



Psychology Department

THE FMU PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT OFFERS TWO GRADUATE DEGREE OPTIONS:



- **Master of Science in Applied Psychology (M.S.) Clinical/Counseling Psychology**
Coordinator of Clinical/Counseling Psychology: Dr. William P. Wattles (wwattles@fmarion.edu)
- **Master of Science in Applied Psychology (M.S.) plus Specialist in School Psychology (S.S.P.)**
Coordinator of School Psychology: Dr. Crystal R. Hill-Chapman (chillchapman@fmarion.edu)

Clinical/Counseling or School Psychology?

The Clinical/Counseling option prepares students for licensure as Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC) who are trained to work in a variety of mental health settings and with a variety of populations. They are trained to do assessment and psychotherapy (counseling). An LPC might work in a mental health agency, open a private practice, be a counselor in a substance abuse treatment program, or work as a behavioral health counselor in the schools, to give a few examples.

The School Psychology option trains students to become Specialists in School Psychology (Level II Certification; LPES). They work primarily as psychologists in schools largely doing assessment and planned interventions, although they are also trained to do therapy with children and families and systems-level consultation. For example, a school psychologist can evaluate a child's social, emotional, and/or educational needs and then help develop a program to address those needs. School psychologists also are eligible for private practice as a Licensed Psycho-Educational Specialist (LPES).

HOW DO I APPLY TO THE PROGRAM?

1. Submit a graduate application for admission and pay the non-refundable graduate application fee.
2. Submit official transcript(s) of all undergraduate and graduate work. All MSAP/SSP applicants must have completed an introductory or general psychology course, as well as a course in behavioral statistics.
3. Submit scores on the Graduate Record Examination taken within the last five years. Only the General Test is required; the Psychology Subject Test is not required.
4. Submit two letters of recommendation from former professors (preferred) or professional associates/supervisors who can attest to the academic potential of the applicant.
5. Submit a personal statement, 500 to 750 words in length, indicating one's interests in clinical/counseling or school psychology, career goals, and reasons for seeking admission to the Master of Science in Applied Psychology and/or Specialist in School Psychology programs.

All of the above materials must be submitted in one packet to the FMU Graduate Office, P.O. Box 100547, Florence, SC 29502-0547. In addition, all applicants should complete the *Application for Assistantships/Scholarships* and submit it by the application deadline to the Psychology Department. More information is on the website.

To be guaranteed timely consideration, all of the above materials should be submitted no later than:

Fall Admission: February 15th

Spring Admission: October 15th

**NOTE: School Psychology Option MSAP applicants are only accepted for Fall Admission. Students applying for admission into the School Psychology MSAP Option must plan on beginning their studies during the Summer II session, which begins in July. Applicants with a prior masters degree applying only to the SSP degree program may apply by either deadline.*

Completed applications are reviewed for merit by the Psychology Department faculty, and all components of the application packet are considered. In the admissions decision process, consideration is given to both the merit of each application received and to the number of slots available in the program at the time of application.

Application materials received after the application deadlines *may* still be considered for admission contingent upon the availability of positions within the program. It is the applicant's responsibility to gather all materials to complete his/her application. Only completed applications (with all required materials) will be reviewed for possible admission.

HOW ARE ADMISSIONS DECISIONS MADE?

The application process is competitive, and the program has a limited number of openings. Selection is based on an applicant's academic potential, which is determined by the overall quality of their application packet. On the original GRE, a combined score above 850 with a minimum of 400 on each of the Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning sections is recommended. On the revised GRE, combined scores above 290 with a minimum of 140 on each of the Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning sections are recommended.

CAN AN APPLICANT APPLY BEFORE THEY HAVE TAKEN THE PREREQUISITE COURSES?

No, you must have already completed the two prerequisite courses (an introductory psychology course and a behavioral statistics course) in order to be considered for admission. Your application is considered incomplete until these courses have been taken.

WHICH GRE TEST DO I NEED TO TAKE?

We only require the general GRE and *not* the subject test. The GRE is given by ETS. To learn more about where testing is offered in your area; please visit their website at <http://www.ets.org/gre>.

IS THERE FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE?

We have a number of scholarships available to graduate students. Award decisions are based solely on academic merit. They are renewable for six consecutive semesters. Out-of-state scholarship recipients are eligible for in-state tuition.

We also have assistantships available; the number available varies each semester. These entail approximately 20 hours of work per week. Four of these are teaching assistantships. In addition, there frequently are other assistantship and employment opportunities available for graduate psychology students on campus.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO COMPLETE THE PROGRAM?

The Clinical/Counseling option is a minimum 52 semester hour program that typically takes 2-1/2 to 3 years to complete. The School option is a 72 semester hour program that typically takes 3 years to complete.

WILL I BE LICENSED WHEN I FINISH THE PROGRAM?

Students who graduate from our program are eligible to apply to the state licensing boards for LPC licensure (Licensed Professional Counselor, for clinical/counseling graduates) or LPES licensure (Licensed Psychoeducational Specialist, for school psychology graduates).

IS THE PROGRAM ACCREDITED?

Yes, it is accredited by the Master's in Psychology Counseling Accreditation Council (MPCAC). In addition, the School Psychology Option is approved by the SC State Department of Education to train School Psychologists (Level II certificate), is approved by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), and is nationally recognized by the National Council on Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) at the specialist level.

WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

More information is available on our website: www.fmupsychology.com. Persons interested in the program may visit the Psychology Department office (CEMC 109), call 843-661-1378, or contact the program coordinators.