

Ph.D. with a Major in Counseling Psychology

Program Description and Application Information

Fully accredited by the American Psychological Association since 1982



**BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Department of Counseling Psychology,
Social Psychology, and Counseling
College of Health
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Content in Booklet

Ph.D. with a Major in Counseling Psychology

Program Goals

References

Teaching Faculty of 2025-2026 Topics of Research and Interest

University Facilities, Services, and Support

Living in Muncie

Diversity Committee

Admission Requirements and Evaluation

Curriculum Requirements

Performance Requirements

Graduation

Note: This publication is not intended to replace but rather to supplement the Ball State University Graduate Catalog and the Guidelines for Doctoral Degree Programs of College of Health.

Inquiries about the accreditation status of our Doctoral Program can be made to:

American Psychological Association
Office of Program Consultation & Accreditation
750 First Street NE
Washington, D.C. 20002-4242
Phone: (202) 336-5979; Fax: (202) 336-5978
Email: apaaccred@apa.org
Website: <http://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation>

Information in this publication was revised September 2025 but may be changed without notice.

Department of Counseling Psychology, Social Psychology and Counseling

Our department's mission is to make a significant contribution to the fields of psychology and counseling through research, practice, service, and/or teaching, grounded in social justice and diversity paradigms tied to developmental, systems, holistic, and strength-based theories and strategies.

Philosophy of Training. We train students to become highly competent scientist-professionals in counseling, counseling psychology, and/or social psychology to conceptualize and assist persons in the context of their relationships, educational and organizational settings, communities, environments, and the larger world. Students are taught to address and advocate for the psychological, social, spiritual, vocational, educational, and physical well-being of individuals, families, groups, and organizations.

College of Health and Health Professions Building

Recognizing the evolving nature of our profession as a health profession and our mission of training Health Service Psychologists, our department joined Ball State's College of Health (CoH) in 2016. The mission of the CoH is to embrace an innovative, collaborative, and interprofessional environment for learning, discovery, and engagement. The learning environment is shaped by core content that enhances understanding of health and well-being throughout the life span. Discovery occurs across the health-related disciplines that comprise the college and readily engages students and faculty in a collaborative manner. Our commitment to interprofessional development and community engagement unites our faculty and students while strengthening our educational programs and serving the needs of the region, state, and nation. The CoH consists of the School of Nursing, School of Kinesiology, Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology, Department of Social Work, Department of Nutrition and Health Science, and Military Science. In Fall, 2019 a new Health Professions Building was completed and our department and training clinic moved into this building, which is equipped with state of the art training facilities.

The Specialty of Counseling Psychology

As a recognized specialty within health service psychology, counseling psychology is a general practice and health service provider specialty in professional psychology. It focuses on how people function both individually and within relational contexts at all ages. Counseling psychology addresses the emotional, social, work, school and physical health concerns people may have at different stages in their lives, focusing on typical life stresses and more severe issues with which people may struggle as individuals and as a part of families, groups and organizations. Counseling psychologists help people with physical, emotional and mental health issues improve their sense of well-being, alleviate feelings of distress and resolve crises. They also provide assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of more severe psychological symptoms.

Counseling psychologists focus on the following specialized knowledge, across all stages of development:

- Healthy aspects and strengths of clients (whether being seen as individuals, couples, families, groups or organizations).
- Environmental/situational influences (how cultural, gender and lifestyle issues shape people's experiences and concerns).
- Issues of diversity and social justice (e.g., advocacy).
- The role of career and work in peoples' lives.

Ph.D. with a Major in Counseling Psychology

Program Aims and Competencies

The Ball State University PhD program in counseling psychology aims to prepare students to acquire (a) the core knowledge of psychology and counseling psychology, (b) profession-wide competencies of the health service psychologist, and (c) the attitudes, values, and special competencies of counseling psychologists committed to multiculturally respectful and valid, social justice approaches.

The program prepares students to (a) create and disseminate scholarly research, (b) acquire knowledge and skills for competent assessment, prevention, intervention, supervision, consultation/interprofessional collaboration, and teaching, (c) use evidence-based practice, (d) and consider diversity and other contextual influences in all aspects of their work with special knowledge and experience in social justice.

Ball State graduates are prepared to function as health service providers, researchers, professors, and private practitioners.

Doctoral Program Profession Wide Competencies and Additional Curriculum Areas of Focus

*Areas below marked with an asterisk indicate these are additional curriculum areas of focus in the Doctoral training program, but not program-specific competencies. Degree of training in these areas are variable by student interest and their individualized program of study. If the program's name for a profession-wide competency varies from the name of the competency in the Standards of Accreditation, the corresponding title is noted in parentheses.

Cluster #1 - PROFESSIONALISM

- A. Professional Identity*
- B. Individual & Cultural Diversity
- C. Ethics and Legal Standards and Policy (Ethical and Legal Standards)
- D. Professional Values & Attitudes
- E. Reflective Practice/Self-Assessment/Self-Care (Professional Values and Attitudes)

Cluster #2: SCIENCE (RESEARCH)

- F. Scientific Knowledge and Methods (Research)
- G. Research & Evaluation (Research)

Cluster #3: RELATIONAL

- H. Relationships (Communication and Interpersonal Skills)
- I. Interprofessional/Interdisciplinary Systems (Consultation and Interprofessional /interdisciplinary skills)
- J. Consultation/Interprofessional Collaboration (Consultation and Interprofessional/Interdisciplinary Skills)

Cluster #4: APPLICATIONS – PROFESSIONAL FUNCTIONS

- K. Intervention and Prevention (Intervention)
- L. Assessment
- M. Teaching*
- N. Supervision

Cluster #5: SYSTEMS*

- O. Social Justice*
- P. Management/Leadership*

Faculty 2025-26: Research, Teaching Interests, and Awards

Sharon Bowman, Ph.D., HSPP, ABPP, LMHC (Southern Illinois University - 1989)

Dr. Bowman is the Department Chairperson and is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association. Research interests: diversity, including race/ethnicity, women, and LGBT; mentoring and supervision. Teaching interests: supervision; multicultural counseling; and practicum. Dr. Bowman won the Section of the Advancement of Women's (Division 17, APA) Foremother of the Year Award in 2020. The SAW Foremother is given to a person who has been a long-time contributor to the counseling psychology of women and has been extraordinarily supportive of the Section for the Advancement of Women. Dr. Bowman was named an Elder for the National Multicultural Conference and Summit in 2021. **Note. Dr. Bowman will serve as a doctoral committee chair and/or cognate or floor representative for the 2026 class of PhD students.**

Lina L. Burkhart, Ph.D., HSPP (University of Virginia - 2003)

Dr. Burkhart is the Director of the Ball State University Counseling Practicum Clinic and the External Practicum Coordinator for the PhD program. Clinical interests: intervention and assessment services with children, adolescents, and families; parent-child relationships; infant and early childhood mental health; parenting; emotional and behavioral disorders in children; integrated behavioral health. She has worked in a variety of settings, including primary care, hospitals, community health, private practice, and schools. **Note. Dr. Burkhart does not serve as a doctoral committee chair and/or committee representative, but she does provide clinical supervision for doctoral students.**

Allison Cipriano, Ph.D. (University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2024)

Dr. Cipriano is the Director of the Master's Program in Social Psychology and the undergraduate minor in Counseling Psychology. Research interests: stigma, minoritized identity, violence and discrimination, community, and factors affecting wellbeing for those with multiple marginalizations (e.g., those minoritized by their sexuality, gender, race/ethnicity, etc.). Currently focusing on plurisexual (i.e., attracted to multiple genders) women. Dr. Cipriano uses multiple methods to research these topics, including quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods. She leads the Violence, Oppression, Identity, and Community Experiences (VOICES) Lab. Link to research publications:

<https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Allison-Cipriano-2>

Teaching interests: social psychology, gender, sexuality, prejudice and discrimination, diversity, intersectionality, research methods, and pedagogy. **Note. Dr. Cipriano will not serve as a doctoral committee chair for the 2026 class of PhD students. She will, however, serve as a cognate and/or floor representative on doctoral committees.**

Jacob Yuichung Chan, Ph.D., HSPP, CRC (University of Wisconsin – Madison, 2009)

Dr. Chan is the Director of the Master's Program in Rehabilitation Counseling. Research interests: rehabilitation psychology (e.g. vocational and psychosocial aspects of disability); positive psychology (e.g., empathy, hope, prosocial behavior); cross-cultural studies; therapist training; diversity and intersectionality; aggression and trauma. Teaching interests: research methodology; practicum/internship supervision; psychosocial aspects of disability. **Note. Dr. Chan will serve as a doctoral committee chair and/or cognate or floor representative for the 2026 class of PhD students.**

Lawrence H. Gerstein, Ph.D. (University of Georgia - 1983)

Dr. Gerstein is the Director of Doctoral Program in Counseling Psychology and the Director of Ball State's Center for Peace and Conflict Studies (www.bsu.edu/peacecenter). Research interests: cross-cultural/national psychology; nonviolence; emotion recognition and regulation; sports for youth development; applications of social psychology; EEG/Event Related Potential. Teaching interests: research; social justice; cross-cultural/national psychology. Dr. Gerstein is a George and Frances Ball Distinguished Professor, Fellow of the American Psychological Association (APA), and Fulbright

Scholar and Specialist. Dr. Gerstein won the 2019 APA Award for Distinguished Contributions to the International Advancement of Psychology. In 2020, Division 17 awarded him the Leona Tyler Award, an award in recognition of one's enduring contributions to the field of counseling psychology. It is the highest award given by Division 17. He has published 100+ refereed journal articles, and four books including *Theories of Counseling and Psychotherapy*, *International Handbook of Cross-Cultural Counseling*, and *Handbook for Social Justice in Counseling Psychology*. **Note. Dr. Gerstein will not serve as a doctoral committee chair for the 2026 class of PhD students. He will, however, serve as a cognate and/or floor representative on doctoral committees.**

Nicholas Lee, PhD, HSPP (Ball State University - 2015)

Dr. Lee is the Associate Director of the Ball State University Counseling Practicum Clinic. Research Interests: psychotherapy outcome and process research - change mechanisms, decision-making; application of interventions to target change; use of task analysis and other qualitative methods; meta-analysis; Emotionally Focused Couples Therapy; Couple and Family Therapy Interventions and Change Mechanisms; Training and Supervision. Teaching Interests: clinical applications; practicum; couple and family therapy; vocational psychology; undergraduate instruction; pedagogical supervision. Clinical interests/experiences: Emotionally Focused Couple and Family Therapy; intersection of mental well-being and chronic health concerns; integrated care. Dr. Lee has engaged in clinical practice for over 19 years in a variety of settings including community mental health, home-based family therapy services, university counseling centers, and private practice. He currently conducts his clinical practice at Open Door Health Services, which is a federally qualified health center that provides medical and behavioral health integration to members of the Muncie and surrounding communities. **Note. Dr. Lee does not serve as a doctoral committee chair, but he may serve on dissertation committees in other roles. Additionally, he provides clinical supervision for doctoral students.**

Kristin Perrone, Ph.D., HSPP (Virginia Commonwealth University - 1998)

Dr. Perrone Directs the Counseling Psychology Neuroscience Research Lab and teaches master's and doctoral level courses in counseling and counseling psychology. Her research focuses on the integration of neuroscience methods and clinical applications. She employs Electroencephalogram (EEG)/Event Related Potential (ERP), behavioral, and survey methods to examine attachment-related constructs, therapy interventions, emotion, and interpersonal relationship dynamics. Dr. Perrone is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association. She was awarded the Lifetime Achievement in Mentoring Award from the American Psychological Association Society for Counseling Psychology. She has published extensively (50+ research articles) and has served as the doctoral committee and dissertation chair for over 25 completed doctoral dissertations. **Note. Dr. Perrone will not serve as a doctoral committee chair for the 2026 class of PhD students. She will, however, serve as a cognate and/or floor representative on doctoral committees.**

Molly Tschopp, Ph.D., HSPP, CRC (University of Wisconsin – Madison, 2002)

Dr. Tschopp is the Director of the Master's Counseling Program Internships. Research interests: implications of chronic illness and disability; psychiatric rehabilitation; healthy aging; older adult mental health; empowerment and advocacy issues. Teaching interests: rehabilitation counseling; medical and psychosocial aspects of disability; career counseling; internship. **Note. Dr. Tschopp will serve as a doctoral committee chair and/or cognate or floor representative for the 2026 class of PhD students.**

Andrew White, Ph.D. (Indiana University - Bloomington, 2024).

Research interests: Motivation and goal pursuit, stereotyping and prejudice, identity and intersectionality, diversity science. Many of Dr. White's current interests center around utilizing psychological theory to promote the success and wellbeing of marginalized students in STEM. Dr. White's teaching interests focus on experimental social psychology, gender and sexual identity, and intersections of social psychology with applied contexts (e.g., education, work, and the community). **Note. Dr. White will serve**

as a doctoral committee chair and/or cognate or floor representative for the 2026 class of PhD students.

Stefania Ægisdóttir, Ph.D., HSPP (Ball State University - 2000)

Dr. Ægisdóttir is the Director of the Master's Program in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and a Fellow of the American Psychological Association. Research interests: psychological help-seeking; coping; test development; cross-cultural/international psychology; generalization of psychological concept across cultures; psycho-education; community outreach; prevention; application of social psychology constructs to counseling. Teaching interests: research methodology; assessment; program development and evaluation, and practicum. **Note. Dr. Ægisdóttir will serve as a doctoral committee chair and/or cognate or floor representative for the 2026 class of PhD students.**

University Facilities, Services, and Support

Facilities of Department of Counseling Psychology, Social Psychology and Counseling

The CPSY departmental offices are located on the 4th floor of the Health Professions Building (HB). The department operates an in-house community mental health clinic, the Ball State University Counseling Practicum Clinic, which is located on the 1st floor of the HB. The clinic has been established as a clinical training and research facility for graduate students in the CPSY department and allows for significant opportunities for the provision of intervention and prevention services, instruction, modeling, and supervision. Individuals from the Muncie and surrounding communities can receive low-cost counseling and psychological services for a variety of presenting concerns. The clinic serves children, adolescents, and adults through individual, group, couples, and family counseling modalities. The clients are counseled by the CPSY graduate students under the supervision of, and in consultation with, the faculty.

The clinic has a full-time director who is responsible for the overall administration and operation of the clinic, ensuring that the provision of services is consistent with professional ethical guidelines and standards, and state law. The clinic also has a full-time Clinic Coordinator, whose major responsibility is to manage the daily operation of the clinic. Lastly, there is a Clinic Training Advisory Committee (CTAC), which consists of the Clinic Director, Department Chair, Clinic Coordinator, Clinic Assistants, and faculty/professors who are involved in clinical training. This committee assists the Clinic Director in the overall administration and operation of the clinic and oversees training activities.

The Ball State Counseling Practicum Clinic has 20 counseling rooms, including a sand tray therapy room, play therapy rooms, family therapy rooms, and group therapy spaces. All counseling rooms are equipped with a state-of-the-art video recording system, which allows not only for recording but live observation. There is a large Interprofessional Work/Charting Room located on the 1st floor of the HB, that is equipped with computers where students are able to complete clinical documentation in the electronic health-record system. This work area also consists of 12 private rooms which can be used for reviewing video-recordings of counseling sessions, engaging in supervision meetings, or working together with other students in small groups. The HB has many other work areas for College of Health students, which includes a library and a large area specifically reserved for students with graduate assistantships.

CPSY Wellness and Culture Committee

This committee is responsible for addressing the wellness needs of the Department including, for instance, suggestions for department wellness/self-care activities and suggestions to enhance classroom activities.

University Student Services

Approximately 21,000 undergraduate and graduate students are enrolled at Ball State. Several university offices offer various kinds of support to help students who may need a variety of support. The Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid, (765-285-5600), has information about and applications for student loans. Admittance to the doctoral program includes a required doctoral assistantship described in detail later in this document.

The Student Health Center includes an outpatient clinic and infirmary providing care for acute illness and injuries. The Housing and Residence Life Office, (765-285-8000), has information about graduate residence halls, family housing, and off-campus housing. The office of Disability Services is available to assist students with disabilities and ensure equitable access to campus resources and learning. The Multicultural Center offer programs and events throughout the year that educate the Ball State community, support students of color, and celebrate faculty, staff, and students' achievements, and the Center for International Programs offers activities and support for international students.

The Counseling Center (APA-accredited internship site) is available for free testing, study-skills assistance, and personal counseling. The Center offers practicum opportunities for graduate students to provide counseling and outreach services to clients served by the Center.

Recreational activities such as a symphony orchestra, concert and artist series, and fitness/sports facilities on campus are offered free or at reduced rates for students.

Academic Year Costs for Graduate Students

See the following website for information on tuition and student fees:

<https://www.bsu.edu/admissions/tuition-and-fees>

Please note that these fees are approximate and may differ at time of payment. Students receive tuition waivers as part of their assistantship assignments. Students are responsible for covering Student Services Fee each semester of enrollment and small portion of their semesterly tuition. See the below "Doctoral Assistantship and Residency" section for information about available funding for students.

Living in Muncie

The university is located in Muncie, Indiana, a city of approximately 70,000 residents. Muncie is in east central Indiana, about 60 miles northeast of the state capital, Indianapolis. Other nearby cities include Fort Wayne (80 miles away), Cincinnati (120 miles away), and Chicago (200 miles away).

Admission Requirements and Evaluation

Applicants must apply online through the Graduate School application. Following file review and an interview process, the faculty of the various graduate programs make recommendations for admission to the Dean of the Graduate School. Offers of admission are not official until approved by the Dean of the Graduate School. Official admission decisions are communicated to applicants by email from the Dean of the Graduate School.

We recommend that interested persons review application information at <https://www.bsu.edu/academics/collegesanddepartments/cpspc/admissions-and-financial-aid/apply-to-doctoral-program> for more detailed instructions. Prospective applicants may also contact the admissions coordinator, Rachel Pleasant, at cpsygrad@bsu.edu, or the director of training, Dr. Kristin Perrone at kperrone@bsu.edu with additional questions.

General Background of Candidates Selected

The Department prefers candidates who have strong backgrounds in psychology and work experience related to counseling psychology. Candidates may hold a bachelor's or master's degree. In terms of bachelor's-level applicants, we prefer individuals who majored in psychology, but this is not required. Master's-level applicants must have majored in counseling, counseling and guidance, psychology, educational or school psychology, clinical psychology, social work, or a related field. Successful applicants demonstrate a fit for the program and faculty in both research and clinical interest areas. Candidates admitted with only a bachelor's degree will first pursue a master's degree in counseling in our program and will be officially admitted into the doctoral program upon successful completion of their master's degree. Until this time, they will be conditionally admitted into the doctoral program.

Application Dates

All application materials must be submitted by December 1st. Application and materials are due on the specified dates by 11:59 p.m. Eastern time. We strongly recommend that all international materials be submitted by October 15th in order to be processed in time for the December 1st deadline.

Tentative Timetable:

Initial Screening is from mid to late December

Notification of admission status will be in late December to early January

Interviews date will be in January or Early February

***NOTE: All interviews are conducted virtually/online.**

Candidates begin the program and assistantships in August.

Background Required

Bachelor's candidates:

1. Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution and have an overall bachelor's GPA of at least 3.2 on a 4.0 scale.
2. Completed at least 15 semester or 24 quarter hours in undergraduate psychology classes with a GPA of 3.2 in such courses. Psychology majors are preferred, but this is not required.

Master's candidates

1. Master's degree from an accredited institution and have an overall master's GPA of at least 3.2 on a 4.0 scale.
2. Completed four graduate courses in counseling or counseling psychology, including Theories, Techniques, and Practicum. If Theories and Techniques are taken as one class, then Practicum and two other classes in counseling or counseling psychology are required in addition to the Theories/Techniques class. The Practicum experience must include direct counseling/therapy service provision.
3. Beginning with the 2024/2025 admission cycle, MA applicants will be required to have earned an A- or better in a graduate statistics course and must have taken some type of graduate research methods course.

Materials To Be Submitted for Application

International Applicants: International applicants are strongly encouraged to begin submitting all by **October 15**. The Department must have all application materials, including unofficial transcripts, WES, and/or TOEFL scores as relevant, in order to conduct an initial application review soon after the application deadline. Given it often takes 6 weeks or more to transfer scores, we recommend International applicants begin score transfer requests no later than October 15 or earlier. If your application is incomplete as of the application deadline of **December 1**, we will be unable to consider your application.

Materials required by the Department and the Graduate School before December 1st deadline:

1. **Online Graduate School Application: Application found on the Graduate School Website:** <https://www.bsu.edu/admissions/graduate/apply>. Within the graduate school application, choose the “Counseling Psychology PhD” program. You will be prompted to answer program specific questions and upload the following additional materials: curriculum vitae (CV) and a brief autobiography (prompt provided in the online system) on your applicant status portal following submission of the application. **After submitting your application, your application portal will open within 24-48 hours. Submit your supplemental department materials in the portal by the deadline of December 1 (international applicants, again we recommend completing materials earlier).**
2. **Three (3) Letters of Recommendation:** Applicants must submit three letters of reference directly to the Graduate School online application. Letters should be provided by persons familiar with your academic and professional performance.
3. **An Unofficial Transcript from Degree/Certificate Granting Institutions of Study.** This includes transcripts from institutions granting degrees and institutions at which applicants wish to demonstrate prerequisite coursework. If offered an interview, students will be requested to provide official transcripts from institutions where they earned degrees, certificates, or institutions where they are currently enrolled. (If you are a student or graduate of Ball State, the Graduate School will obtain your transcripts that are already on file). Credentials earned at an institution outside the U.S. must be evaluated by International Admissions. Consult International Admissions for assistance on transcript requirements.

Applicant Evaluation by the Department

The application review is a three-step process. Credentials submitted by applicants are reviewed by the Department at each step. Successful candidates will be those who reach Step 3.

Step 1.

1. Received by date of entry a bachelor's degree or master's degree from an accredited institution.
2. An overall undergraduate (bachelor's-level applicants) or graduate (master's-level applicants) grade-point average of at least 3.2 on a 4.0 scale.
3. For applicants with a bachelor's degree, taken at least 15 semester or 24 quarter hours in undergraduate psychology classes with a GPA of 3.2 in such courses. Psychology majors are preferred, but this is not required. For applicants with a master's degree, taken four or more graduate courses in counseling or counseling psychology, including Theories, Techniques, and Practicum. **Consideration will be given to a master's degree applicant only if the person is currently enrolled in or has completed a beginning practicum or its equivalent.** If the applicant is presently enrolled in such a practicum, acceptance to the doctoral program will be contingent upon its successful completion (with a grade of B or better).
4. Submitted all required application materials by the deadline.

Step 2. If conditions of Step 1 are met, the following criteria as a whole are considered:

1. *Quality of Transcripts.* Preference will be given to applicants with broad training in psychology. The Graduate School minimum GPA is 3.2 on a 4.0 scale, but successful applicants to the program generally have undergraduate or graduate GPAs higher than 3.5.
2. *Types of Experience.* Applicants who have experience in counseling psychology or closely related subjects are preferred. Applications are also evaluated based on demonstrated fit for the program and respective faculty members.
3. *Professional/Scholarly Activity.* Beginning with the 2024/2025 admission cycle, MA applicants were be required to have earned an A- or better in a graduate statistics course and must have taken some type of graduate research methods course. Additionally, undergraduate or graduate research experience is preferred.

4. Preference will be given to applicants who have completed a thesis, published professional articles, or have presented research, conducted workshops, or presented other material to professional societies, or assisted with research.
5. *Letters of Reference.* Consideration will be given to the qualification ratings circled on the three recommendation forms as well as to the written comments.
6. *Applicant's Professional Goals, Research Interests, Clinical Interests, Vita, and Match with Faculty Interests.* Preference will be given to applicants whose professional goals match the purposes of counseling psychology, the goals, philosophy, and values of the program, and fit with faculty.

Step 3. Faculty review each applicant's file according to the listed criteria and rate each applicant individually. Composite ratings are then computed and ranked. Using these reviews, two groups of applicants are identified:

Invited for interview. Approximately 30 applicants are invited for a one-day virtual interview. Applicants meet with faculty and students and are introduced to the Ball State campus.

Not invited for interview. These persons are denied admission for the coming academic year.

Once interviews are completed, faculty's final ratings are compiled and recommendations for admission offers are made based on these ratings and overall fit with the program and faculty members. Applicants who receive an offer have until April 15 to decide whether to accept the invitation to join the program.

Applicant Pool

80+ applications have been considered annually in recent years. Each year, up to eight students are admitted into program at the Master's degree level. Each year, up to two students are admitted into the program conditionally at the Bachelor's degree level.

Attrition Rate

We accept only students who we believe will complete the program. Please see our Student Admissions, Outcomes, and Other Data document at the below page for the most up to date information on our program outcomes.

<https://www.bsu.edu/academics/collegesanddepartments/cpspc/academic-programs/phd-counseling-psychology>

Acceptance of Offer for Admission to the Program

The Department supports the following statement adopted by the Council of Graduate Schools in the United States: *Resolution for Graduate Scholars, Fellows, Trainees, and Assistants*

Acceptance of an offer of financial support (e.g., graduate scholarship, fellowship, traineeship, or assistantship) for the next academic year by a prospective or enrolled graduate student completes an agreement that both student and graduate school expect to honor. In that context, the conditions affecting such offers and their acceptance must be defined carefully and understood by all parties. Students are under no obligation to respond to offers of financial support prior to April 15; earlier deadlines for acceptance of such offers violate the intent of this Resolution. In instances where a student accepts an offer before April 15, and subsequently desires to withdraw that acceptance, s/he may submit in writing a resignation of the appointment at any time through April 15. However, an acceptance given or left in force after April 15 commits the student not to accept another offer without first obtaining a written release from the institution to which a commitment has been made. Similarly, an offer by an institution after April 15 is conditional on presentation by the student of the written release from any previously accepted offer. It is further agreed by the institutions and organizations subscribing to the above Resolution that a copy of this Resolution should accompany every scholarship, fellowship, traineeship, and assistantship offer.

Curriculum Requirements

Basic Requirements

Please note the following curriculum reflects the required coursework and experiences in our doctoral program. Applicants with only a bachelor's degree must also complete coursework and experiences required in one of our Department's master's programs in counseling. These programs include clinical mental health counseling, rehabilitation counseling, or a double major in social psychology and clinical mental health counseling.

Total hours. 105 (minimum) to 111 semester hours of graduate work beyond a bachelor's degree are required for graduation.

Minimum Time On-Campus. Two full-time academic years after the master's degree are the minimum time required. Most students are full-time, on campus for three years. In their fourth year, most students complete a full-time internship.

Major. The major must consist of a minimum of 73 semester hours of graduate work. Depending on the student's background, students will have a 73-hour major with two 15-hour cognates (a total of 103 semester hours) or a 73-hour major with one 24-hour cognate (a total of 97 semester hours).

Transfer Course Work. Courses successfully completed during the student's master's program may be used to meet some course requirements, subject to approval of the course's instructor, advisor, and director of the doctoral program. Students must complete at least 48 hours in the doctoral program at the Ball State campus.

Doctoral Assistantship and Residency. All students are required to complete at least 2 academic years in residence as full-time students in the program, after a master's degree has been obtained. Although only 2 years are required, students are strongly encouraged to complete a third year on campus, during which the dissertation is proposed and completed, before beginning an internship. Bachelor's-level students admitted to the doctoral program will be offered assistantships in the Department. The typical assignment for such persons will be work in the Practicum Clinic or CPSY Office. All first-year doctoral students entering with a master's degree are required to accept the assistantship. However, one first-year student each year may decline the assistantship, with the permission of the Department. The request must be made in writing when the offer of admission is accepted; approval will be determined once the doctoral class is complete. Students may decline the assistantship after the first year. Summer monies are usually available. During the assistantship period, a full-time commitment to the program is required. The assistantship carries a stipend. For the 2025/26 Fall and Spring Semesters, our doctoral students will earn approximately \$12,500.

For students on assistantship, tuition is waived for the entire calendar year; however, student fees and a small portion of the remaining tuition are paid by the student. On average, this is roughly \$1500 each Fall and Spring semester, and \$1100 each Summer semester. The assistantship training assignments constitute an integral part of the doctoral training program. Students must complete four training assignments during the course of their program whether or not the assistantship is accepted. These include teaching undergraduate courses, staffing the Department's Practicum Clinic, serving as a research assistant, and supervising master's-level trainees. Most master's-level students are able to graduate from the program in four to five years, including the internship year. Most bachelor's-level students are able to graduate from the program in six years, including the internship year.

Dissertation. DISS 799, Doctor's Dissertation, must be taken for a minimum of 10 hours. The dissertation must be psychological and scientific in content, method, and analyses.

Program of Study

Course Planning Information

The following is a list of the requirements for the program of study for a PhD in Counseling Psychology at Ball State University.

Program of Study for Ph.D. Degree in Counseling Psychology at BSU¹	
Curriculum Area:	Affective Aspects of Behavior
Required Courses	<i>Students are required to take all the following courses:</i> CPSY 636 (Psychopathology) 3 hours CPSY 678 (Theories and Techniques of Counseling the Culturally Diverse) 3 hours CPSY 746 ² (Integrated Scientist-Professional Practicum I in Counseling Psychology) 3 hours CPSY 747 ² (Integrated Scientist-Professional Practicum II in Counseling Psychology) 3 hours CPSY 720 (Advanced Theories of Counseling) 3 hours CPSY 611 (Psychology of Teaching and Learning) 2 hours
Curriculum Area:	Biological Aspects of Behavior
Required Courses	<i>Students are required to take one of the following courses:</i> PSYS 668 (Physiological Psychology) 3 hours OR EDPS 652 (Introduction to Neuropsychology) 3 hours
Curriculum Area:	Cognitive Aspects of Behavior
Required Courses	<i>Students are required to take:</i> PSYS 616 (Perception & Cognition) 3 hours
Curriculum Area:	Developmental Aspects of Behavior
Required Course	<i>Students are required to take one of the following courses:</i> PSYS 613 (Developmental Psychology) 3 hours OR EDPS 720 (Developmental Theories and Research across the Lifespan) 3 hours
Curriculum Area:	Social Aspects of Behavior
Required Courses	<i>Students are required to take:</i> SOPS 610 (Social Psychology) 3 hours <i>and one of the following:</i> SOPS 615 (Social Cognition) 3 hours SOPS 620 (Group Dynamics) 3 hours SOPS 625 Psychology of Gender 3 hours SOPS 630 Social Psychology of Prejudice and Discrimination 3 hours SOPS 635 Social Psychology of Health 3 hours SOPS 640 (Social Psychology of Attitudes) 3 hours SOPS 655 (Counseling Applications of Social Psychology) 3 hours SOPS 660 (Contemporary Social Psychology) 3 hours
Curriculum Area:	History and Systems of Psychology
Required Course	PSYS 691 (Systems of Psychology) 3 hours
Curriculum Area:	Psychometrics
Required Course	EDPS 746 (Theory of Measurement) 3 hours
Curriculum Area:	Research Methods³

Required Courses	<i>Students are required to take all the following courses:</i> CPSY 753 (Advanced Research Methods in Coun Psy) 3 hours ID 705 (Research Colloquium) 3 hours DISS 799 (Doctoral Dissertation) 10 hours
Curriculum Area:	Statistical Analysis³
Required Courses	<i>Students are required to take:</i> EDPS 642 (Intermediate Statistics) 3 hours <i>and 1 of the following:</i> EDPS 741 (Applied Regression Analysis for Social Sciences) 3 hours EDPS 742 (Multivariate Statistical Techniques) 3 hours EDPS 743 (Introduction to Factor Analysis) 3 hours
Curriculum Area:	Research
Required Courses	<i>Students are required to take all the following courses:</i> CPSY 753 (Advanced Research Methods in Coun Psy) 3 hours ID 705 (Research Colloquium) 3 hours
Curriculum Area:	Ethics and Legal Standards
Required Courses	<i>Students are required to take:</i> CPSY 797 (Doctoral Seminar in Counseling Psychology) 3 hours CPSY 722 (Theories and Techniques of Supervision) 2 hours CPSY 740 (Practicum in Counselor Supervision) 1 hours CPSY 746 (Integrated Scientist-Professional Practicum 1 in Counseling Psychology) 3 hours CPSY 747 (Integrated Scientist-Professional Practicum 2 in Counseling Psychology) 3 hours
Curriculum Area:	Individual and Cultural Diversity
	CPSY 678 (Theories and Techniques of Counseling the Culturally Diverse)* 3 hours CPSY 797 (Doctoral Seminar in Counseling Psychology) 3 hours CPSY 722 (Theories and Techniques of Supervision) 2 hours CPSY 740 (Practicum in Counselor Supervision) 1 hours
Curriculum Area:	Professional Values and Attitudes
	<i>Students are required to take:</i> CPSY 797 (Doctoral Seminar in Counseling Psychology) 3 hours CPSY 746 (Integrated Scientist-Professional Practicum 1 in Counseling Psychology) 3 hours CPSY 747 (Integrated Scientist-Professional Practicum 2 in Counseling Psychology) 3 hours
Curriculum Area:	Communication and Interpersonal Skills
	CPSY 797 (Doctoral Seminar in Counseling Psychology) 3 hours CPSY 746 (Integrated Scientist-Professional Practicum 1 in Counseling Psychology) 3 hours CPSY 747 (Integrated Scientist-Professional Practicum 2 in Counseling Psychology) 3 hours
Curriculum Area:	Assessment
Required Courses	<i>Students are required to take:</i> CPSY 636 (Psychopathology)* 3 hours EDPS 650 (Individual Testing: Wechsler Scales) 3 hours CPSY 746 (Integrated Scientist-Professional Practicum I in Counseling Psychology) 3 hours

	CPSY 747 (Integrated Scientist-Professional Practicum II in Counseling Psychology) 3 hours CPSY 749 (Individual Supervised Experience in Coun Psy) 1-6 hrs CPSY 657 (Objective Personality Appraisal) 3 hours
Curriculum Area:	Intervention
	<i>Students are required to take the following:</i> CPSY 610 (Career Theories and Realities)* 3 hours CPSY 688 (Process and Techniques of Group Counseling)* 3 hours CPSY 720 (Advanced Theories of Counseling) 3 hours CPSY 746 (Integrated Scientist-Professional Practicum I in Counseling Psychology) 3 hours CPSY 747 (Integrated Scientist-Professional Practicum II in Counseling Psychology) 3 hours CPSY 749 (Individual Supervised Experience in Coun Psy) 1-6 hrs
Curriculum Area:	Supervision
Required Courses	<i>Students are required to take:</i> CPSY 722 (Theories and Techniques of Supervision) 2 hours CPSY 740 (Practicum in Counselor Supervision) 1 hour
Curriculum Area:	Consultation and Interprofessional/Interdisciplinary Skills
Required Courses	<i>Students are required to take:</i> CPSY 722 (Theories and Techniques of Supervision) 2 hours CPSY 746 (Integrated Scientist-Professional Practicum I in Counseling Psychology) 3 hours CPSY 747 (Integrated Scientist-Professional Practicum II in Counseling Psychology) 3 hours CPSY 749 (Individual Supervised Experience in Coun Psy) 1-6 hrs

¹105 (minimum) to 111 semester hours of graduate work beyond a bachelor's degree is required for graduation.

Hours Required: 105-111 semester hours post baccalaureate; 73 hours doctoral major with 2 years (48 hours) on campus; and one 24 hour cognate or two 15 hour cognates

²A minimum of 400 hours of practicum is required, of which at least 150 hours are in direct service experience and at least 75 hours are in formally scheduled supervision. Prior to internship, students must be enrolled in CPSY 749, Individual Supervised Experience in Counseling Psychology (1-6), every semester providing services through the CPSY Counseling Practicum Clinic and within an approved, appropriately supervised external practicum placement.

³Before beginning the dissertation, students will have received training in the conduct and design of research through participation in research assistantship assignments and completed research methodology and statistics courses. Students also are expected to complete the following: a. Write a research dissertation; b. Be involved with faculty members in continuing research during residency; and c. Demonstrate writing skills associated with and appropriate to research in counseling psychology.

After successful completion of comprehensive exams, committee approval of a dissertation proposal, and admission to candidacy to the Ph.D. degree, students may enroll in DISS 799, Doctoral Dissertation. A **minimum of ten hours of DISS 799** is required. Further, following the pre-doctoral internship, students must enroll in 3 hours of DISS 799 each Fall and Spring Semester until they graduate.

Internship: Students enroll in CPSY 799 (Internship in Counseling Psychology) *each* semester in which they are on internship.

D. Cognates

A cognate at Ball State offers you the opportunity to develop special knowledge and skills in areas of interest. A cognate consists of either one with 24 credit hours or two with 15 credit hours of coursework and/or practicum for each area. Consistent with APA's CRSPPP Taxonomy (APA, 2012), the PhD in counseling psychology offers cognates that allow for either a major area of study or an emphasis in

- Social Psychology
- Rehabilitation Psychology
- Clinical Health Psychology
- Clinical Neuropsychology
- Family Psychology
- School Psychology

Cognates also allow for a focus in

- Anthropology
- Consultation
- Diversity
- Educational Psychology
- Assessment
- Research
- Social Justice
- Vocational Psychology
- Other degree-granting graduate programs consistent with students' professional goals and approved by their doctoral committee

American Psychological Association. (2012). Education and training guidelines: A taxonomy for education and training in professional psychology health service specialties. Retrieved from <http://www.apa.org/ed/graduate/specialize/taxonomy.pdf>

Time to Completion

Please see our Student Admissions, Outcomes, and Other Data document at the below page for the most up to date information on our program outcomes.

Doctoral Committee Formation

Upon admission, students are assigned a faculty member as their Chair. During the Fall semester of the first year, students work with their Chair in selecting their committee. Students' doctoral committee will consist of two faculty from the Department of Counseling Psychology, Social Psychology and Counseling (one of whom serves as the chairperson), one or two cognate representatives, and an at-large university member who is chosen by the student or appointed by the Graduate School. Committee selection is based on mutual agreement between the student and the faculty members selected. In general, each faculty member in the Counseling Psychology Department is limited to chairing three committees over a two-year period and serving as a member of two committees for each entering class.

Examinations: Overview

All doctoral students, including graduates of our master's program, must complete an APA ethics examination prior to seeing clients. A score of 80% on this examination is considered a pass. A practitioner's skills examination, also required of all students, will normally be completed during the

student's second year and must be passed prior to applying for internship. Students complete comprehensive preliminary examinations (written and oral, see *Graduate Catalog*), normally after completing two years on campus in the program. Students must pass the examinations prior to applying for internship. Students must successfully defend their dissertation proposal by the end of the fall semester prior to the spring semester when they submit their rankings for internship.

Pre-Doctoral Internship

CPSY 799, Internship in Counseling Psychology (0 credit hours), must be taken for an academic year, full-time, or its equivalent over two years, for a minimum time of 1,500 hours. The recommendation is that students take a calendar year internship, or its equivalent over two years, for a minimum time of 2,000 hours in an APA-approved site. Sites not approved by APA must adhere to the department's internship policy. In general, our students have done extremely well in securing an excellent internship placement. Most have been placed in one of their top three ranked internship sites. Matched sites are diverse in nature, including sites such as university counseling centers, medical / hospital settings, the Veteran's Administration, the Air Force, community mental health centers, corrections facilities, etc. Information on internship match rates and outcomes can be found at the Student Admissions, Outcomes, and Other Data document at the below page.

<https://www.bsu.edu/academics/collegesanddepartments/cpspc/academic-programs/phd-counseling-psychology>

Performance Requirements

Comprehensive Review of Practitioner Skills

A major objective of the program is that our students function as capable practitioners upon graduation. Our system for ensuring competence involves two evaluation procedures. The first consists of a series of faculty evaluations of practitioner skills. All doctoral students are required to see clients throughout their time on campus. Their activity with their clients is supervised and evaluated by the faculty through either group or individual supervision. Almost all regular faculty members are licensed psychologists with state certification or are license-eligible. Deficiencies in practice are determined and necessary corrections effected. Practitioner skills are developed through a variety of courses, each requiring direct client contact and formal supervision. During assistantship rotation, students are assigned to the Practicum Clinic office, where they have further client contact. In all of these activities, the student's committee monitors the student's development as a counseling psychologist.

Comprehensive Examinations

There are two components of the comprehensive examination: Core Exam and Cognate Exam. The purpose of the **Core Exam** is for students to apply their acquired knowledge of a counseling psychologist by competently answering questions selected from (a) the common core knowledge base of psychology and health service psychology, and (b) the more specialized knowledge base of counseling psychology. The ability to competently apply this knowledge demonstrates the acquisition of the knowledge and the skills/abilities/competencies to utilize the knowledge in important roles/functions of a counseling psychologist. The Core Exam consists of multiple-choice questions and is based on the psychology licensure examination. Students take a practice test prior to the actual examination. They are provided with study materials to review between the practice exam and the official administration of the Core Exam. Students must pass each content area of the exam by 50% or higher. Content Areas include Research; Ethical and Legal Standards; Individual and Cultural Diversity; Professional Values, Attitudes, and Behaviors; Communication and Interpersonal Skills; Assessment; Intervention; Supervision; Consultation and Interprofessional/Interdisciplinary Skills; and Discipline Specific Knowledge.

Following successful completion of the Core Exam, students are eligible to proceed to the oral **Cognate Exam**. Students meet with their cognate representative members to discuss the topic for their oral exam.

The exam consists of a 30-minute presentation followed by questions from the student's doctoral committee. The doctoral committee votes on whether student's pass or do not pass the Cognate Exam.

Graduation

Formal application for graduation must be made through the Graduate School according to the deadlines established by that office. One of the several forms required by the Graduate School is an updated course-check sheet, which must be approved by the director of training. Over the years, our graduates have secured excellent positions in a host of settings, such as in academia/faculty positions, private practice, the VA, hospital/behavioral healthcare settings, university counseling centers, the military, corrections facilities, and others.

Number of Doctoral Graduates and Licensure of Graduates 2015 to 2023

Outcome	2015-2023
The total number of program graduates (doctoral degrees conferred on transcript) from 2015 to 2023.	84
The number of these graduates (between 2015 to 2023) who became licensed psychologists in the past 10 years	84
Licensure percentage	100%