

# PhD in Educational, School, and Counseling Psychology with Emphasis in Counseling Psychology

## Degree Requirements

<b>I. GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY CORE*</b>	<b>27</b>
Statistics and Research Methodology	12
Psychological Foundations	15
<b>II. COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY CORE</b>	<b>89</b>
(Exclusive of and in addition to the General Psychology Core)	
Historical and Research Foundations	9
Ethical and Legal Standards	3
Human Diversity	5
Intervention Procedures	18
Assessment	12
Supervision	3
Clinical	24
Consultation	3
Dissertation	12

## Sample Plan of Study

A student's plan of study will vary depending on their program track and career goals and should be completed in consultation with their academic advisor.

## Qualifying Process

The Graduate School requires that students pass a qualifying examination as a condition of official admittance to the PhD program. Acceptable performance on the Departmental Qualifying Examination is defined as achieving a grade of "B" or better in each of the courses comprising the "core" courses for each of four emphasis areas. These courses are:

- ESC\_PS 7120 Theories and Techniques of Counseling
- ESC\_PS 8040 Counseling Methods and Practices
- ESC\_PS 8135 Foundations of Career Psychology

## Comprehensive Examination Process

The Comprehensive Exam is administered once a year in July or August. The Comprehensive Exam is administered as a take-home exam and follows an essay/long answer response format. It is expected that responses will not exceed 10 pages (double-spaced; not including references) in length and will adequately provide both breadth and depth on the topic. Appropriate citations are expected. Attention should also be paid to grammar, APA style, and overall professional writing conventions. Students will have two consecutive weekends to complete the exam. Students schedule an oral exam after successfully passing the written portion of the comprehensive exam.

The Comprehensive Exam is designed as an integrative, culminating assessment of foundational knowledge of (1) counseling theories, assessment and practice, (2) research design, measurement, and

statistics, (3) multicultural and professional issues, and (4) career development. Thus, the exam is designed to assess students' ability to (a) use counseling theories and appropriate assessment strategies to conceptualize clinical cases and to identify appropriate intervention strategies in clinical practice; (b) design research studies, including developing appropriate research questions, addressing issues related to a study's internal and external validity, applying appropriate methods for the research methodology, and identifying appropriate statistical analyses; (c) understand multicultural, ethical and professional issues related to counseling psychology; and (d) apply appropriate vocational theories and assessment in practice.

## Dissertation Requirements

After working with the academic advisor on developing a dissertation proposal, the student meets with her/his doctoral program committee to obtain approval of the written dissertation proposal. This happens before data collection begins. After the project is completed, the student submits a written dissertation and defends her/his dissertation project to the doctoral program committee.

## Admissions

Applicants are required to meet two sets of minimum qualifications for admission: the requirements of the PhD in Educational, School & Counseling Psychology program (<https://gradschool.missouri.edu/degreecategory/educational-school-and-counseling-psychology/>) and the minimum requirements of the Graduate School (<https://gradschool.missouri.edu/admissions/eligibility-process/>).

Apply online by submitting the following documents using the MU Graduate School (<https://applygrad.missouri.edu/apply/>) application form by December 1st for the next Fall cohort.

- Three letters of recommendation
- Curriculum Vita
- Official academic transcripts of all previous undergraduate and graduate work
  - Minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 from an accredited institution in psychology, education, or a related major.
- Statement of purpose addressing the following:
  - a. Describe (1) your previous experience serving in a helping or counseling role; (2) your interests and experiences working with people from diverse backgrounds (e.g., ethnic, cultural, socio-economic, religious, ability status, sexual orientation). How have these experiences influenced you?; (3) your interests and career objectives; (4) how these interests and career objectives have developed; (5) how these interests match those of specific program faculty; and (6) how being accepted into the Counseling Psychology Program would benefit your career aspirations and implement (or actualize) your beliefs, values, and goals? (1200 word maximum)
- Official Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores for tests taken on or after August 1, 2015 should have a combined Verbal and Quantitative score of 305.
- TOEFL for international students (preferred score of 580 for paper test, 92 iBT, IELTS 6.5 or higher)

Applicants with a bachelor's degree in a field not related to psychology will be required to complete 15 hours of prerequisite courses in the behavioral sciences (including an introductory statistics course) either prior to, or concurrently with, coursework in the program.