

Psychology (BA) and Mental Health Counseling (MA), Accelerated Program

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of this accelerated program is twofold: (1) to provide students with a strong foundation in concepts and research from multiple theoretical perspectives on behavior and mental processes, and teach students to think critically about truth claims involving behavior and reason and communicate scientifically; and (2) to provide students with the educational preparation – through a clinically focused experience aimed at building the knowledge, skills and dispositions/attitudes essential for mental health counseling practice – to qualify as a licensed mental health counselor in the State of New York.

ABOUT THE ACCELERATED PROGRAM

This accelerated program gives students the opportunity to complete both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in a five-and one-half year period, including January and Summer sessions. Students can graduate with a BA in Psychology, a MA in Mental Health Counseling (licensure eligible) and with advisement they can also complete the educational requirements to become a Certified Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC).

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Students complete most of the course work for the Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in Psychology in the first three years of study. In the fourth year, students take both Bachelors and Master's level courses to complete the credits required to earn the BA in Psychology. The graduate courses taken in the fourth year of study have been carefully identified as relevant to the psychology degree and at the same time are foundational classes for the Master's degree. With one and one half additional years of study, students may complete a Master of Arts (MA) degree in Mental Health Counseling. Upon completion of the master's degree, students will qualify to meet the examination requirement for licensure and apply for a limited permit to practice for a period of not more than 24 months, with potential for a 12-month extension request, while completing the 3,000 hours of post-master's supervised clinical experience that are required for full licensure.

This accelerated program requires the successful completion of a total of 169 semester hours of college course work. At the bachelor's level, students will complete at least 109 s.h. (105 s.h. must be in the liberal arts; 21 s.h. must be liberal arts electives taken outside the Department of Psychology), 15 semester hours of which may be taken at the graduate level that will be double-counted toward both the undergraduate and graduate degrees. In the last year and a half of study, 45 additional semester hours will be required at the graduate level for a total of 60 semester hours to complete the MA program.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR CURRENTLY ENROLLED HOFSTRA STUDENTS

Eligible Hofstra undergraduate Psychology majors may apply for admission to the accelerated program during their junior year and must complete 97 semester hours prior to enrolling in graduate course work. They must meet the following criteria for admission:

1. An overall GPA of 3.2 and a GPA of 3.5 in Psychology course work;

2. Successful completion of a minimum of 97 s.h. of undergraduate courses (at least 96 s.h. in liberal arts courses with an overall GPA of 3.2; a minimum of 12 s.h. must be in liberal arts electives outside the Department of Psychology);
3. Successful completion of all University requirements, including WSC 001 and 002;
4. Successful completion of all requirements for the BA, including distribution and language requirements;
5. Successful completion of all requirements for the Psychology major as specified below, with a Psychology GPA of 3.5;
6. An application to the MHC program;
7. Successful completion of 18 credits of prerequisites (see notes below);
8. Three letters of reference;
9. A personal essay outlining professional goals and objectives; and
10. Interview with the graduate program director.

Undergraduate students must apply and be accepted into the MA in Mental Health Counseling program before being allowed to take graduate courses as part of their undergraduate program. Students should apply to the graduate program, indicating the desired option, through the Graduate Admissions Office by March 1 of the year they expect to attend in September.

ADMISSION PROCEDURES

Sophomore/Junior Year:

1. Confer with Psychology Faculty Advisor to discuss your interest in the accelerated program (including the planned program of study) and to review and sign off on all required admission forms, including the Accelerated Application and Accelerated Program Waiver/Substitution Form. Contact Sr. Assistant Dean Nicolle Tumminelli (Nicolle.T.Tumminelli@hofstra.edu) for appropriate forms.
2. Once completed, submit all materials, including the abovementioned forms and all admission materials required by the graduate program director, to Sr. Assistant Dean Tumminelli. Additional admission requirements are:
 - a. Personal essay outlining professional goals and objectives.
 - b. Three letters of recommendation
3. You will be contacted for an interview by the Graduate Program Director.
4. If accepted, you will then receive a letter confirming your acceptance to the accelerated program from the Graduate Program Director.

Senior Year:

Once you successfully complete your senior year courses and your undergraduate program of study, you will receive an official acceptance letter from Graduate Admissions.

BA IN PSYCHOLOGY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Students admitted to this accelerated program will receive a BA in Psychology upon completion of the following requirements:

1. All BA requirements described in the Hofstra College of Liberal Arts and Sciences section of the online *Bulletin* (bulletin.hofstra.edu). In particular: Successful completion of a total of 124 semester hours, including 109 semester hours of undergraduate course work (105 s.h. must be in liberal arts courses; 21 s.h. must be in liberal arts electives outside the Department of Psychology) and 15 semester hours of MA in Mental Health Counseling graduate course work;
2. The specific major requirements described in the BA major in Psychology (bulletin.hofstra.edu).

MA IN MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Students admitted to the graduate portion of the accelerated program will receive a MA in Mental Health Counseling (bulletin.hofstra.edu) upon successful completion of the following requirements:

1. Completion of 54 credits of Counseling related coursework;
2. Completion of 6 credits of Internship;
3. Comprehensive exam.

Sample Sequence of Courses in the Accelerated Program

FIRST YEAR – Fall

Program	Course	Credits	Lib Arts
HCLAS	WSC 001 Composition*	3	3
HCLAS	SPAN 001 Elementary Spanish*	3	3
HCLAS	PHI 130 (HP) Bioethics: Medicine and Morality*	3	3
HCLAS	MATH 045 (MA) Elementary Set Theory, Logic and Probability*/ ** (see list below)	3	3
HCLAS	PSY 001 Introduction to Psychology*	4	4
		16	16

UG subtotal 16 16

**Note: to meet the PSY 040 prerequisite for Mathematics the following courses can be taken: MATH 008 (does not fulfill MA distribution), 040, 045, 050, 061, 061A or 071. May be 4 s.h. instead of 3 s.h.

FIRST YEAR – Spring

Program	Course	Credits	Lib Arts
HCLAS	WSC 2 Composition*	3	3
HCLAS	SPAN 002 Elementary Spanish*	3	3
HCLAS	WSC 132 (AA) Communicating Science in a Public Culture*	3	3
HCLAS	BIO 003 (NS) Biology in Society*	3	3
HCLAS	PSY 035 Psychology of Personality (PSY elective 1)*	3	3
		15	15

UG subtotal 31 31

SECOND YEAR – Fall

Program	Course	Credits	Lib Arts
HCLAS	PSY 040 Statistics*	4	4
HCLAS	ENGL 125 (LT) Psychology, Cognitive Science, and Literature*	3	3
HCLAS	SOC 104 (BH) Sociology of Health and Medicine*	3	3
HCLAS	SPAN 003 Intermediate Spanish*	3	3
HCLAS	PSY 153 Child Development (PSY Essential 1 elective)*	3	3
		16	16

UG subtotal 47 47

SECOND YEAR – Spring

Program	Course	Credits	Lib Arts
HCLAS	PSY 141 Research Methods and Design*	4	4
HCLAS	PSY 139 Abnormal Psychology (PSY Essential 2 elective)*	3	3
HCLAS	CRWR 132 (CP) Medicine, Mind and Matter*	3	3
HCLAS	PHI 014 (HP) Introduction to Ethics*	3	3
HCLAS	HIST 010 (HP) Introduction to Global History*	3	3
		16	16
UG subtotal		63	63

THIRD YEAR – Fall

Program	Course	Credits	Lib Arts
HCLAS	BIO 004 (NS) Human Biology *	3	3
HCLAS	CGS 010 (IS) – Introduction to Cognitive Science*	3	3
HCLAS	PSY 170 Clinical Neuropsychology (PSY Essential elective 3)*	3	3
HCLAS	SPLT 054 (LT) 19 th – 20 th -Century Latin-American Literature (Non-PSY LA elective)*	3	3
HCLAS	RHET 001 Oral Communication (Non-PSY LA elective)*	3	3
		15	15
UG subtotal		78	78

THIRD YEAR – January

Program	Course	Credits	Lib Arts
HCLAS	PSY 054 Adolescent Psychology (PSY Elective 2)*	3	3
		3	3
UG subtotal		81	81

THIRD YEAR – Spring

Program	Course	Credits	Lib Arts
HCLAS	PSY 199 Research Seminar: Clinical Psychology	4	4
HCLAS	MUS 004 (AA, CC) Music Around the World*	3	3
HCLAS	PSY 110 Principles of Learning and Behavior (PSY Essential 4 elective)*	3	3
HCLAS	ECO 007 (BH) Explorations of Current Economic Issues (Non- PSY LA elective)*	3	3
HCLAS	PSC 001 (BH) American Politics (Non-PSY LA elective)*	3	3
		16	16
UG subtotal		97	97

FOURTH YEAR – Fall

Program	Course	Credits	Lib Arts
HCLAS	HIST 020 (HP) Why History Matters (Non-PSY LA elective)*	3	3
HCLAS	CLL 054 (LT) The Oedipus Theme (Non-PSY LA elective)*	3	3
HCLAS	PSY 063 Psych of Aging or alternative course with Advisement	3	
HCLAS/HPHS	RES 258 - Understanding Research Methodology	3	
		12	6
UG subtotal		106	103
GRAD subtotal		3	
Total		109	

FOURTH YEAR – January

Program	Course	Credits	Lib Arts
HCLAS/HPHS	COUN 278 – Drugs & Alcohol Abuse (CASAC)	3	
		3	0
UG subtotal		106	103
GRAD subtotal		6	
Total		112	

FOURTH YEAR – Spring

Program	Course	Credits	Lib Arts
HCLAS	Non-PSY LA elective*	3	3
HCLAS/HPHS	COUN 223 - Theories and Principles of Counseling	6	0
HCLAS/HPHS	MFT 204 - Individual and Family Life Cycle Development	3	0
		12	3
UG subtotal		109	106
GRAD subtotal		15	

BA DEGREE AWARDED TOTAL 124

*Note: Asterisked courses fulfill the liberal arts requirement for a BA degree.

FOURTH YEAR – Summer I

Program	Course	Credits	Lib Arts
HPHS	COUN 261 - Understanding Psychopathology in Counseling	3	0
		3	0
UG subtotal		109	106
GRAD subtotal		18	
Total		127	

FOURTH YEAR – Summer II

Program	Course	Credits	Lib Arts
HPHS	COUN 230 - Advanced Counseling Skills and Strategies	3	0
		3	0
UG subtotal		109	106
GRAD subtotal		21	
Total		130	

FOURTH YEAR – Summer III

Program	Course	Credits	Lib Arts
HPHS	COUN 277 - Group Counseling	3	0
		3	0
UG subtotal		109	106
GRAD subtotal		24	
Total		133	

FIFTH YEAR – Fall

Program	Course	Credits	Lib Arts
HPHS	COUN 275 - Issues in Mental Health and Consultation	3	0
HPHS	COUN 202 Professional orientation & Ethics	3	0
HPHS	CMHP 246 - Appraisal and Assessment in Counseling and the Helping Professions	3	0
		9	0
UG subtotal		109	106
GRAD subtotal		33	
Total		142	

FIFTH YEAR – January

Program	Course	Credits	Lib Arts
HPHS	COUN 262 - Treatment Planning in Mental Health Counseling	3	0
		3	0
UG subtotal		109	106
GRAD subtotal		36	
Total		145	

FIFTH YEAR – Spring

Program	Course	Credits	Lib Arts
HPHS	COUN 270 - Social and Cultural Foundations in Counseling	3	0
HPHS	COUN 211 – Princ & prac of Addiction counseling (CASAC)	3	0
HPHS	COUN 253 Counseling Practicum	3	
		9	0
UG subtotal		109	106
GRAD subtotal		45	
Total		154	

FIFTH YEAR – Summer I, II, III

Program	Course	Credits	Lib Arts
HPHS	COUN 227 - Counseling for Career and Life Planning	3	0
HPHS	COUN 298 - Internship in Mental Health Counseling I	3	
HPHS	COUN Elective	3	
		9	0
UG subtotal		109	106
GRAD subtotal		54	
Total		160	

FIFTH (1/2) YEAR – Fall

Program	Course	Credits	Lib Arts
HPHS	COUN 299 - Internship in Mental Health Counseling II	3	0
HPHS	COUN 377 - Advanced Group Counseling and Leadership	3	0
		6	0
UG subtotal		109	106
GRAD subtotal		60	
Total		166	

Notes:

- Psychology, Counseling, WSC 001 and 002 and the Mathematics Distribution courses must be taken in the order presented. The other distribution and electives have more flexibility for the order in which they are taken, but the overall number of semester hours completed before Year 4 and the commencement of graduate classes must be at least 90.
- All requirements for an undergraduate degree with 124 s.h. (at least 105 s.h. must be in the liberal arts; 21 s.h. must be liberal arts electives outside of the Department of Psychology) as of the end of Year 4.
- Undergraduates will take 109 s.h. of undergraduate coursework and add 15 s.h. of graduate coursework to reach 124 s.h. total, to complete BA requirements.
- This program uses 15 s.h. of graduate courses to count as both undergraduate and graduate credit (COUN 223 6 s.h., , RES 258, MFT 204, and a COUN elective).
- 9 s.h. of prerequisites for the COUN program are satisfied with PSY 153, PSY 054 and PSY 139.
- 9 s.h. of corequisite counseling-related courses in the behavioral sciences are completed entirely within the Psychology curriculum: PSY 110, PSY 170, and PSY 199.