

## Clinical Counseling Psychology FAQs

### **Q: What is a full-time course load?**

**A:** Full-time students take 3 courses (minimum of 9 credits) per semester.

### **Q: How long does it take to complete the program if I am a part-time student?**

**A:** You are welcome to take courses as a part-time student. A part-time course load is 1 or 2 courses a semester. You can take up to 7 years to complete the program – that would be one course per semester.

### **Q: How quickly do students typically take to complete the program?**

**A:** Most students complete the program in 2 – 3 years. On average, students complete the program in about 7 semesters.

### **Q: Can I work while I take classes?**

**A:** Classes are scheduled during the late afternoon or evening to allow students to work while they are taking classes. Some students work full time, but it is very challenging to hold a full-time job while taking a full course load. It will be particularly difficult and stressful if you try to work full time during your internship.

### **Q: What are the requirements for practicum & internship?**

**A:** Practicum and internship is a 12-month clinical experience. You will enroll in the Practicum Seminar during the summer session. For your practicum, you will spend at least 10 hours per week at a community agency developing your counseling skills. For at least 40% of your time, you will provide direct counseling services to children, adolescents, adults, families, or couples.

During the fall and spring semesters you will enroll in the Internship Seminar. For your internship, you will spend at least 20 hours per week at a community agency. For at least 40% of your time, you will provide direct counseling services to children, adolescents, adults, families, or couples.

### **Q: Can I do my practicum and internship at the place where I work?**

**A:** Students are rarely permitted to do their practicum and internship in the same place where they work. The practicum and internship experience is designed to help you develop new counseling skills that will advance your professional development and career. You will get the full benefit of the practicum and internship experience by working with different client populations or problems.

### **Q: How large are class sizes?**

**A:** Class size will vary from as many as 25 students to as few as 5 students. Required courses may have as many as 25 students. Advanced assessment or intervention courses often have lower sizes – sometimes as few as 5 students. Practicum and Internship Seminar classes have 5 – 10 students.

### **Q: Are there opportunities to become involved with research?**

**A:** Yes. Several Clinical Counseling Psychology Program faculty have active research

programs, and you are welcome to work with a faculty member on his or her research. [Visit Faculty Research Page](#)

The program also has close ties with the Psychiatry Department at the University of Massachusetts Medical School and other agencies in the community, and there are opportunities to become involved in research projects off campus.

**Q: What are the licensure requirements?**

**A:** The licensing requirements for Mental Health Counselors include at least 60 graduate credits, with specific courses in 10 content areas. There are other requirements related to practicum and internship experiences. Students who possess a master's degree in Clinical Counseling Psychology with less than 60 credits would most likely have to take the additional coursework as part of a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study program (C.A.G.S.). When the Admissions Committee schedules a C.A.G.S. applicant for an interview, the Committee will review the transcript and make a list of courses the applicant would have to take for licensure.

**Q: Does the program offer fellowships or other forms of financial aid?**

**A:** Yes. Each year the program offers 10 Graduate Fellowships. Tuition waivers are granted for 30 credits. Fellowship opportunities are available to both new and returning counseling students.

A few other departments on campus offer graduate assistantships. [Click here for more information on student employment.](#)

**Q: What does a Graduate Fellowship do?**

**A:** A Graduate Fellow works closely with a Clinical Counseling Psychology program faculty mentor for 2 semesters on advanced psychological research. This experience is particularly beneficial for students who expect to apply to a doctoral program in clinical or counseling psychology, as recent Assumption graduates have done.

**Q: How do I apply for the Graduate Fellowship?**

**A:** To apply for a graduate fellowship, send a letter of interest to Dr. Leonard Doerfler by the [graduate fellowships deadline](#). The main purpose of the letter is to identify applicants who are interested in receiving a fellowship. Briefly describe any research experience you may have had, and/or your research interests. The letter does not need to be more than two or three paragraphs in length. All Graduate Fellowship candidates will be notified by the date outlined in the link above regardless of their semester start or returning date (spring, summer, or fall).

**Q: Is the program accredited?**

**A:** The program is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc. The American Psychological Association does not accredit masters programs.

**Q: If I am admitted, can I defer my enrollment?**

**A:** Students are strongly encouraged to apply to the semester in which they wish to commence their graduate studies. Due to the competitiveness of Assumption College's Clinical Counseling Psychology program and the limited number of students admitted each term, students can only defer their enrollment in the case of extenuating circumstances. Accepted students need to

request their deferral request in writing to the Program Director and submit an enrollment deposit by the stated deadline for deferment consideration.

**Q: I am looking to change careers. What should I do to be admitted into the program?**

**A:** Applicants who are trying to change careers are welcome in the program. In recent years, applicants who left careers in sales, business, law, nursing, or education completed the program and are now working as a counselor. If you have not completed 6 undergraduate psychology classes, you must complete these preparatory courses.

You are welcome to contact the Dr. Leonard Doerfler, Program Director, [doerfler@assumption.edu](mailto:doerfler@assumption.edu), to discuss your career interests and to request feedback about selecting courses to fulfill the admissions requirements.