Program Information

Is the program accredited by the American Psychological Association?
Yes, the program has been fully accredited by APA since 1996. We were revisited in 2014 and received reaccreditation for 5 years. Our next site visit will be in 2018.

Questions related to the program’s accredited status should be directed to the Commission on Accreditation:
Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation
American Psychological Association
750 1st Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002
Phone: (202) 336-5979
E-mail: apaaccred@apa.org
Website: American Psychological Association Website

Do you need a master's degree to apply?
No, we accept students with a bachelor's or a master's degree. Students entering with a bachelor's degree take approximately one extra year of coursework.

How long is the program?
If students enter with a master's degree, there are three years of coursework, a year of dissertation and a year of internship. If you enter with a bachelor's degree, you will have an additional year of coursework.

Does the program have any particular emphases?
Yes, the program has a very strong emphasis on training students to be multiculturally competent and to work with urban populations.
Program Requirements

How many credits are required for the program?
Students are required to take 21 credits of counseling psychology courses, 18 credits of practicum, 13 credits of statistics, 18 credits of psychological foundations, and 3 credits of urban ed/urban psychology.

I took psychology and statistics courses in my master's program, can some of those be transferred in?
Perhaps; often courses taken in your master's program may be transferred into the doctoral program, but not always. Final evaluation of whether they may be transferred is made by the Graduate School, the training director and the student's advisor.

I will be new to Milwaukee, how do I find a practicum site for the first year?
Once students are admitted to the program, the student's advisor and the training director will work with the student to find an appropriate placement for the first year.

What types of practicum sites are available?
Our students are placed in a variety of settings. All students must have one year of practicum at a site where they will be able to develop skills to work with urban and diverse populations. Available sites may be viewed on the link "Practicum Sites."

Are there research requirements?
Yes, consistent with our scientist-practitioner model all students are required to participate on a faculty member's research team for two years. Many students participate on more than one faculty member's team, and most students stay involved in research for the entire 4 years that they are on campus. Prospective students may view current research team activities on the tab "News and Events," and learn more about areas of faculty interest in the "Faculty Profiles" section.
Assistantships and Funding

Are assistantships available?
Yes, assistantships are available from the School of Education, as well as in other units on campus. In addition there are fellowships available through the Graduate School.

Are all students funded?
The program prioritizes funding awards with the newer students first, followed by the second and third years. Many advanced students - fourth year and up, choose to seek off-campus employment. Assistantship opportunities include: research assistantships to work on faculty grants, teaching assistantships, and project assistantships.

How much are assistantships?
In 2017-18, assistantship stipends will be $15,000 for 50% (20 hours a week) assignments. In addition, all students working 33% or more receive tuition remission (meaning that tuition is waived).

After applying to the Program

I know that internships are very competitive. How many students receive APA-accredited internships?
Students are required to secure an APA-accredited internship. We have enjoyed great success in matching our students with accredited internships. Since 1999, there have been 81 students who have gone through the matching process, and 73 of them received accredited APA or APPIC member placements; this is a match rate of 90%. The remaining 7 students (10%) completed non-accredited or non-member internships (prior to 2013), as such internships historically qualified one for licensure as a psychologist in the State of Wisconsin. Of the students who have applied for internship since 1999, 73 (90%) received paid internships.
Are students eligible for licensure as a psychologist?
Yes, the program is recognized by the state licensing board as eligible for licensure as a psychologist once they complete the doctorate and the post-doctoral hours required by the state (1,500 hours in Wisconsin) and successfully pass the national licensing exam and state jurisprudence exam.

How are advisors determined?
We assign students a temporary advisor when they are admitted to the program. Once they enter the program, students are free to choose a new advisor who will be the chair of their dissertation committee, or continue with their assigned advisor.

How much interaction and advising is there among students and faculty?
Students and faculty interact on an informal basis on research teams, on a more formal basis in class, and through advising. Many research teams present at conferences, and students have the opportunity to interact with faculty in these situations, as well.

How much interaction is there among students in the program?
The Counseling Psychology Student Association (CPSA) has monthly meetings, attended by most students not on internship. The CPSA has several social events a year, arranged mentoring for new students, and plans brown-bag presentations.

Do you need a master's degree to apply?
No, we accept students with a bachelor's or a master's degree. Students entering with a bachelor's degree take approximately one extra year of coursework.

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Perhaps, but not always. Often courses taken in your master's program may be transferred into the doctoral program. Final evaluation of whether they may be transferred is made by the Graduate School, the training director and the
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Is there someone I can talk to if I have any more questions? Certainly, please contact Stephen Wester, the training director at srwester@uwm.edu.