



## GRADUATE STUDIES FACT SHEET

### CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

#### PSYCHOLOGY POST-MASTER'S LETTER OF COMPLETION IN CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH

#### PREPARATION FOR COUNSELING LICENSURE

Pennsylvania has adopted a law allowing therapists to be licensed as counselors at the master's degree level. This state law (Act 39) specifies a 60-semester-hour graduate training program, but allows for those who have graduated from a 48-hour program to apply for licensure provided they have taken the remaining 12 hours at an accredited institution of higher education. The Department of Psychology at West Chester University offers courses to help students meet the credit hour and content requirements; however, the department has no role in the administration or awarding of the licensure of professional counselors. Students need to be aware that the state of Pennsylvania, through its Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Professional Counselors, administers the licensure program. Moreover, appropriate course work is only one of several requirements for licensure. Official information regarding state of Pennsylvania requirements for licensure is available at <http://www.dos.state.pa.us/bpoa/LIB/bpoa/20/10/socwkbd-act.pdf> and <http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/049/chapter49/chap49toc.html/>.

#### PROGRAM AND COURSE WORK

The individualized post-master's program, culminating in a letter of completion, consists of a minimum of 12 semester hours.

The Department of Psychology's certificate program will allow students to obtain the

additional post-master's credit hours needed to fulfill the Pennsylvania state 60-credit educational requirement to be licensed as a professional counselor. The program is tailored to individual students based on their prior course work at the master's level and their interests. The admissions process includes the development of an individualized, planned course of study designed to allow students to complete course work in areas necessary to be eligible for Pennsylvania licensure as a professional counselor. Students, in consultation with program advisers, will select courses from the current graduate offerings in the Department of Psychology. Courses will be selected by examining students' master's degree programs and determining areas of need, based on the following licensing content areas:

- **Human Growth and Development:** studies that provide an understanding of the nature and needs of individuals at all developmental stages.
- **Social and Cultural Foundations:** studies that provide an understanding of issues and trends in a multicultural and diverse society.
- **Helping Relationships:** studies that provide an understanding of counseling and consultation processes.
- **Group Work:** studies that provide an understanding of group development, dynamics, counseling theories, group counseling methods and skills, and other group approaches.
- **Career and Lifestyle Development:** studies that provide an understanding of career development and related life factors.
- **Appraisal:** studies that provide an understanding of individual and group

approaches to assessment and evaluation.

- **Research and Program Evaluation:** studies that provide an understanding of types of research methods, basic statistics, and ethical and legal considerations in research.
- **Professional Orientation and Ethics:** studies that provide an understanding of all aspects of professional functioning, including history, roles, organizational structures, ethics, standards, and credentialing.
- **Field Experience:** Includes 100 clock hours of supervised practicum experience and 600 clock hours of supervised internship experience. The supervised internship experience shall begin after completion of the supervised practicum experience. (Note: These practicum and internship hours are in addition to the 3,600 hours of supervised post-master's professional counseling practice experience that the board also requires.)

Note: The Department of Psychology at West Chester University has no role in the administration or awarding of the licensure of professional counselors. Each student is responsible for ensuring that he or she has met all of the state's licensure eligibility requirements.

#### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants should submit the following materials to the Office of Graduate Studies and Extended Education:

- Completed graduate application, including written statement of professional goals (apply online at [www.wcu.edu/grad](http://www.wcu.edu/grad))
- Official academic transcripts from graduate college or university

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Write: Office of Graduate Studies and  
Extended Education  
McKelvie Hall  
102 West Rosedale Avenue  
West Chester University  
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-2943

Fax: 610-436-2763

E-mail: [gradstudy@wcupa.edu](mailto:gradstudy@wcupa.edu)

Web: [www.wcupa.edu/grad](http://www.wcupa.edu/grad)

Visit: [www.facebook.com/wcugrad](http://www.facebook.com/wcugrad)

*Or contact the department:*

Write: Graduate Coordinator  
Department of Psychology  
West Chester University  
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-2749

E-mail: [vjohnson@wcupa.edu](mailto:vjohnson@wcupa.edu)

Web: [www.wcupa.edu/\\_academics/  
sch\\_cas.psy](http://www.wcupa.edu/_academics/sch_cas.psy)

The Graduate Catalog is available online  
at [www.wcupa.edu/\\_information/official.  
documents/graduate.catalog/](http://www.wcupa.edu/_information/officialdocuments/graduate.catalog/).

## ABOUT GRADUATE STUDIES

West Chester University offers high-quality

graduate degrees in more than 70 disciplines or areas of study, as well as certificate and certification programs. The graduate studies program has grown remarkably since its introduction in 1960. West Chester University's program is the largest within the 14 institutions in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education enrolling more than 2,100 graduate students.

Programs can be taken on a part-time basis, and most of the graduate classes are scheduled during late afternoons and evenings for the benefit of in-service teachers and other employed persons.

## ABOUT WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

A regional, public institution, West Chester University of Pennsylvania offers high-quality undergraduate and graduate degrees, as well as certification and certificate programs, in more than 100 subject areas. As the second largest member of the State System of Higher Education, West Chester offers a full and rewarding educational experience as well as reasonable tuition.

With a rich heritage dating back to the 19th century, West Chester University was founded in 1871 as West Chester Normal School for the purpose of training teachers

for the Commonwealth's newly established public schools. In 1960, West Chester State Teachers College expanded its programs to include liberal arts and graduate degrees and, as a result, dropped "Teachers" from its name. In 1983, West Chester State College became one of the 14 institutions in the State System of Higher Education. Along with its university status, the school acquired a new system of governance and the opportunity to expand its degree programs.

Today, more than 15,400 graduate and undergraduate students, as well as 1,500 faculty and staff, study and work on the 406-acre campus. Situated in the Borough of West Chester, the campus is a picturesque mix of Gothic, Victorian, and modern architecture with pleasant, tree-shaded walks.

Strategically located at the center of the mid-Atlantic corridor, West Chester University is just 25 miles west of Philadelphia and 17 miles north of Wilmington, Del. The campus is convenient to major cultural institutions, recreational activities, and commercial businesses, many of which provide internship opportunities for WCU's students.

