Academic Information for Graduate Degrees

Provisional Acceptance

Students who have completed a baccalaureate degree and want to be admitted to a post-baccalaureate degree program when official transcripts are not immediately available can be provisionally accepted. Students are responsible for obtaining, from the college or university where they earned their baccalaureate degree, an official transcript in a sealed envelope. When the Office of the Registrar receives official documentation, it considers students for eligibility.

Post-baccalaureate students may take courses during provisional acceptance while the Office of the Registrar awaits receipt of official transcripts. If the Office of the
Registrar does not receive the required documentation within 60 days of the date of admission, the student’s studies are temporarily interrupted until all official documents are received. If the student’s studies are temporarily interrupted this can affect financial aid eligibility. The Office of the Registrar will send a courtesy notification every 30 days to students in provisional status, advising them of what documentation remains outstanding. Students should also view their checklist, which can be found on the student web portal, to determine outstanding documents. Coursework completed satisfactorily during provisional acceptance will count toward graduation if it is consistent with specific degree program requirements.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

Program Modification

MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY

Faculty Advisor: Valerie Alexander; 858-642-8343; valexand@nu.edu

The Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology (MAC) degree provides the academic pathway for students who are committed to the practice of professional counseling. The program includes core courses that all MA Counseling Psychology students must take and two Areas of Specialization options.

Each student must choose one of the following specializations:

▲ Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT)

The MFT Area of Specialization emphasizes marriage and family therapy and is designed for students who are committed to the practice of individual, couples, family, adolescent, and child psychotherapy. This version of the degree meets the academic requirements necessary to sit for the Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT) License mandated by the Board of Behavioral Sciences in the state of California. Students may take courses from the LPCC Area of Specialization as their electives if they want to qualify for both licenses. They must take one additional theoretical course and complete the additional practicum hours required for the LPCC license in order to meet the educational requirements for both licenses.

▲ Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC)

The LPCC Area of Specialization emphasizes counseling techniques and theories, including those related to career development, and is designed for students who are committed to the practice of individual and group counseling. This version of the degree meets the academic requirements to be eligible for licensing as a licensed professional clinical counselor (LPCC) by the Board of Behavioral Sciences in the state of California. Students may take courses from the MFT Area of Specialization as their electives if they want to qualify for both licenses or want to qualify to work with couples, families, and/or children as an LPCC. The degree with either specialization may not meet requirements in other states. Students should consult the licensing boards of the appropriate states for information about licensure outside of California. The degree also prepares students for the pursuit of doctoral studies in practitioner-oriented programs such as counseling or clinical psychology.

Application Requirements

Students interested in enrolling in this program should contact the appropriate campus for further information regarding the application process. To be considered for admission, applicants must meet the University graduate admission requirements listed in the general information as well as the MAC program criteria. All applicants are evaluated for the psychotherapy profession, regardless of career goals.

Students must submit an application packet, pass a personal interview, and attend the program orientation before they may begin classes.

Students for whom English is not their primary language must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) exam and receive one of the below scores before beginning the program:

- Paper-based - 550
- Computer-based - 213
- Internet Based - 79

Students should consult the regional faculty to determine at what point in the sequence they may enter the program. Entrance points may differ in each region.

Program Fees

For students in the MFT specialization: $350 for materials that assist students in the preparation for the California Marriage and Family Therapist examination for licensure.

Program Requirements

- Students must complete a minimum of 10 hours of individual, marital, family, and group psychotherapy before taking PSY 611B and another 15 hours before graduation for a total of 25 hours.
- Students must obtain a total of 225 hours (MFT) or 280 hours (LPCC) of face-to-face counseling experience at an approved practicum site with a designated practicum site supervisor during the practicum class.
- Students who do not have an undergraduate degree in psychology must take PSY 501A and PSY 501B as the first two courses in their program. These courses will serve as the elective credit for those students.
- Under exceptional circumstances requests for independent studies in courses without experiential clinical work may be considered for approval by the department.
- Students may not take more than one course per month except in the first month of PSY 680A, 680B, or 680C. In those months students may take a second course.
- Students seeking licensure in California must register with the Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) after graduation and fulfill all BBS licensing requirements for the license relevant to the student’s MAC specialization.
- Students are also urged to join a professional association. Students in the MFT track should consider joining the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapy and/or the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists. Students in the LPCC track should consider joining the American Counseling Association. Students must obtain malpractice insurance, which may be obtained through the relevant association listed above or another professional organization.
- Students must complete all coursework within seven years. Any courses taken more than seven years ago must be repeated. The program is guided by the standards of the California Board of Behavioral Sciences for academic training relevant to licensing as a Marriage and Family Therapist in the State of California (MFT Specialization) or as a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC Specialization), and by contemporary scientific, professional, and public practice. At the completion of the program students will achieve the following outcomes required for successful practice of Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT Specialization) or Professional Clinical Counseling (LPCC Specialization):

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Analyze core psychological concepts that underpin counseling, psychotherapy, and mental health counseling.
- Critically evaluate the relevant methods of research used in the study of behavior and their limitations.
- Critically evaluate the controversies and regions of theoretical
uncertainty within the current systems of mental health care.
• Establish professional relationships with diverse clients that provide the evidence-based relational conditions for therapeutic change.
• Uphold current professional standards of ethics, values, and laws related to the practice of professional psychotherapists.
• Demonstrate cultural competence in addressing the mental health needs of people of diverse backgrounds and circumstances, including an appreciation for the wide cultural diversity among California’s multiple diverse communities.
• Assess and diagnose psychological distress and/or impairment, mental disorders, and problems in living in diverse individuals and systems within various mental health settings.
• Develop culturally appropriate strategies and treatment plans for successful interventions with diverse client groups in various clinical contexts.
• Demonstrate mastery of the core competencies required of all helping relationships.
• Apply related therapeutic interventions with diverse clients using a variety of psychotherapeutic models.
• Apply a working knowledge of a range of topics important to mental health practice including (but not limited to) psychopharmacology, addictive and compulsive disorders, structured psychological assessment, relational violence, gender and sexuality, and trauma/crisis.
• Apply norms and principles of public mental health work including (but not limited to) case management, collaborative treatment, evidence-based practice, strength-based model, resiliency, and recovery-oriented care to work with clients.
• Integrate professional and personal development through self-reflection and personal psychotherapy, emphasizing personal capacities such as self-awareness, integrity, sensitivity, flexibility, insight, compassion, imagination, and personal presence.

Degree Requirements
(20 courses; 90 quarter units)

To receive the Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology, students must complete at least 90 quarter units of graduate work. A total of 13.5 quarter units of graduate credit may be granted for equivalent graduate work completed at another institution, as it applies to this degree and if the units were not used in earning another advanced degree. Students should refer to the section on graduate admission for specific information regarding additional application and evaluation requirements.

Prerequisites for the Major
(2 courses; 9 quarter units)

Students who hold a bachelor’s degree in Psychology may request these courses to be waived. Please contact the Lead Faculty. These courses will count towards the 90 quarter units of graduate work.

PSY 501A Foundations in Counseling I
PSY 501B Foundations in Counseling II

Core Requirements

Sequence I
(6 courses; 27 quarter units)

In cohort system locations students will take classes from this sequence then take three area of specialization courses, Core Course Sequence II, and any electives required. Students in open enrollment locations should consult their regional lead faculty for the sequence of their courses.

PSY 605 Lifespan Development
Prerequisite: Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology, or PSY 501A, and PSY 501B
PSY 608 Evidence-Based Practice
Prerequisite: Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology, or PSY 501A, and PSY 501B
PSY 610 Case Management
Prerequisite: Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology, or PSY 501A, and PSY 501B

▲ LPCC Specialization

See below for description and Program Learning Outcomes. Students in the LPCC track will take these courses between Core Sequence I and II.

PSY 653 Research: Paradigms & Critique
PSY 624A Testing and Assessment
CED 612 Career & Academic Counseling

▲ MFT Specialization

See below for description and Program Learning Outcomes. Students in the MFT track will take these courses between Core Sequence I and II.

PSY 636 Child and Adolescent Therapy
PSY 632A Family Therapy
PSY 632B Couples Therapy

Core Requirements

Sequence II
(9 courses; 40.5 quarter units)

PSY 628 Group Therapy
PSY 627 Legal & Ethical Issues
PSY 611B Counseling Paradigms II
PSY 680A Counseling Practicum I
Prerequisite: PSY 611B with a minimum grade of S
PSY 678 Clinical Biopsychology
CHD 640 Treatment of Addictions
PSY 679 Psychology of Trauma
PSY 637 Cultural Competencies
PSY 680B Counseling Practicum II for MFTs
Prerequisite: PSY 680A
or
PSY 680C Counseling Practicum II for LPCCs
Prerequisite: PSY 680A

Approved Electives
(2 courses; 9 quarter units)

Students may choose two of the following electives to complete their program. Students who were required to take PSY 501A and PSY 501B at the beginning of the program have fulfilled their elective credit units with those courses.

CED 612 Career & Academic Counseling
CED 613 Psycho-Educational Assessment
Prerequisite: CED 604, and Advancement to Candidacy
IHS 614 Mind-Body Therapy for Healing
AGE 602 Foundations of Gerontology II
AGE 611 Psychology of Older Adults
Prerequisite: AGE 602 with a minimum grade of B
AGE 613 Counseling Older Adults
Prerequisite: AGE 602 with a minimum grade of B

▲ Specialization in Licensed Professional Clinical Counseling (LPCC)

The MA Counseling Psychology – LPCC Area of Specialization emphasizes professional counseling and is designed for students who are committed to the practice of individual and group psychotherapy as well as vocational counseling. This version of the degree meets the academic
requirements necessary to sit for the License in Professional Clinical Counseling (LPCC) mandated by the Board of Behavioral Sciences in the state of California. Students may take courses from the MFT Area of Specialization as their electives if they want to qualify for both licenses. (Note: LPCCs in California are not allowed to work with families or couples without specific training for those populations.) The MA with LPCC specialization may not meet requirements in other states. Students should consult the licensing boards of the appropriate states for information about licensure outside of California.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:
• Assess vocational problems and develop academic plans for diverse clients.
• Apply therapeutic interventions with diverse clients within the context of professional clinical counseling, including attention to vocational issues when necessary.
• Develop culturally appropriate strategies and treatment plans for successful interventions with individuals and groups.

▲ LPCC Specialization
(4 courses; 18 quarter units)

PSY 653 Research: Paradigms & Critique
CED 612 Career & Academic Counseling
PSY 624A Testing and Assessment
PSY 680C Counseling Practicum II for LPCCs
Prerequisite: PSY 680A

▲ Specialization in Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT)
The MA Counseling Psychology – MFT Area of Specialization emphasizes marriage and family therapy and is designed for students who are committed to the practice of individual, couples, family, adolescent, and child psychotherapy. This version of the degree meets the academic requirements necessary to sit for the Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT) License mandated by the Board of Behavioral Sciences in the state of California. Students may take courses from the LPCC Area of Specialization as their electives if they want to qualify for both licenses.

The MA with MFT specialization may not meet requirements in other states. Students should consult the licensing boards of the appropriate states for information about licensure outside of California.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:
• Assess and diagnose psychological distress and/or impairment, mental disorders, or problems in living in diverse couples, and families within various mental health settings.
• Assess and diagnose psychological distress and/or impairment, mental disorders or problems in living in children and adolescents from diverse backgrounds within various mental health settings.
• Develop appropriate strategies and treatment plans for successful clinical interventions with couples, families, children, and adolescents in various clinical contexts.
• Apply therapeutic interventions with diverse clients within the context of child, couples, and family counseling.

▲ Specialization in Marriage and Family Therapy
(4 courses; 18 quarter units)

PSY 636 Child and Adolescent Therapy
PSY 632A Family Therapy
PSY 632B Couples Therapy
PSY 680B Counseling Practicum II for MFTs
Prerequisite: PSY 680A

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Modified Program: New Specializations

■ MASTER OF EDUCATION WITH A PRELIMINARY MULTIPLE OR SINGLE SUBJECTS TEACHING CREDENTIAL AND INTERNSHIP OPTION (CALIFORNIA)

Faculty Advisor for Master of Education: Nedra Crow; (858) 642-8004; ncrow@nu.edu
Faculty Advisor for Multiple Subject: Linda Gresik; (310) 662-2057; lgresik@nu.edu
Faculty Advisor for Single Subject: Nancy Falsetto; (909) 806-3312; nfalsetto@nu.edu
Faculty Advisor for University Internship: Clara Amador-Watson; (310) 662-2139; canador2@nu.edu
Faculty Advisor for Student Teaching: Marilyn Laughridge; (530) 226-4015; mlaughridge@nu.edu

▲ Specialization in e-Teaching and Learning
Faculty Advisor: Donna Elder; (818) 783-6781; delder@nu.edu

The eTeaching and Learning Specialization in the Master of Arts in Teaching Program is designed to meet the growing need for quality online instructors in PK - 16, community colleges, and corporations. The specialization focuses on: learning and applying effective student-centered online pedagogical skills, developing online curriculum that adheres to the National Standards for Quality Online Teaching, and assessing online learning using multiple assessment strategies.

Upon completion of this specialization, candidates will be prepared to effectively teach in the online learning environment.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:
• Analyze professional standards, trends and issues in the online environment.
• Demonstrate the use of active teaching and assessment strategies for the online environment.
• Apply evidence-based best practices research in the online teaching environment.

Requirements for Specialization
(4 courses, 18 quarter units)

ETL 680 Introduction to e-Teaching
ETL 682 Active Teaching and Learning
ETL 684 Differentiated Online Instruct
ETL 686 Designing Instr Materials
Prerequisite: ETL 680, and ETL 682, and ETL 684

▲ Specialization in Teaching Mathematics
Faculty Advisor: Zhonghe Wu; (714) 429-5144; zwu@nu.edu

Designed to improve the quality of teaching mathematics in grades K - 9, courses focus on the pedagogy of mathematics and the development of balanced instructional programs that meet the needs of today’s diverse students. Content prepares teacher credential holders and/or candidates for the CSET 1 and 2 Foundational Level Mathematics Exam. In order to be successful in this program, potential candidates should have basic mathematics knowledge and skills (equivalent to CSET multiple subject and Praxis II elementary education) or above.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:
• Analyze current principles, state and national standards, trends and issues in teaching Mathematics in grades K - 9.
• Demonstrate the ability to develop a balanced program of mathematics instruction that includes conceptual understanding, procedural fluency and problem solving in Algebra, Geometry, Statistics, Probability and Number Theory.
• Apply evidence-based best practices research in the delivery and evaluation of a balanced mathematics education program.

Requirements for Specialization
(4 courses, 18 quarter units)

MAT 635 Contemporary Issues/Challenges
Prerequisite: EDT 612, MAT 641, MAT 642, MAT 643, MAT 644
MAT 636 Algebra and Number Theory
Prerequisite: MAT 635
MAT 637 Geometry and Measurement
Prerequisite: MAT 635, MAT 636
MAT 638 Probability and Statistics
Prerequisite: MAT 635, MAT 636, MAT 637

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY LANGUAGE INSTITUTE

English Communication Series

Designed to help students improve their English communication skills while learning more about American culture. The focus is on developing fluency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing through an exploration of American culture.

Hours: 72 hours per month/course
Cost: $300 per course
Eight courses available

Courses

ECS 1900X Basic Personal and Workplace Communication
ECS 1910X Interpersonal Communication
ECS 1920X Functional Communication
ECS 1930X Communicating the American Dream
ECS 1940X People, Land, and Language
ECS 1950X Mindset, Pop Culture, and Technology
ECS 1960X Knowledge of Land and People of the East and South
ECS 1970X Knowledge of Land and People of the West and North

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

CHD 640 Treatment of Addictions
This course covers the theories, etiology, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of addictive and compulsive disorders from the resiliency, recovery, and medical models. This course also addresses the impact of SES, ethnicity, other environmental factors and contemporary controversies on the development and treatment of addictive disorders.

PSY 501A Foundations in Counseling I
A study of the essential principles and theories of psychology. Topics include social, developmental, and cognitive psychology. Grading is S/U only.

PSY 501B Foundations in Counseling II
A study of the essential principles and theories in psychology. Topics include an overview of biological psychology, personality theory, and abnormal psychology. Grading is S/U only.

PSY 605 Lifespan Development
Prerequisite: Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology or PSY 501A and PSY 501B
This course examines the theories of development as applied to the clinical assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of children, adolescents, adults, and older adults. Areas considered will include diversity, gender, and multi-cultural issues as well as identifying normative developmental transitions and their differentiation from deviant developmental patterns.

PSY 608 Evidence-Based Practice
Prerequisite: Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology or PSY 501A and PSY 501B
Examination of the concepts and controversies in evidence-based practice approaches to the evaluation of the effectiveness of psychotherapy. It covers the methods of assessing effectiveness, information research skills, and integration of various kinds of evidence relevant to the conduct of psychotherapy using critical thinking skills.

PSY 610 Case Management
Prerequisite: Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology or PSY 501A and PSY 501B
This course examines the concepts and principles of case management practice emphasizing strength-based approaches, the bio-psycho-social-spiritual and recovery models. It introduces the role of mental health case management including strengths assessment, development, and delivery of mental health services.

PSY 611A Counseling Paradigms I
Prerequisite: Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology or PSY 501A and PSY 501B
This course provides an overview of major current and evolving paradigms of psychotherapy and how they influence counseling theory and practice. Students acquire core skills related to effective therapeutic communication and to the therapist’s role in promoting exploration, insight, and behavior change.

PSY 611B Counseling Paradigms II
This course focuses on integrating and applying the full range of theoretical models used in psychotherapy. Students gain practical experience with both process and content issues through in-class role playing and demonstrations and receive both instructor and peer feedback. Grading is S or U only.

PSY 612A Clinical Assessment I
This course discusses clinical assessment from the bio-psycho-social-spiritual, resiliency, recovery and medical models. Interviewing skills and the use of assessment instruments are covered. Assessment, diagnosis, and treatment approaches for adjustment, mood, and sleep disorders are introduced.

PSY 612B Clinical Assessment II
Prerequisite: PSY 612A
This course covers the assessment and diagnosis for Anxiety, Psychotic, Personality, Dissociative, and Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders in the DSM and other assessment systems. Students will practice assessment skills and development of treatment plans during the course. Outcomes assessment and case conceptualization processes will be discussed.
PSY 624A Testing and Assessment
Acquaints students with the various information-gathering techniques used in clinical practice for the purposes of diagnosis and treatment planning. Emphasizes building conceptual and practical bridges between initial presenting symptoms, diagnosis and treatment planning.

PSY 627 Legal & Ethical Issues
This course examines the laws and professional codes of ethics pertaining to the practice of counseling and psychotherapy. How legal and ethical issues impact the profession of counseling with an emphasis on current California law is discussed.

PSY 628 Group Therapy
A comprehensive study of the major approaches, techniques and interventions used in group psychotherapy. Also emphasizes dynamics of group process including the types, stages and formation of groups.

PSY 632A Family Therapy
This course provides a comprehensive review of the theories, strategies, techniques, and critical issues involved in clinical work with families. This course will discuss various treatment approaches including an emphasis on evidence-based, recovery, and resilience-based approaches. Students will have the opportunity to role play family sessions.

PSY 632B Couples Therapy
This course provides a comprehensive look at the theories, techniques, and critical issues involved in treating couples. It will provide a focus on major approaches to the treatment of married and unmarried couples, including resilience and recovery models, as well as a survey of research on marriage and marital therapy. Students will have an opportunity to practice counseling sessions with couples in a role-play format.

PSY 636 Child and Adolescent Therapy
This course examines assessment techniques, perspectives, and strategies essential to the treatment of children and adolescents. It also includes the therapeutic relationship, assessment and diagnosis, evidence-based treatment, family systems perspective, and legal/ethical concerns related to working with children and adolescents. Public settings and treatment based on cultural awareness as well as the recovery/resiliency model are covered.

PSY 637 Cultural Competencies
Exploration of the role of culture in concepts of mental health practice. Students will examine how their own cultural background frames their understanding of themselves and others. Family heritage, culturally informed assessment and treatment, and the limitations of the dominant Eurocentric psychological world view to diverse populations is explored.

PSY 678 Clinical Biopsychology
This course explores the biological basis of human behavior as it pertains to professional counselors. An emphasis is placed on drugs used in the treatment of psychological disorders. Functional neuroanatomy and experience-dependent brain plasticity are explored.

PSY 679 Psychology of Trauma
This course is an examination of trauma with a focus on the sources of trauma and the distinctions between them. Relational violence is studied as a specific example of trauma. An emphasis is placed on empirically-based assessment and intervention of the different trauma-related disorders. Crisis counseling and multi-disciplinary treatment is also covered.

PSY 680A Counseling Practicum I
Prerequisite: PSY 61B with a minimum grade of S.
First of a two-course field practicum where students work as MFT or LPCC trainees. Students participate in an academic seminar for six months at the university. Students must complete a minimum of 125 hours of face-to-face work with clients at a clinical site. This class will meet outside of regular class hours.

PSY 680B Counseling Practicum II for MFTs
Prerequisite: PSY 680A
Second of a two-course field practicum where students work as MFT trainees. Students participate in a four-month academic seminar at the university. Students must complete a minimum of 100 hours of face-to-face work with clients in a community agency. This course will meet outside of regular class hours.

PSY 680C Counseling Practicum II for LPCCs
Prerequisite: PSY 680A
Second of a two-course field practicum where students work as LPCC trainees. Students participate in a six-month academic seminar at the university. Students must complete a minimum of 155 hours of face-to-face work with clients in a community agency. This course will meet outside of regular class hours.