

Department of Graduate Psychology James Madison University

Guide to Graduate Programs

James Madison University offers seven graduate programs designed for individuals who wish to pursue advanced training in psychology. These programs share the goals of academic enrichment, refinement of research skills, development of applied skills, and personal and professional growth. *Applicants are considered for one program only.* Applicants must select the graduate program that best suits their needs. The Department of Graduate Psychology is strongly committed to diversity by covering multicultural/gender issues in coursework throughout the curriculum. We provide practical experiences with clients from a variety of cultures and backgrounds.

Psychological Sciences

Psychological Sciences (M.A.) 36 credits

This program provides an opportunity for students to strengthen their theoretical and statistical backgrounds in psychology, acquire research experience, and prepare for further graduate study at the doctoral level. It can also prepare students for employment in psychological research settings.

Psychological Sciences Admission Requirements

- Completion of a baccalaureate degree with a satisfactory grade point average;
- Undergraduate course work in psychology, including at least one statistics and one psychological research methods course;
- Satisfactory scores on the General GRE, subject area GRE desirable (official score reports required);
- Three letters of recommendation from faculty members familiar with previous academic performance and potential for graduate work;
- Transcripts from all undergraduate and graduate programs attended;
- Completed application forms, including a statement of research interests, goals for graduate study and beyond, and how the Psychological Sciences program will help achieve these goals.

Complete application portfolios must be received no later than *February 1* for Fall admission. Applications are not considered complete until all of the above materials have been received. Please note: Applications are continuously reviewed, as soon as they are received, until the February 1 deadline.

The Psychological Sciences Program Committee reviews applications and notifies students of its decisions.

For more information, contact Sherry Serdikoff at (540) 568-7089 or email: serdiksl@jmu.edu. Additional information can also be found on the Web at: <http://www.psyc.jmu.edu>. For application materials, link to Other Helpful Links, Graduate Admissions.

Counseling Programs

Community Counseling (M.A./Ed.S.) 60 credits

This award winning and CACREP accredited program provides the advanced training necessary for licensure as a professional counselor. The program offers a unique blend of courses and experiences designed to promote professional development in the counseling field. Graduates find career opportunities in a wide range of community agencies, psychiatric facilities, and private practice. Both the M.A. and Ed.S. degrees are awarded at the completion of this program.

School Counseling (M.Ed./Ed.S.) 60 credits

This award winning and CACREP accredited program meets the license requirements for school counselors in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The program is structured to train students to become successful school counselors. Graduates are prepared to work in all school settings from kindergarten through high school. Both the M.Ed. and Ed.S. degrees are awarded at the completion of this program.

Counseling Programs Admission Requirements

- Community Counseling—18 hours of psychology or related behavioral science courses; School Counseling—18 hours of psychology or education courses;
- General GRE scores; the Psychology subject test is not required;
- Transcripts from all undergraduate and graduate programs attended;
- Three completed reference forms from individuals familiar with your potential for graduate work in counseling;
- A personal statement of at least 1,000 words describing yourself. Go beyond the grades, honors, and work record that you have already provided on the application form. Instead, share with us the personal qualities and life experiences that form your character. Tell us about the challenges you have faced, the dreams that you are pursuing, and the discoveries you have made. What would you contribute to our learning community? In what way have you felt called to become a counselor?
- Successful personal interview to assess abilities, characteristics and readiness for the program. This screening includes a group discussion with graduate students, interviews with the faculty, and a writing sample of your observations and reflections.

Complete application portfolios must be received by the School of Psychology no later than *February 1* for summer or fall admission. You will be selected for interviews based on your application materials. Interviews will be conducted in February. You will be notified of the committee's decision by early April.

Admission decisions are made by the faculty members of the Counseling Psychology Program Committee.

For more information contact Lennis Echterling at (540) 568-6522 or email: echterlg@jmu.edu. Additional information can be found on the Web at: <http://www.psyc.jmu.edu>

School Psychology

School Psychology (Ed.S.) 78 credits

Fully NASP accredited, the school psychology program prepares students to be interpersonally skilled, data oriented problem solvers who are able to provide a broad array of psychological services to children. An integrated theoretical orientation emphasizes understanding children and adolescents as part of a family, school, community, and culture. Students acquire skills in psychological assessment, consultation, counseling, applied research, and innovations in service delivery models.

The first level of the program includes basic psychological foundations and leads to a Master of Arts Degree (33 credit hours). Successful completion of the Masters Degree enables the student to apply for admission to the Ed.S. level of the program. A second year of coursework, in addition to a research project and a 10-month paid internship, leads to the Ed.S. degree. This degree enables the graduate to be employed as a certified/licensed school psychologist in a variety of settings, including public schools, mental health clinics, and other educational settings.

School Psychology Admission Requirements

- 18 hours of undergraduate psychology (behavioral sciences and/or education) courses including statistics;
- General GRE scores; the Psychology subject test is not required;
- Successful personal interview with faculty and students to assess abilities, characteristics and readiness for the program.
- A personal statement detailing goals for graduate study and how the School Psychology Program can help meet these goals;
- Three letters of recommendation from professors or other professionals familiar with your academic work and relevant experiences;
- Transcripts from all undergraduate and graduate programs attended.

Priority will be given to application materials received by *February 15* for Fall admission. Interviews are scheduled in March, and applicants are informed soon after the interviews of the committee's decision.

For more information contact Patricia Warner at (540) 568-3358 or email: warnerpj@jmu.edu. Additional information can be found on the Web at: <http://www.psysc.jmu.edu>. For application materials, link to Other Helpful Links, Graduate Admissions.

College Student Personnel

College Student Personnel Administration (M.Ed.) 36 credits

This program provides graduate-level training for persons interested in the administration of student services at institutions of higher learning. The program's link with counseling psychology provides opportunities for personal growth and the development of interpersonal relationship skills. Full-time students in this program receive graduate assistantships in student affairs.

College Student Personnel Admission Requirements

Minimum admissions requirements for entry to the College Student Personnel Administration program include the following:

- Completion of a baccalaureate degree with a satisfactory grade point average;
- Satisfactory scores on the general portion of the GRE;
- A personal statement and resume;
- Three completed reference forms from individuals familiar with the student's potential for graduate education;
- A personal interview and a screening session with the program committee.

Please Note! Application to this program should be made to the Program Coordinator. Contact the CSPA office at (540) 568-3705 or write to: Program Coordinator, College Student Personnel Administration, MSC 7608, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA 22807. Additional information can also be found on the Web at: <http://www.jmu.edu/cspa>.

Combined-Integrated (C-I) Doctoral Program in Clinical and School Psychology

The **Combined-Integrated (C-I) Doctoral Program in Clinical and School Psychology** is an innovative, applied psychology program that leads to the awarding of the Doctorate of Psychology degree and eligibility for licensure as a clinical and school psychologist. The C-I program is fully accredited by the American Psychological Association. It is specifically designed for students possessing advanced graduate degrees and professional experience in applied mental health fields such as clinical, school, or counseling psychology who wish to further their training and become leaders in the dynamic field of mental health.

The C-I program functions on a calendar-year schedule. Students begin in the fall semester and continue throughout the year, including summer semesters. Depending upon their background, students complete the course work portion of the program in either two or three years. Students must also complete a year-long internship and a doctoral dissertation. Internships must be approved by the American Psychological Association or meet the standards set forth by APA.

A limited number of full-time students are admitted each year. All students receive a full-time teaching or graduate assistantship that includes tuition.

Combined-Integrated Doctoral Program Admission Requirements

Admission to the Combined-Integrated Doctoral Program requires that applicants:

- have completed an advanced degree (MA/MS or Ed.S.) in Clinical, Counseling, or School Psychology or related field;
- provide general GRE scores (verbal, quantitative, and analytic) and advanced Psychology GRE scores (previous GRE scores may be accepted);
- submit a typed statement of professional goals;
- submit three letters of recommendation from professionals familiar with their academic work and relevant professional experiences;
- submit transcripts from all undergraduate and graduate programs attended;

- submit representative work samples of current skills (e.g. test reports, counseling summaries, etc.)

Five to seven full-time students are admitted each year. Priority will be given to application materials received by *February 1*, in anticipation of fall admission. Group and individual interviews with both faculty and current students to assess abilities, characteristics and readiness for the program are scheduled in February and March. All applicants are notified of admission decisions no later than March 15. Students offered admission are expected to reply no later than April 1.

The Combined-Integrated Doctoral Program exhibits strong commitment to diversity in the following ways:

- a required course specific to multicultural issues;
- multicultural/gender issues covered in course work throughout the curriculum;
- practical experiences with clients from a variety of cultures and backgrounds.

For more information, please contact Gregg Henriques at (540) 568-7857 or email: henriqgx@jmu.edu. Additional information can be found on the Web at: <http://www.psyc.jmu.edu/cipsyd/>

Doctoral Program in Assessment and Measurement

The vision of the Doctor of Philosophy program in Assessment and Measurement at JMU is to establish and maintain a national reputation as a valuable resource in educational outcomes assessment and applied measurement. As such, the program will help meet the growing demand for quality assurance and program accountability. To attain this vision, the mission of the doctoral program is to:

- Provide training for its graduate students that combines rigorous, theory-based coursework in assessment and measurement with extensive real-world assessment experiences. This training will prepare students to address the increasing external pressures for assessment data as well as the need for formative feedback for program development.
- Conduct high quality scholarship that will significantly advance knowledge in the fields of assessment and applied measurement and promote more effective assessment methods.
- Provide, both for JMU and outside constituencies, valuable service activities that promote effective assessment practice and contribute to the professional well being of the fields of assessment and measurement.

Assessment and Measurement Ph.D. Admissions Requirements

- Completion of an advanced degree (M.A./M.S. or Ed.S.) in psychology, education, statistics or a related field;
- General GRE scores (verbal, quantitative and analytic writing);
- Statement of interest in the program and professional goals;

- Three letters of recommendation from professionals familiar with the applicant's academic work and relevant professional experiences;
- Transcripts from all undergraduate and graduate programs attended;
- A current professional vita or resume;
- Representative samples of professional writing;
- Personal interview.

Four to six new students will be selected each year. Priority will be given to application materials received by February 1.

For more information, contact the Program Director at (540) 568-6706 or email: assessment@jmu.edu. Additional information can also be found on the Web at: <http://www.jmu.edu/assessment.htm>, or by writing to: Program Coordinator, Center for Assessment and Research Studies, James Madison University, MSC 6806, Harrisonburg, VA 22807.

Need More Information?

Call the Department of Graduate Psychology Office at (540)568-6439, or visit our Website at: <http://www.psyc.jmu.edu>