# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

**FACULTY OF EDUCATION**

# Department of Educational Psychology Master’s Program in Counselling Psychology Admission Criteria

Students applying for the Master’s Program in Counselling psychology must:

1. have obtained a four-year baccalaureate degree in psychology or education, or its equivalent, offered by a recognized degree-granting institution of higher education in Canada, a regional accredited institution of higher education in the United States, or a University in another country acceptable to the Admissions Committee.
2. have successfully completed at least 36 credits of undergraduate coursework in psychology (or educational psychology), including at least 3 credits of senior undergraduate coursework in each of the following areas:

* Biological bases of behaviour (e.g., physiological psychology, comparative psychology, neuropsychology, psychopharmacology)
* Cognitive-affective bases of behaviour (e.g., learning, sensation, perception, cognition, thinking, motivation, emotion)
* Social basis of behaviour (e.g., social psychology; cultural, ethnic, and group processes; sex roles; organizational and systems theory)
* Individual behaviour (e.g., personality theory, human development, individual differences, abnormal psychology).

Senior undergraduate coursework is defined as coursework that is not introductory in nature or content and typically begins with 3xx or 4xx in the course. Exceptional applicants who are missing no more than 6 credits of pre-requisite coursework may be admitted into the program on the condition that they complete additional coursework that addresses the deficiencies, as co-requisites to their Master’s program.

1. have acquired practical experience in the application of psychology (e.g., crisis line volunteer, youth worker).
2. provide three letters of reference; two of which must be from someone knowledgeable about the applicant’s scholarly abilities and potential, and one of which must be from someone knowledgeable about the applicant’s counselling abilities and potential.
3. provide a two-page statement of intent indicating general areas of research and applied interest, previous academic and practical activity, and plans upon graduation.

Admission decisions are based on 6 core criteria: (1) academic record, (2) depth and breadth of psychology courses taken, (3) relevant research and applied/volunteer experiences, (4) letters of recommendation, (5) quality of writing and statement of intent, and (6) overall match with program goals and faculty interests. Admissions are also based on inferred scientist-practitioner sensibilities. In other words, an applicant's interest in -- and awareness of -- the scientist-practitioner training model in counselling psychology, and one's commitment to balancing and integrating research and practice and monitoring one's development and effectiveness over time. Applications are reviewed by two faculty and rated on a 5-point scale. Those with the highest average ratings are considered for admission.

Students may apply to more than one program route. When doing so, separate application packages (fees, on-line submission, reference letters, etc.) must be submitted to be considered for admission to each route. Application fees are required for each application submitted. The statement of intent submitted with each application should address the applicant’s specific interest and suitability for either the thesis route or the course-based route.

**Master’s Program in Counselling Psychology**

**Supplementary Application Form**

Name:

Please check the appropriate box below for the Master’s stream you are applying to:

Thesis-Based Route  Course-Based Route

1. Undergraduate Degree:

University:

GPA (last 60 credits\* of undergraduate coursework):

GPA (all undergraduate psychology and/or educational psychology coursework): Number of credits of psychology and/or educational psychology courses completed:

1. At least 36 credits of undergraduate coursework in psychology (or educational psychology):

Please list all psychology courses below (please include any psychology and/or educational psychology courses you are currently registered in):

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| University | Course No. | Credits | Course Title | Year Taken |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

Of the psychology courses completed or in progress, at least 3 credits of senior undergraduate coursework in each of the following four areas:

**1. Biological Bases of Behaviour**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| University | Course No. | Credits | Course Title |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**2. Cognitive-Affective Bases of Behaviour**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| University | Course No. | Credits | Course Title |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**3. Individual Behaviour**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| University | Course No. | Credits | Course Title |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

4. **Social Bases of Behaviour**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| University | Course No. | Credits | Course Title |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

1. Please describe on an attached page any practical experience you may have in the application of psychology. Be specific about start and end dates, name of placement or agency, the nature of clientele and client concerns dealt with, number of hours spent in client contact, number of hours of supervision received, names of supervisor(s), etc.

\*University of Alberta credits. 3 credits represents one single-term course (approx. 39 hours of instruction). 60 credits represents 20 single-term courses.

The personal information requested on this form is collected under the authority of Section 33(c) of the Alberta *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to determine eligibility for admission to a course or courses in the Department of Educational Psychology. Questions regarding the collection or use or disclosure of this information should be addressed to the Associate Chair, Department of Educational Psychology, Faculty of Education, Room 6-102 Education North, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, T6G 2G5 Phone: (780) 492-5245 Fax: (780) 492-1318.

File ref: 380.6