

MASTER OF ARTS IN APPLIED CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

# Penn State BEHREND



**PennState**  
Behrend

An evidence-based practice degree that  
meets the requirements for professional  
counselor licensing and preparation for  
doctoral study.  
[behrend.psu.edu/gradpsych](http://behrend.psu.edu/gradpsych)

# Psychology scientist-practitioners have more career options.

The Master of Arts in Applied Clinical Psychology is a research-based degree with practical applications—and employment flexibility. A Penn State graduate degree in clinical psychology is attractive to employers and doctoral programs alike, and offers you more opportunity than a degree solely focused on counseling. Preparation for the Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) designation is an option for our M.A. graduates, and so are doctoral study, teaching, research, and mental-health administration.

This 48-credit program emphasizes study of the scientific bases of behavior, including biological, social, and individual causes and their correlates. The broad training model is oriented to empirically supported treatment and the development of assessment and intervention skills. In addition to course work, you will complete 100 hours of clinical practicum, 600 hours of supervised internship experience, and a master's research paper.

The degree can be pursued full time or part time and can be completed in two years of full-time, year-round study. As a Penn State Behrend student you'll have priority access to educational and research experiences with the college's Susan Hirt Hagen Center for Community Outreach, Research, and Evaluation (CORE) and Prevention of Aggression Resource Center (PARC).

With an additional 12 credits of course work and post-graduate supervised clinical training, you will be eligible to seek the Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) designation in Pennsylvania and most other states. As an LPC you can operate your own private practice, clinic, or treatment facility, bill insurance companies, supervise other mental-health professionals, and provide consultation.

The program's training in empiricism, scientific bases of behavior, and research methodology is consistent with the standards of the Council of Applied Master's Programs in Psychology (CAMPP), the American Psychological Association (APA), and the Association for Psychological Science (APS).

## ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID

### Admissions

To be considered for admission to the M.A. in Applied Clinical Psychology program you must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution under residence and credit conditions substantially equivalent to those required for Penn State Behrend's undergraduate degrees.

Admission to the M.A. program is granted jointly by The Graduate School of Penn State and by the School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

### Admission Requirements

Applicants must have completed at least 18 credits of course work in psychology with a cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 or above (on a 4.0 scale) in the last 60 semester hours, and also completed a statistics course and a psychological research methods course, both with a grade of B or better.

Penn State's online graduate application can be found at [behrend.psu.edu/gradpsych-apply](http://behrend.psu.edu/gradpsych-apply). In addition to the application form and fee, you'll submit two official transcripts from all universities attended (except Penn State); a two-page statement of interest; GRE scores; and three letters of recommendation. Current undergraduate students are required to have faculty within their academic school or major submit at least two of the three recommendations.

At this time, classes are offered only during the day and students must begin the program in a fall semester.

Questions about academic requirements should be directed to Program Coordinator Dr. Wilson Brown, [wjb172@psu.edu](mailto:wjb172@psu.edu) or 814-898-6936. For questions about the application process, contact the Office of Graduate Admissions at [PSBehrendACPSY@psu.edu](mailto:PSBehrendACPSY@psu.edu).

### Tuition

Current tuition and fees can be found at [behrend.psu.edu/gradpsych](http://behrend.psu.edu/gradpsych). For information regarding payment options, visit [bursar.psu.edu](http://bursar.psu.edu).

### Financial Aid Resources

Students enrolled in five or more graduate credits can be considered for the Federal Stafford Loan Program. The maximum amount a graduate student can borrow from the program each year is \$20,500. To apply, submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov). (Use FAFSA school code 003329.) For assistance with financial aid, contact the Office of Financial Aid at [behrendfinaid@psu.edu](mailto:behrendfinaid@psu.edu) or 814-898-6162.





The M.A. in Applied Clinical Psychology can be pursued full time or part time and can be completed in two years of full-time, year-round study.

### Optional Preparation for LPC Licensure

If you wish to prepare to become a Licensed Professional Counselor, you can seamlessly add a graduate certificate such as the Advanced Graduate Studies in Psychology: Applications in Clinical Psychology to your master's program. You'll pursue 12 credits of additional course work plus complete 3,000 hours of supervised experience prior to the licensure examination.

This certificate is treatment oriented and intended to prepare therapists with the skills to provide mental-health services to individuals and families coping with depression, anxiety, trauma, relationship and custody difficulties, inability to make decisions, or adjustment issues. Once you complete the certificate, you will have earned the 60 credits required for licensure in Pennsylvania and most other states.

### An M.A. in Applied Clinical Psychology makes it possible for you to work in

- Outpatient settings
- Inpatient settings
- Partial hospitalization programs
- Clinics
- Mental health agencies
- Human service agencies
- Community service agencies
- Colleges and universities
- Schools
- Prisons
- Consultancies
- Drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs
- Research laboratories

# The M.A. in Applied Clinical Psychology is a 48-credit program with an optional 12-credit certificate for Licensed Professional Counselor preparation.

The program can be pursued full time or part time. At this time, students can begin the program only in a fall semester.

## Psychology Core Courses

Psychology Core course work (23 credits) offers a foundation in professional ethics, individual differences and cultural diversity, the scientific bases of behavior, and scientific research skills.

### **PSYC 500 Ethics and Professional Practice in Psychology and Counseling (3)**

The standards of ethical conduct related to research and practice in psychology and counseling.

### **PSYC 501 Cultural Competency in Psychology (3)**

This course will familiarize students with the need for sensitivity to individual and group differences associated with culture and ethnicity.

### **PSYC 502 Applied Social Psychology (3)**

Examine social psychology's applications to health, law, interpersonal relations, environment, politics, and other social issues.

### **PSYC 520 Research Methods (4)**

Review experimental and quasi-experimental designs, program evaluation, between-subject designs, and intra-subject designs.

### **PSYC 521 Statistics (4)**

Discusses the nature, computation, computer analysis, interpretation, and APA-style communication of statistical tests. Prerequisites: PSYC 520 and satisfactory performance on a statistics proficiency exam.

### **PSYC 524 Biological Basis of Behavior (3)**

The biological determinants of behavior, including evolution, hormones, sensory systems, internal states, reproduction, emotions, learning, and memory.

### **PSYC 530 Research Paper (3)**

Supervised research in psychology for students nearing completion of their degree.

## Clinical Core Courses

Clinical Core course work (25 credits) provides a general background in clinical diagnosis, assessment, and interventions. Supervised experience allows you to develop the clinical skills appropriate for a master's-level practitioner.

### **PSYC 510 Human Growth and Development (3)**

Human development across the life span.

### **PSYC 517 Psychopathology (3)**

A broad look at psychopathology using an applied emphasis. Includes biological, social, cognitive, psychological, and neuropsychological approaches.

### **PSYC 518 Interviewing and Counseling (3)**

Basic clinical interviewing and counseling techniques from both the didactic and experiential perspectives.

### **PSYC 519 Theories and Models of Psychotherapy (3)**

Advanced psychotherapies and applications in diverse settings. Prerequisite: PSYC 518

### **PSYC 540 Group Interventions (3)**

Application of psychotherapeutic techniques in a group setting. Prerequisite: PSYC 518

### **PSYC 571 Tests and Measurements (3)**

Administration, analysis, and interpretation of psychological evaluation methods.

### **PSYC 595A Clinical Practicum (1)**

An interviewing and counseling practicum experience. Prerequisites: PSYC 500, 517, 518, and 519, and purchase of professional liability insurance.

### **PSYC 595B Clinical Internship (6)**

A supervised clinical experience in a community setting. Prerequisites: PSYC 595A and purchase of professional liability insurance.

## Courses for the Graduate Certificate in Advanced Graduate Studies in Psychology: Applications in Clinical Psychology

An optional 12-credit graduate certificate that meets the academic requirements to become a Licensed Professional Counselor.

### **CN ED 505 Foundations of Career Development and Counseling Information (3)**

Economic, psychological, social, educational influences upon counselees, and utilization of information systems to effect counselee change.

### **PSYC 515 Clinical Health Psychology (3)**

Wellness maintenance, early detection, and the impact of health care on individuals and the community.

### **PSYC 525 Forensic Psychology (3)**

Exploration of the social, cognitive, and civil and criminal issues related to forensic psychology.

### **PSYC 572 Neuropsychological Assessment (3)**

The biological bases of behavior, emphasizing brain-behavioral relationships and assessment of these relationships.

Additional program-specific information can be found in Penn State's University Bulletin, [bulletins.psu.edu/graduate](http://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate).

## For additional information about academic requirements, contact

Dr. Wilson Brown  
Program Coordinator and Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology  
[wjb172@psu.edu](mailto:wjb172@psu.edu)  
814-898-6936

## For admissions information contact

Ann Burbules  
Associate Director, Graduate Admissions  
[PSBehrendACPSY@psu.edu](mailto:PSBehrendACPSY@psu.edu)  
814-898-7255