Applicants will be considered based on their academic ability, expression of interests and goals, life experience, and a personal interview. Admissions are rolling with the majority in the fall semester and a limited number in the spring and summer. Prior to admission, selected applicants will be invited to complete a personal interview with Counseling Psychology faculty. Notification of acceptance into the program usually is completed within two weeks of the personal interview.

Please note that the program is limited in size because of the intensive training requirements. Although many applicants meet the criteria for admission, it may not be possible to admit all qualified students.

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
The overarching goal of the program is to prepare students to become competent scholar-practitioners who are eligible for state licensure and/or certification in their particular specialty area. Graduates of the Master of Science in Counseling Psychology Program, regardless of concentration area, demonstrate skills and knowledge in the following areas:

1. Professionalism and ethical practice according to the American Counseling Association Code of Ethics and federal and state laws governing counseling practice
2. Bio-psychosocial models of human growth and development
3. Theoretical approaches to counseling and case conceptualization
4. Integrative approach to wellness and prevention
5. Helping relationships and counseling skills
6. Group counseling, process, and dynamics
7. Psycho-education
8. Career and vocational development
9. Multicultural, social justice, and advocacy in counseling and the profession
10. Appraisal and assessment
11. Research and program evaluation methods
12. Psychopathology and diagnostic systems

Prerequisite Requirements
There are 3 prerequisite undergraduate courses that must be completed prior to starting the masters in counseling program. Applicants without these perquisites will be considered on a case by case basis:

1. General Psychology Course
2. Research Methods or Experimental Psychology
3. Statistics