MASTERS PROGRAMS IN COUNSELING

INFORMATION E-PACKET FALL 2015 - 2016

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION (M.S.ED.)

WHO ARE WE?

- ⇒ **We are a Master's-level training program in Mental Health Counseling (MHC) and Marriage & Family Therapy (MFT)**
- ⇒ **We are at the University of Miami, Department of Educational & Psychological Studies, housed in the School of Education & Human Development**
- ⇒ **Our flexible course schedule accommodates a wide range of students, many of whom maintain full-time jobs while enrolled**
- ⇒ **We provide all necessary coursework and practicum training to pursue a license as a Mental Health Counselor or Marriage & Family Therapist**
- ⇒ **Practicum training is at our new, state-of-the-art clinic on campus, followed by guided placement in the Miami facility of your choice**

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide excellent training in your chosen program of study (MHC or MFT). Consistent with the mission statements of the University of Miami and the School of Education and Human Development, our goals are to educate and nurture students, to produce knowledge, to provide service, and to prepare the next generation of leaders, counselors, and agents of change and well-being in the community.

The Master's in Counseling program is designed to provide you with the academic preparation and practicum experience necessary for high quality professional careers in counseling and related fields. Our program aims to provide a broad, research-based understanding of human functioning; to promote the development of skills and behaviors essential for ethical and effective clinical work in diverse settings with diverse populations; and to facilitate reflective practice and professional development. Faculty members work from a variety of theoretical orientations, and you will be exposed to a range of perspectives in your academic and clinical work. We are committed to providing a collaborative training experience. We welcome students from diverse backgrounds and we strive to respect human diversity.

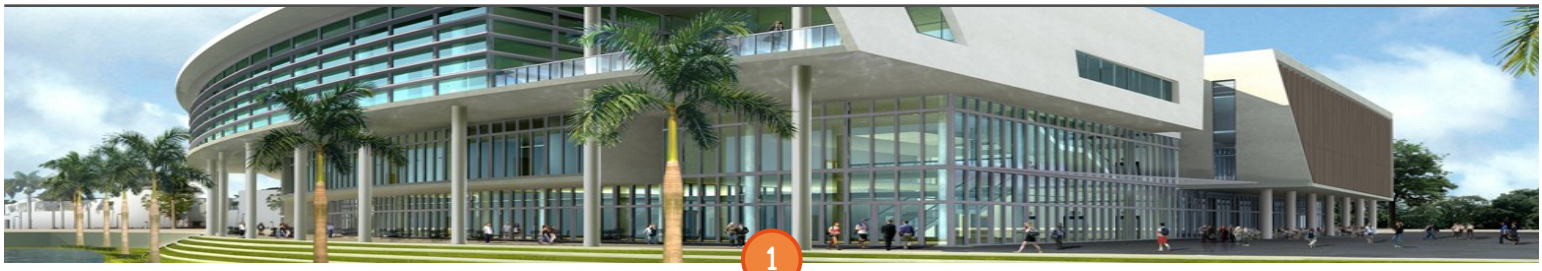
ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to offering high-quality training and education in clinical practice, our program also offers those students interested in continuing their education at the doctorate level the opportunity to gain valuable research experience by working with faculty members in our well-respected Counseling Psychology Ph.D. program.

THE LATINO MENTAL HEALTH (LMPH) CERTIFICATION

The LMPH **is** a 12-credit post-graduate certificate program. The program prepares graduate students and professionals to practice in a culturally responsive manner with Latino clients. Courses are offered in the summer months within an executive model format of intensive weekend sessions, allowing those working full-time or living outside of Miami to attend more easily. Participants are invited from within and outside of UM and do not need to be bilingual or Latino to complete the certificate,, though those interested in improving their Spanish have the opportunity to participate in a course titled, Spanish for Mental Health Settings.

For more information, please email Anabel Bejarano at: bejarano@miami.edu



MASTERS PROGRAMS IN COUNSELING

INFORMATION E-PACKET FALL 2015 - 2016

HOW ARE WE UNIQUE?

BY ANABEL BEJARANO, PH.D., PROGRAM DIRECTOR

When I consider what makes our program unique, as Program Director, many aspects of this program come to mind. I am proud and excited to share a few of these insights with you:

- **Small cohort:** We carefully select and admit between 20-25 students each year, to allow for close professional relationships, and small seminar-style classes.
- **Flexible schedules:** Students who wish to enroll part-time can choose 3- or 4-year options for completion. All courses are taught in the evenings (from 5-7:40pm) allow students to maintain other priorities, including families and full-time work.
- **State-of-the-art facilities:** Our students enjoy access to incredible University of Miami resources and opportunities including our state of the art training clinic known as The Institute for Individual & Family Counseling (IIFC), Student Activities Center, the Richter Library, and our ultra modern Patti & Allan Herbert Wellness Center.
- **Seasoned Supervisors:** Students are supervised by seasoned clinicians, most of whom currently maintain their own psychotherapy practices.
- **Diverse faculty & supervisors**: We ensure exposure to many counseling methods by pairing students with supervisors from diverse theoretical perspectives and doctoral-level instructors who are actively engaged in cutting-edge research.
- **Diverse training opportunities:** Our convenient location in the large, diverse city of Miami offers students a wide range of reputable outplacement practicum training sites.
- **Opportunities to specialize:** Not only do we offer tracks in both Mental Health Counseling and Marriage & Family Therapy as well as opportunities to focus training via outplacement sites, but I encourage you to explore our additional certification in the Latino Mental Health Program!

This is an overview of what our program, university, and beautiful city have to offer. While many more details are included in this packet, I encourage you to reach out to me, other faculty members, and students with whatever questions you have.

We hope you will find our program as exciting as we do and look forward to being a part of your graduate education & career!

Anabel Bejarano

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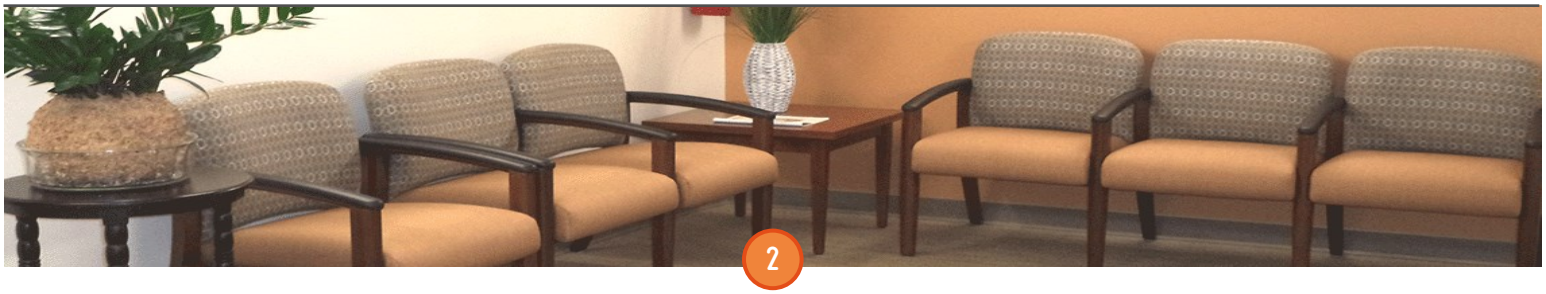


OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM & TRACKS

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Our program includes a range of interrelated objectives: to provide a broad, research-based understanding of human functioning; to promote the development of skills and behaviors essential for ethical and effective clinical work in diverse settings with diverse populations; and to facilitate reflective practice and professional development. Faculty members work from a variety of theoretical orientations, and you will be exposed to a range of perspectives in your academic and clinical work. We are committed to providing a collaborative training experience.

Diversity is a significant feature of the program, and is evident in the student body and faculty, the curriculum, the clientele of our practicum sites, the University, and the vibrant multicultural environment of Miami. The Counseling Program is one of the premier training programs for preparing ethnic minority mental health professionals. Students who are fluent in Spanish have the opportunity to obtain supervised experience with a bilingual supervisor. We are also one of only a handful of programs in the country providing training and certification in Latino bilingual and bicultural counseling.

All tracks provide students with in-depth didactic preparation, intensive supervised practice, and excellent research opportunities.

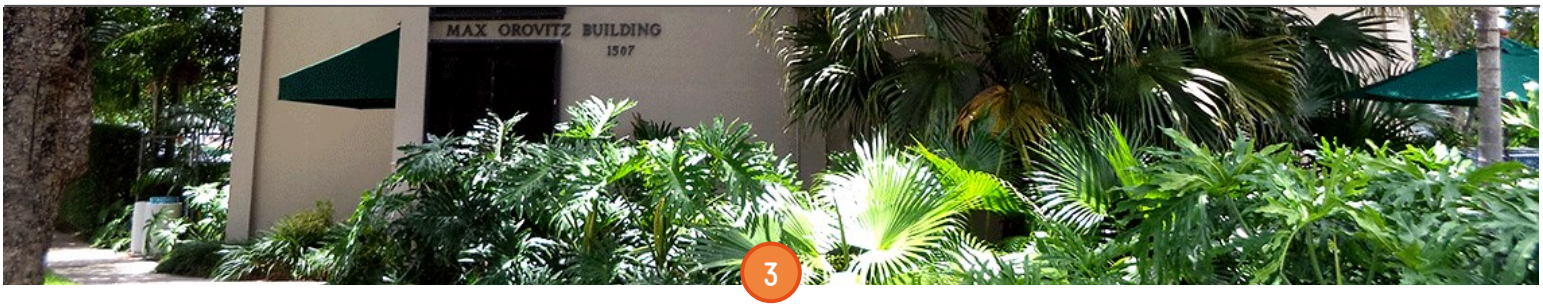
Our Master's Program is actively researching accreditation by the Masters in Counseling and Psychology Accreditation Council (MCPAC). We are not seeking accreditation by CACREP given that the focus of our program is on mental health counseling broadly defined, and lead by clinical psychology and counseling psychology trained faculty and supervisors.

MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

The Mental Health Counseling Program develops students' skills in assessment, prevention, and treatment of behavioral and emotional difficulties, as well as career and lifestyle issues. Mental Health Counselors assist individuals and groups in finding ways to lead more satisfying lives. The program allows students to meet the academic requirements for licensure as a Mental Health Counselor in the State of Florida. Licensure allows for the independent practice of Mental Health Counseling, including private practice or practice in mental health counseling agencies, clinics, hospitals, public and private schools, and a range of other settings. Many of our students also go on to obtain doctoral degrees in related fields.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY COUNSELING

The Marriage and Family Therapy Program prepares students to become therapists who will help individuals, couples, and families solve problems in the context of these relationships. The program meets the academic requirements for licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist in the State of Florida. Licensure allows for the independent practice of Marriage and Family Therapy, including private practice or practice in mental health counseling agencies, clinics, hospitals, public and private schools, and a range of other settings. Many of our students also go on to obtain doctoral degrees in related fields.



APPLICATION INFORMATION

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- ☐ **Completed online application**
- ☐ **$65 application fee (McNair Scholars and FAMU may contact Lois Heffernan at lheffernan@miami.edu for the code to waive this application fee)**
- ☐ **Personal statement & career goals**
- ☐ **Official transcripts from each college or university attended (mailed directly from respective institutions)**
- ☐ **Three recommendation letters from professionally or academically associated individuals (not from friends/ relatives)**
- ☐ **Official Graduate Record Exam (GRE) score that is less than five years old; please note scores take several weeks to arrive - more information available at www.gre.org)**
- ☐ **A current resume or CV**

INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

- ☐ **Certified, professional translations of transcripts not originally produced in English**
- ☐ **Official TOEFL or IELTS score report if colleges attended were in a language other than English. More information at www.miami.edu/toefl**

DEADLINES & INFORMATION

Our annual deadline for complete applications is **January 15th** before the Fall semester you wish to be enrolled. Please note that we **only have Fall admissions,** and an interview is a required part of our admissions process.

The application process is completely online, and all applicant-provided documents should be submitted within the online system. Official transcripts should be mailed directly from each college or university attended. GRE scores should be sent to us directly from ETS – our school code is 5815 and our department code is 2005.

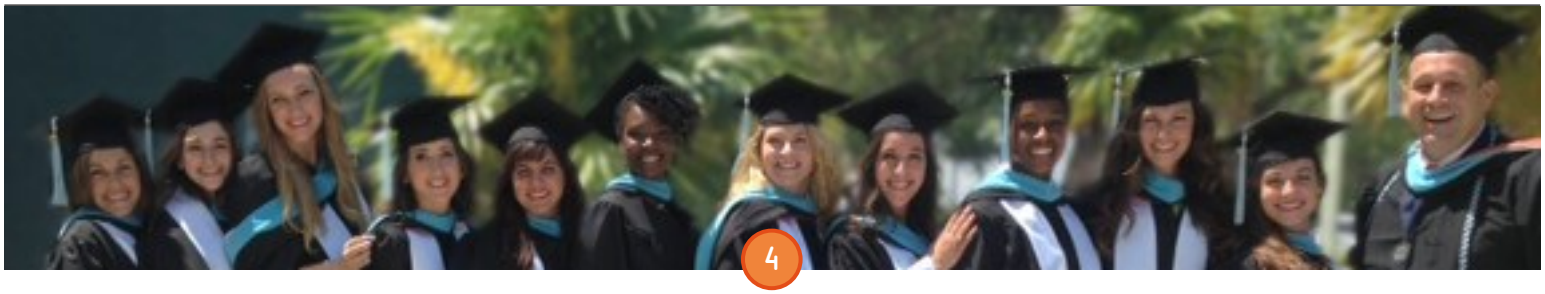
For detailed information about our application process, please refer to the "What to Expect as an Applicant" section of this packet.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Our primary goal is to prepare students for the many different professional opportunities available in counseling. We consider personal qualities and commitment to the field strong predictors of success and encourage applicants to clarify their personal interests and related experiences in the personal statement. Our ideal candidates express diverse insights from a wide range of backgrounds, but share an open-minded, self-reflective, and nonjudgmental approach to both their training and life experiences.

Successful applicants typically have: a GPA of 3.3; GRE scores of 153 (verbal), 144 (quantitative), and 4.0 (AWA); and prior coursework in psychology or a related discipline. They have strong letters of recommendation, primarily from academic sources, and demonstrate valuable experience and strong performance related to the broad area of counseling/helping professions. Previous experience in human service activities (whether paid or volunteer) is a plus.

Students embarking upon a career change are encouraged to describe their experience and path in the personal statement and may benefit from completing an introductory psychology course at their local college prior to enrollment.



WHAT TO EXPECT AS AN APPLICANT

We know applying to graduate school can be stressful, and encourage applicants to start early, ask questions, and refer to this packet frequently. The timeline below is intended to clarify our application process, but may vary for each applicant.

CONTACTS & RESOURCES

For questions about the program, please contact our director, Anabel Bejarano, at Bejarano@miami.edu
For questions about the domestic application process, please contact Lois Heffernan at LHeffernan@miami.edu
Email all application-related documents to Lois Heffernan at LHeffernan@miami.edu. **Do not send any inquiries or documents to the SOE email address.**

To schedule or view campus tours: http://www.miami.edu/admission/index.php/undergraduate_admission/visit/schedule_a_campus_visit/
For information regarding directions, parking, and accommodation: http://www6.miami.edu/visitum/VisitGuideSummer2012.pdf
For admissions, transfer credits, and financial assistance information: http://www.education.miami.edu/ProgramReq/ProgramRep.asp?ID=2&PgmID=20

APPLICATION PROCESS

GETTING STARTED	PERSONAL PREPARATION	Attending graduate school is a significant commitment, and all applicants begin by clarifying their personal interests. After identifying what you hope to experience and achieve in your graduate education, applicants should consider the benefits of additional preparation, such as a formal GRE or introductory psychology (if this is a career change) courses, so that they may plan accordingly.
FIRST STEPS FOR FALL	ONLINE APPLICATION	Applicants should first contact their recommenders. It is important that your recommenders have time to compose thoughtful letters, and it is often helpful to remind them of your interests and why you have chosen them to write on your behalf. Letters should be sent via our online application, which you may then find and begin at: http://www.education.miami.edu/program/Grad_Notice.asp
SEPTEMBER	GRE	Once you have decided to apply to graduate school, your next step is preparing for the GRE. Regardless of your process, it never hurts to register for an exam date that is early enough for you to reschedule or retake if necessary. Registration can be done at www.ets.org. This is also the site from which you will send your final scores directly to us via school code 5815, department code 2005.
OCTOBER	ORDER TRANSCRIPTS	Every institution is different – some are able to provide us with transcripts in a matter of days while others may take weeks or even a month. Just to be safe, we recommend ordering your transcripts as early as possible. Specific instructions should be available through your institution's registrar, from where transcripts should be sent directly to Lois Heffernan at the Graduate Admissions Office. If you have any questions about this process, she can be reached via email at LHeffernan@miami.edu.
NOVEMBER	REQUEST LETTERS	We hope that the process of writing your personal statement has helped you clarify your interests, goals, and reasons for applying to our program. Both this statement and clear, organized instructions about our application process and deadline will ease the process for your recommenders and highlight which of your many strengths & interests they should focus on. We suggest providing these before the holidays and at least six weeks prior to the deadline to give recommenders plenty of time to write thoughtful, positive letters.
JANUARY 15	DEADLINE	By now you should have submitted all of your material. We look forward to reviewing your application!
MARCH	INTERVIEWS	After reviewing complete applications, we will contact strong applicants to request an interview with a member of our admissions committee. Although we prefer to meet applicants in-person, interviews are also conducted by phone.
APRIL	OFFERS OF ACCEPTANCE	The results of your admissions request will be sent via email during the months of February through April.

INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

DUE TO ADDITIONAL PROCESSING TIME, INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY NOVEMBER 1

Our International students are encouraged to carefully review the guidelines provided at: http://www.miami.edu/sa/index.php/isss/

International applicants apply directly to our program. Those whose previous education was completed in a language other than English are required to provide test scores on either the TOEFL or IELTS, as well as official translations for all university transcripts.

To ensure the necessary requirements are met, please follow the guidelines included in this packet, and those provided by the Office of International Admission, which can be reached via email at intl.admission@miami.edu or by phone at (305) 284-2271.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM YOUR ACADEMIC TRAINING

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO BE A COUNSELING STUDENT AT UM?

Good question! We're often asked what courses students take, what outplacement is like, and other questions about students' experiences. We consider the opportunity to develop individualized academic plans an asset of our program. Many students follow 3-year, 4-year, or otherwise modified course sequences. We urge you to keep that flexibility in mind as you review the samples below. These are not proscribed plans, but are intended to demonstrate one way the required courses and clinical training can be achieved.

MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING COURSE SEQUENCE

YEAR 1

Fall		Spring	
EPS 513	Counseling Process & Practice	EPS 510	Professional, Legal & Ethical Issues in Counseling
EPS 514	Psychosocial Bases of Social & Cultural Diversity	Eps 511	Lifestyle & Career Counseling
EPS 526	Counseling in Community Settings	EPS 512	Assessment Strategies for Counselors
EPS 613	Psychopathology for Counselors	EPS 612	Counseling Theories and Practice

Summer I		Summer II	
EPS 505	Lifespan Human Development	EPS 614	Counseling & Sexuality
EPS 624	Theory & Practice with Children & Adolescents	EPS 610	Therapeutic Group Procedures

YEAR 2

Fall		Spring	
EPS 618	Practicum in Counseling	EPS 618	Practicum in Counseling
EPS 619	Practicum Laboratory	EPS 619	Practicum Laboratory
EPS 625	Research and Program Evaluation in Counseling	EPS 623	Substance Abuse & Addictions

Summer I		Summer II	
EPS 619	Practicum Laboratory (1 Credit)	EPS 619	Practicum Laboratory (2 Credits)
	3-Credit Elective (Taken at time of choice)	EPS 614	Counseling & Sexuality (If not taken Year One)

MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPY COURSE SEQUENCE

YEAR 1

Fall		Spring	
EPS 513	Counseling Process & Practice	EPS 510	Professional, Legal, & Ethical Issues in Counseling
EPS 514	Psychosocial Bases of Social & Cultural Diversity	EPS 512	Assessment Strategies for Counselors
EPS 515	Dynamics of Marriage and Family Systems	EPS 612	Counseling Theories and Practice
EPS 613	Psychopathology for Counselors	EPS 615	Family Therapy

Summer I		Summer II	
EPS 505	Lifespan Human Development	EPS 614	Counseling & Sexuality
EPS 624	Theory & Practice with Children & Adolescents	EPS 616	Therapy for Couples

YEAR 2

Fall		Spring	
EPS 618	Practicum in Counseling	EPS 618	Practicum in Counseling
EPS 619	Practicum Laboratory	EPS 619	Practicum Laboratory
EPS 625	Research and Program Evaluation in Counseling	EPS 623	Substance Abuse & Addictions

Summer I		Summer II	
EPS 619	Practicum Laboratory (1 Credit)	EPS 619	Practicum Laboratory (2 Credits)
	3-Credit Elective (Taken at time of choice)	EPS 614	Counseling & Sexuality (If not taken Year One)

NOTE: **The program is total of 60-credits, which includes the 15 practicum credits required for licensure. All courses are 3 credits unless otherwise specified.**

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM YOUR PRACTICUM TRAINING

Starting practicum is often the most highly anticipated part of counseling training and education. In developing our training process and opportunities, we aim to make this experience as beneficial and smooth for students with many different interests and goals.

Full-time students begin practicum during their 2nd year. All students participate in a full year of practicum training at both our on-campus community clinic, the Institute for Individual & Family Counseling (IIFC), and a pre-approved outplacement site of their choice.

THE INSTITUTE FOR INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY COUNSELING (IIFC)

The IIFC is the on-campus training clinic where all students in our Master's Counseling Program and our doctoral program in Counseling Psychology are supervised as they provide counseling services. Our Master's students complete 10 hours per week for one year at the IIFC. This includes 3 hours of supervision with seasoned, doctorate-level clinicians who are currently licensed and practicing.

The IIFC is a flexible training site and students are encouraged to establish their own, individual schedules. By granting this autonomy in scheduling, we are able to provide high-quality clinical training while accommodating students who maintain full-time employment or attend to other personal and professional commitments

The clinic serves the community, clients represent the diverse communities of Miami and its surrounding neighborhoods. The IIFC is a state-of-the-art training clinic, complete with digital video-recording equipment, one-way mirror therapy room, a play therapy room for child clients, and an urban, modern motif. Our graduate students run the clinic! They do everything from answering initial calls, making appointments, conducting intakes, maintaining a caseload of psychotherapy clients, and documenting their clinical contact with clients. All of these activities are supervised, of course.

For more information, please visit: www.umiifc.com

OUTPLACEMENT PRACTICUM TRAINING

Our Master's students complete a one-year outplacement practicum at an off-campus facility. They may complete this outplacement training during the same year they are at the IIFC , or they have the flexibility of splitting their practicum training over two years.

Obtaining an outplacement is a competitive process. Our students compete with each other, as well as with graduate students from other Master's programs in South Florida, for placements of their choice. It is completely up to the student to decide on the type of setting for their training, though we are here to assist them in making that decision.

We have affiliations with over 25 facilities including community-based clinics, hospitals with psychiatric inpatient units, research-focused centers, treatment centers for addictions, counseling centers serving the LGBTQ community, and more. Annually, we host an on-campus "Practicum Open House" when representatives from the facilities meet our students, as our students decide on sites that seem like a good fit with their clinical interests. Our students are typically highly regarded by our colleagues in the training community.