



**Morgridge College
of Education**
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

2026-2027

Counseling Psychology
Student Handbook

Master's Program

The Counseling Psychology Student Handbook provides prospective and admitted students with policies and procedures to assist them as they progress through the requirements of Morgridge College of Education (MCE) degrees. In addition to this handbook, the student should also refer to the [Graduate Policies and Procedures](#) and the [MCE Policies and Procedures](#). In some cases, College and University policies take precedence over the regulations of the Student Handbook. It is the student's responsibility to read and understand University, College, and program guidelines relating to the degree programs, and to complete program and degree requirements in a timely fashion. The University of Denver reserves the right to make changes in the regulations, courses, rules, fees or other changes in this handbook without advance notice.

Inquiries concerning the [Counseling Psychology](#) department or its programs should be directed to*:

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Denver, CO 80208-1700

Phone 303-871-2509

mce.admission@du.edu

The University of Denver (Colorado Seminary) is an Equal Opportunity Institution. It is the policy of the University not to discriminate in the admission of students, in the provision of services, or in employment, on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital or veteran status, sexual orientation, or physical or mental disability.

Inquiries concerning allegations of discrimination based on any of the above matters may be referred to:

University of Denver Office of Diversity & Equal Opportunity

2199 S. University

Denver, CO 80208-4840

Phone 303-871-2585

U.S. Department of Education

Office of Civil Rights

1244 Speer Blvd. Suite 310

Denver, CO 80204

Phone 303-844-5695

For information on Financial Aid and funding opportunities, please visit the website for the [University of Denver Office of Financial Aid](#) and [MCE's Financial Aid & Scholarship site](#).

The Master's program is accredited via the University's accrediting body, the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (HLC-NCA). It is also accredited by the Masters in Psychology and Counseling Accreditation Council (MPCAC).

*Current students refer to faculty/staff contact listed within this handbook.

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Welcome!

Welcome to the Counseling Psychology (CP) program within the Division of Counseling & Psychology (C&P) in the Morgridge College of Education at the University of Denver (DU)! We are excited to work with you and grateful for the opportunity to be part of your journey. We believe that our program is special and hope that you will come to share that sentiment as you become familiar with our outstanding and committed faculty, rich opportunities for practical training in diverse educational settings, commitment to social justice in both our curriculum and our scholarship, and the supportive nature of our community. However, our program and Division wouldn't be what they are without our outstanding students. Our educational environment is composed of an exceptional group of engaged emerging scholars and practitioners, from across the country, who possess a strong passion for supporting those in need, removing barriers and providing data-driven mental health services within their communities. Relationships developed during your time at DU will be invaluable to your professional journey and will continue to reward you for years to come.

This handbook provides detailed information about the Counseling Psychology Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degree offerings and how to successfully complete your degree requirements. Please review all the information contained herein. The Office of Graduate Education at DU will use the course requirements outlined in the [Graduate Bulletin](#) when it reviews transcripts prior to graduation. **Students will want to work closely with their Counseling Psychology Faculty Advisor to ensure that all program requirements are met.** It is important to be aware, though, that students are ultimately responsible for knowing and understanding the contents of this Handbook, as well as the policies outlined in the [Graduate Bulletin](#) and the [MCE Policies and Procedures](#).

Please know that all of us in the Counseling Psychology program are here to make your academic experiences at DU worthwhile, intellectually challenging, and professionally gratifying. Speaking on behalf of the entire Counseling Psychology Faculty, we look forward to working with you!

Stacy A. Pinto, Ph.D.

Division Lead, Counseling & Psychology

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Program Summary

The Master's program in Counseling Psychology has two concentrations: Clinical Mental Health Counseling, and Research. Students are able to choose electives in specific areas of focus (trauma, modalities of psychotherapy, counseling in systems, health psychology, and multicultural counseling). Students develop basic individual, group, and career counseling skills. They also receive extensive training in basic counseling skills and receive on-site supervision at their practicum settings. Please see the appropriate sections regarding the required courses in the concentrations.

The 90-quarter hour Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC) concentration prepares students to apply for state licensure as licensed professional counselors (LPC) in Colorado. Most students complete the program in two years, including a required practicum and an internship. Students are responsible for knowing and understanding the licensure requirements for the state in which they wish to pursue licensure. Due to varying state requirements, the Morgridge College of Education does not guarantee that students will meet licensure requirements in other states, however the Training Director will work with students in their efforts.

The Research concentration is a 72-quarter hour Master's degree that prepares students for research-based careers in counseling as well as future doctoral work. In addition to core counseling skills courses, this concentration requires advanced course work in research design and statistics and the completion of a Master's thesis. This degree does not lead to licensure.

Program Mission

The Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology program prepares ethically grounded, culturally responsive counselors committed to advancing access, equity, and holistic mental health care. Aligned with MPCAC standards, the program integrates rigorous academic training, evidence-based practice, and experiential learning in diverse community settings. Through the integration of research and clinical practice, students develop strong professional identities and clinical competence, preparing them for effective practice and advanced doctoral study.

Program Objectives

1. Ethical & Professional Identity Development – Students will demonstrate competency in ethical decision-making consistent with current relevant state statutes and professional organization ethical codes and expectations.
2. Cultural Responsiveness & Social Justice Competence – Students demonstrate multicultural and social justice counseling competencies in coursework and clinical placements, toward addressing systemic inequities and effectively serving diverse populations.
3. Evidence-Based Clinical Competence – Students will demonstrate proficiency in case conceptualization, assessment, and intervention grounded in empirical research.
4. Research Integration and Data-Informed Practice – Students will demonstrate competence in evaluating and applying research to clinical practice through coursework, programmatic research opportunities, and supervised clinical experience.
5. Career Preparation – Students will demonstrate readiness to pursue licensure and/or doctoral study, engage in professional environments, and contribute to the field through professional organizations and community engagement.

COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY FACULTY & STAFF

General Program Contact Information

** Holds both a program administrative role and serves as CP Core Faculty*

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WHAT STUDENTS CAN EXPECT

The Master of Arts (M.A.) program offers two areas of concentration. Each of these areas includes courses to help develop your individual, group and career counseling skills. Students in the Research concentration will complete 72 quarter credit hours. In addition to courses in research design and statistics, students will complete a supervised practicum and have the option of completing a thesis. This concentration does not lead to eligibility for licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor.

The Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC) concentration has been designed to meet the requirements for those who desire to become a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC). This concentration requires 90 quarter credit hours. In addition to courses in counseling, assessment, diversity and social justice issues, you will complete a supervised practicum and internship. Students who complete this program and after two years of post-Master's work in the field may apply to become a Licensed Professional Counselor in the State of Colorado.

The process of entering a graduate program can be equally exciting and challenging. Students are encouraged to use supports within and outside of the program as they complete their degree. It is also important that students be aware of and assess their limits, engage in self-care, and maintain their ethical responsibility to sustain a level of wellness necessary to effectively help clients (ACA, 2014).

COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY VALUES¹

Over the years, counseling psychologists have engaged in thoughtful and ongoing dialogue regarding the qualities that characterize Counseling Psychology as a specialty (Gelso & Fretz, 2001; Rude, Weissberg, & Gazda, 1988; Whiteley, 1984). The study and practice of career development and counseling, systematic training in interpersonal skills, and the provision of preventive, remedial, and educational interventions have historically been employed as prominent descriptors of Counseling Psychology. In addition, Counseling Psychology as a field has emphasized attention to issues of cultural and individual diversity, serving as leaders in the creation and adoption of several sets of APA guidelines related to diversity in professional practice, including the Multicultural Guidelines on Education, Training, Research, Practice and Organizational Change the Guidelines for Psychotherapy with Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Clients, The Guidelines for Psychological Practice with Older Adults, practice guidelines in process for girls and women, boys and men, and those for other groups that may be addressed in the future (APA, 2004, 2003; Division 44/Committee on Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Concerns Joint Task Force on Professional Practice 2000). The integration of theory, research, and practice and respect for diversity has been emphasized since the inception of Counseling Psychology as a specialty field.

Throughout this dialogue a consensus has emerged that the field of Counseling Psychology is best defined by its distinctive philosophical perspective, reflected in our model, rather than

¹ Downloaded on August 1, 2010 from page 5 of the training director from the [CCPTP](#) website.

by particular settings or clients served. Gelso and Fretz (2001) proposed unifying themes of Counseling Psychology, which were embellished by the Council of Counseling Psychology Training Programs. These philosophical themes are (a) a focus on working within a developmental framework across a wide range of psychological functioning; (b) a focus on assets and strengths, regardless of level of functioning; (c) the inclusion of relatively brief counseling approaches; (d) an emphasis on person-environment interactions, rather than an exclusive focus on either person or environment; (e) an emphasis on prevention, including psycho-educational interventions; (f) emphasis on the educational and vocational lives of individuals; (g) a strong commitment to attending to issues of culture, race, and ethnicity, as well as other areas of individual diversity such as gender, age, ability, socioeconomic status and sexual orientation; and (h) evaluation and improvement through critical thinking and a commitment to the scientific approach.

Attention to life-span development and transitions has traditionally been and remains a critical element in the practice of Counseling Psychology. Developmental issues are approached from two major perspectives: (a) the need to anticipate typical or normative problems associated with the full range of development in the design of educational and preventive measures; and (b) the need to take into account developmental differences in the design and application of Counseling Psychology interventions for the treatment of adjustment and remedial problems. Understanding both types of problems requires awareness of the developmental background, predisposing conditions, and critical person-environment interactions that influence behavior.

The broadening of the developmental focus to encompass the entire life span has brought about changes in how counseling psychologists understand the emphases and boundaries of their specialty. Consequently, the focus of research and training has expanded to include a wider range of preventive and remedial interventions than was characteristic of Counseling Psychology in its formative years.

Counseling Psychology's developmental and adaptive orientation necessitates an understanding of normal as well as abnormal human development, from individual, couples, family, group, systems, and organizational perspectives. This developmental framework promotes the integration of theory, research, and practice across the content areas of Counseling Psychology. Counseling Psychology promotes the optimal development of individuals, families, groups, and environmental systems from a culture-centered perspective.

Counseling Psychology Values Statement Addressing Diversity²

The Counseling Psychology program at the University of Denver adheres to the values and ethics put forward by the American Psychological Association. Students are expected to adhere to the highest professional and ethical standards. Upon entry into the program students are expected to become familiar with the [American Psychological Association and American Counseling Association Codes of Ethics](#).

² This document was endorsed by the Association of Counseling Center Training Agencies (ACCTA), the Council of Counseling Psychology Training Programs (CCPTP), and the Society of Counseling Psychology (SCP) in August of 2006.

Respect for diversity and for values different from one's own is a central value of Counseling Psychology training programs. The appreciation of diversity is also consistent with the profession of psychology as mandated by the American Psychological Association's *Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct* (2002) and as discussed in the *Guidelines and Principles of Programs in Professional Psychology* (APA, 2005). More recently, there has been a call for counseling psychologists to actively work and advocate for social justice and to prevent further oppression in society. Counseling psychologists provide services, teach, and/or engage in research with or pertaining to members of social groups that have often been devalued, viewed as deficient, or otherwise marginalized in the larger society.

Academic training programs, internships that employ counseling psychologists and espouse counseling values, and post-doc training programs (herein "training programs") in Counseling Psychology exist within multicultural communities that contain people of diverse racial, ethnic, and class backgrounds; national origins; religious, spiritual and political beliefs; physical abilities; ages; genders; gender identities, sexual orientations, and physical appearance. Counseling psychologists believe that training communities are enriched by members' openness to learning about others who are different from them as well as the acceptance of others. Internship trainers, professors, practicum supervisors (herein "trainers") and students and interns (herein "trainees") agree to work together to create training environments that are characterized by respect, safety, and trust. Further, trainers and trainees are expected to be respectful and supportive of all individuals, including, but not limited to clients, staff, peers, and research participants.

Trainers recognize that no individual is completely free from all forms of bias and prejudice. Furthermore, it is expected that each training community will evidence a range of attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors. Nonetheless, trainees and trainers in Counseling Psychology training programs are expected to be committed to the social values of respect for diversity, inclusion, and equity. Further, trainees and trainers are expected to be committed to critical thinking and the process of self-examination so that such prejudices or biases (and the assumptions on which they are based) may be evaluated in light of available scientific data, standards of the profession, and traditions of cooperation and mutual respect. Thus, trainees and trainers are asked to demonstrate a genuine desire to examine their own attitudes, assumptions, behaviors, and values and to learn to work effectively with "cultural, individual, and role differences including those based on age, gender, gender identity, race, ethnicity, culture, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, language, and socioeconomic status" (APA Ethics Code, 2002, Principle E, p. 1063). Stated simply, both trainers and trainees are expected to demonstrate a willingness to examine their personal values, and to acquire and utilize professionally relevant knowledge and skills regardless of their beliefs, attitudes, and values.

Trainers will engage trainees in a manner inclusive and respectful of their multiple cultural identities. Trainers will examine their own biases and prejudices in the course of their interactions with trainees so as to model and facilitate this process for their trainees. Trainers will provide equal access, opportunity, and encouragement for trainees inclusive of their multiple cultural identities. Where appropriate, trainers will also model the processes of

personal introspection in which they desire trainees to engage. As such, trainers will engage in and model appropriate self-disclosure and introspection with their trainees. This can include discussions about personal life experiences, attitudes, beliefs, opinions, feelings, and personal histories. Assuming no one is free from biases and prejudices, trainers will remain open to appropriate challenges from trainees to their held biases and prejudices. Trainers are committed to lifelong learning relative to multicultural competence.

Counseling Psychology training programs believe providing experiences that call for trainees to self-disclose and personally introspect about personal life experiences is an essential component of the training program. Specifically, while in the program trainees will be expected to engage in self-reflection and introspection on their attitudes, beliefs, opinions, feelings and personal history. Trainees will be expected to examine and attempt to resolve any of the above to eliminate potential negative impact on their ability to perform the functions of a psychologist, including but not limited to providing effective services to individuals from cultures and with beliefs different from their own and in accordance with APA guidelines and principles.

The APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct (2010), regarding self-disclosure, states:

7.04 Student Disclosure of Personal Information

Psychologists do not require students or supervisees to disclose personal information in course- or program-related activities, either orally or in writing, regarding sexual history, history of abuse and neglect, psychological treatment, and relationships with parents, peers, and spouses or significant others except if (1) the program or training facility has clearly identified this requirement in its admissions and program materials or (2) the information is necessary to evaluate or obtain assistance for students whose personal problems could reasonably be judged to be preventing them from performing their training- or professionally related activities in a competent manner or posing a threat to the students or others.

NOTE: Because of the nature of the program and its relevance to Counseling Psychology we often require self-disclosure and introspection of our students while in the program as it relates to being a professional counselor.

Members of the training community are committed to educating each other on the existence and effects of racism, sexism, ageism, heterosexism, religious intolerance, and other forms of invidious prejudice. Evidence of bias, stereotyped thinking, and prejudicial beliefs and attitudes will not go unchallenged, even when such behavior is rationalized as being a function of ignorance, joking, cultural differences, or substance abuse. When these actions result in physical or psychological abuse, harassment, intimidation, substandard psychological services or research, or violence against persons or property, members of the training community will intervene appropriately.

In summary, all members of Counseling Psychology training communities are committed to a training process that facilitates the development of professionally relevant knowledge and skills focused on working effectively with all individuals inclusive of demographics, beliefs, attitudes, and values. Members agree to engage in a mutually supportive process that examines the effects of one's beliefs, attitudes, and values on one's work with all clients. Such training processes are consistent with Counseling Psychology's core values, respect for diversity and for values similar and different from one's own.

This commitment to diversity is not only consistent with the Society of Counseling Psychology, but within our own University's mission for Multicultural Excellence.

COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

The University of Denver's [Graduate Bulletin](#) contains the official and most current course descriptions. Examples are included below.

CNP 4740: Basic Counseling Techniques, offered during Fall quarter, has a lab requirement for meeting **outside of class** in addition to the lecture time. Triads (lab) meet individually on a weekly basis for two hours to practice techniques and meet with a T.A. to record and review sessions.

CNP 4741: Intermediate Counseling Techniques, offered during Winter quarter, also has a two-hour lab requirement **outside of class** with weekly triad meetings in addition to the lecture time. Students will role play as counselor for some sessions and as client for others. Sessions are recorded and students will meet with a T.A. to review those sessions in which they were the counselor.

CNP 4750/4751: Beginning Practicum & MA Internship requires that students receive additional consultation from their course instructor outside of class. Students should plan on having separate meetings for this individual consultation.

COURSEWORK PLANS

The most up-to-date Sample Course Sequences can be found on the [Counseling Psychology website](#).

When filling out the coursework plan, students will indicate which quarter of which year they will take/have taken each course.

The Coursework Plan provides the student with an opportunity to design their course of study to meet the degree requirements. This plan enables the student to develop a schedule for taking courses and the practicum/internship, etc. The annual University of Denver class schedule is available online through the [Registrar's website](#). By conferring with their faculty advisor, each student will be able to work out a course plan to complete degree

requirements. It is the student's responsibility to meet with a faculty advisor during the first quarter of study to ensure an understanding of degree requirements and to secure the advisor's signature on the initial plan. The Coursework Plan becomes part of the student's official file. It may be amended or changed; however, the faculty advisor must approve all changes to the Coursework Plan. Any waiver or substitution of a required course must be approved by the student's advisor and a [Course Substitution or Waiver form](#) must accompany the Coursework Plan. A blank Coursework Plan is provided on the [Counseling Psychology website](#) and must be completed electronically, signed by both the student and advisor, and filed with the Counseling Psychology Department Academic Services Coordinator before the end of the first quarter of enrollment.

A student's Coursework Plan serves as a legal document at graduation time. The Academic Services Coordinator checks it against the student's transcript, making sure that the student has taken the classes that are listed on the Coursework Plan. Thus, the Coursework Plan should remain a living document and be updated as necessary by the student and advisor.

Waiver or Substitution of Courses

If the faculty advisor and student determine that the student has previously completed course work required for the degree, the student may request a waiver or substitution by completing the form found [here](#). The student must submit the syllabi and other supporting documentation (e.g., transcript) in order for the faculty advisor to review. The Counseling Psychology Division Lead will also need to sign off on the waiver. At times, the faculty advisor may consult with other instructors to ensure the substituted course is of similar scope and quality. Under no circumstance will the waiver or substitution of a course(s) reduce the number of credits required for the degree. Substitutions must be clearly indicated on the signed Coursework Plan.

Transfer of Credit

Degree-seeking MCE students may request to transfer a limited number of credits that have not already been counted toward a previous or concurrent degree. Transfer credit toward a Master's degree is limited to 25% of the minimum number of credits required for the credential. Refer to specific criteria in the [Office of Graduate Education Policy Manual](#). Requests for transfer credits must be approved during the first quarter of attendance as a degree-seeking student. The student, with the support of the faculty advisor, will initiate a request to transfer-in credits by completing the form found [here](#). This form must be signed by both the faculty advisor and the Counseling Psychology Division Lead.

Non-MCE Courses

Degree-seeking students in the MCE are sometimes advised to take classes in other units on campus to complement the course work completed within the college. Please note that courses taken at University College will not be counted as part of the degree unless the course has been approved by the advisor, and has been approved in writing by the MCE Associate Dean. Written approval, signed by both the advisor and the Associate Dean must be obtained prior to taking the course, and submitted with a revised Coursework Plan to the Counseling Psychology Department Academic Services Coordinator.

Other Notes:

1. By the end of the first quarter of the program, students must file their Coursework Plan via the [Counseling Psychology Canvas page](#). Coursework Plans are coordinated with the student's advisor. Note that Coursework Plans may change and can be updated regularly. However, by the final quarter in the program, students' Coursework Plans should accurately reflect the courses they have taken and the quarters they completed them. The final Coursework Plan must be signed by the student's advisor. **Consultation with your advisor should take place quarterly.**
2. All courses taken for elective credit must be approved by the student's advisor. Any elective options from departments or programs outside of Counseling Psychology must be related to your degree program (e.g., psychology, social work) and either broaden or deepen your knowledge about specific related subjects.
Sample Elective Courses: Health Disparities, Health Psychology, Introduction to Integrated Healthcare, Motivational Interviewing, Counseling Addictive Behaviors, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Introduction to Psychodynamic Theory, Existential and Humanistic Theories, Human Sexuality, LGBTQ Counseling, Family Counseling, Couples Counseling, Weight Stigma, Eating Disorders, Grief and Loss
3. Courses are typically offered in a designated quarter. The program is designed to be sequential and graded in complexity. A few electives may only be taught once a year or every two years. Thus, when students are planning their schedule, it is helpful to consult the *Sample Plan of Study* listed in this handbook under the Master's program section that relates to their specific concentration. Students should be advised, however, that the timing of some course offerings can, and do, change. When in doubt, students should **check with their advisor** and not depend on word of mouth from students from prior years. Some things change from year to year. A non-exhaustive list of elective courses offered in the Counseling Psychology program is provided above. Note that courses on this list are not necessarily offered every year. Students should consult with their advisor on elective course offerings.
4. Please note that students must pass CNP 4740: Basic Counseling Techniques, with a C- or higher in order to take CNP 4741: Intermediate Counseling Techniques, CNP 4750: Beginning Practicum, or CNP 4755: M.A. Clinic. Students must pass CNP 4795: MA Counseling Legal/Ethical Issues and CNP 4741: Intermediate Counseling Techniques with a C- or higher to take CNP 4750: Beginning Practicum or CNP 4755: M.A. Clinic. In order to take CNP 4751: MA Internship, students must pass CNP 4750: Beginning Practicum, with a C- or higher. In order to take CNP 4772, the variable credit Diversity class, students must pass CNP 4773, the five-hour Diversity class with a C- or higher.
5. Incompletes are assigned when there is good reason that coursework can not be completed in the given quarter. The incomplete is replaced with the actual grade once all coursework is completed. [Complete information on the University policy for Incomplete grades.](#)

MASTER'S PROGRAM WITH A CONCENTRATION IN CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING (90 credits)

The Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC) concentration has been designed to meet the requirements for those who desire to become a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC). Students who complete this program and after two years of post-Master's work in the field may apply to become a Licensed Professional Counselor in the State of Colorado. **Other states may have other requirements.** This program requires two years and 90 quarter credits. It also includes a 150-hour practicum and a 600-hour internship. Students should refer to the Practicum and Internship Packet for guidance on program requirements, policies, and procedures related to practicum and internship training. **Students are required to meet with their advisors before submitting their course plans. Students must pass comprehensive exams as a condition for graduation.**

M.A. Clinic must be taken for two **consecutive** quarters and occurs in Winter-Spring or Summer-Fall quarters. M.A. Clinic assignments are made by the Counseling and Educational Services Clinic Director.

Clinical Mental Health Counseling Concentration Sample Plans of Study **(90 credit hours)**

Students are expected to take certain course work in sequence. In general, this means students who enter the program should begin in the Fall Quarter with Basic Counseling Techniques, Counseling Theory, and Ethical and Legal Issues. Students should note that most classes are only offered **once** each academic year and **the schedule may change from year to year**. Some electives are offered during summer quarter.

Note: Some students may want to carry a heavier course load during year one, and may choose to add required courses listed in year two. Comprehensive Exams are taken at the start of spring quarter of year two.

Please note that Sample Course Sequences, found on the [Counseling Psychology Handbooks, Forms, and Coursework Plans](#) page, are simply examples to be used as a planning tool, and not all students will be able to follow these sequences exactly.

NOTE: All core courses (Legal & Ethical Issues, Basic Counseling Techniques, Intermediate Counseling Techniques, Counseling Theory, Career Counseling, Lifespan Development, Group Counseling Theory, Diversity: Multicultural Counseling Psychosocial Issues, Research Methods & Program Evaluation, Introduction to Assessment) must be completed before taking Comprehensive Exams unless approved by the advisor.

Clinic

The [Counseling and Educational Services Clinic](#) (CESC) is a live observation training clinic utilized by the Counseling Psychology and School Psychology programs. Students in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling concentration enroll in two consecutive 5-credit (10 credits total) Clinic courses that require them to work one morning, afternoon, or evening a week for two quarters in the CESC. Clinic should be discussed with your advisor as early as possible to ensure that you understand the Clinic scheduling process and have an approved spot in Clinic. The Training Clinic Director will email students notifying them of their Clinic assignment prior to the start of their first quarter of enrollment all quarter. The above sample plan of study provides an example of your schedule if you are assigned to take M.A. Clinic in winter and spring of your first year or summer and fall of your second year. Relevant training for M.A. Clinic will take place in CNP 4735: Orientation to Clinical Practice the quarter before a student takes CNP 4755: MA Clinic.

***Fall Clinic extends for 3 weeks after the quarter** has ended to ensure continuity of care for clients, so please be sure to plan accordingly.

The purpose of the Clinic training experience is as follows:

1. To provide students with a live observation training experience, serving clients that may be different than the clients seen at their Practicum and Internship sites. Students are observed by a licensed psychologist or experienced licensed professional counselor and live peer observation team during their counseling sessions with clients. Students receive immediate verbal and written feedback, as well as the opportunity to discuss their counseling sessions with their team. In addition, they will utilize the Clinic Artificial Intelligence program, CORE-MI/LYSSN, to receive machine learning derived feedback about their counseling sessions. Students will also have the opportunity to observe their peers' live counseling sessions and provide their peers with consultation feedback as part of the team.
2. To offer affordable mental health services to the Denver metropolitan community by providing testing/assessment and individual, couple, family and group counseling and consultation for persons with educational, career, personal, family or other life transitional concerns. Clinic services are provided at a sliding scale so that services are more accessible for the community, including people with marginalized identities who often lack access to counseling and assessment services.
3. To serve as a research facility for students and faculty in the Counseling Psychology and School Psychology training programs.
4. To provide consultation and intervention for schools and other agencies working with students experiencing school-related problems.

Comprehensive Examination

Comprehensive exams are offered at the start of spring quarter of the second year. Students are **required** to register in advance. The Morgridge College of Education Counseling Psychology program uses the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination (CPCE) for its Comprehensive Examination. Students will be responsible for the cost of the exam. In 2025, the cost when taken at the University of Denver was \$75. If you choose to take the exams off campus at a different time, the cost (in 2025) is \$150. Students taking the exam [off campus at a Pearson testing center](#) must register for the CPCE through a local Pearson VUE testing center **before the end of winter quarter** and submit your test results (either the printout you receive at the end of the exam or a screenshot of your results) to the department ASC via the [Canvas Portal](#) so that it can be recorded.

If you retake the comprehensive exam in spring quarter and have completed all required coursework for your degree, you can register for [continuous enrollment](#) in spring quarter so that you remain an active student in spring even though your coursework requirements are completed. This might be an option to consider if you are an international student who wishes to remain on your student visa through the end of the school year, since you do have to be registered as a full-time student in order to stay in line with student visa requirements. International students should work with their academic advisor and [ISSS](#) to review their options.

The CPCE consists of 160 multiple choice items, 20 items from each of the following content areas:

- Human Growth and Development
- Social and Cultural Diversity
- Helping Relationships
- Group Work
- Career Development
- Assessment
- Research and Program Evaluation
- Professional Orientation and Ethical Practice

The content areas and format are consistent with the National Counselor Examination, which is required for licensure in Colorado and many other states. Seventeen of the 20 questions in each area will be graded, whereas three are considered to be “test” questions. Students are required to score 65% in each content area (minimum of 11 items correct) in order to pass comprehensive exams. Students who do not meet minimum requirements will be required to retake content areas for which they do not receive a passing score. Retakes of the exam are administered by the Counseling Psychology program. The first retake will consist of an exam based on CPCE content areas delivered through Canvas. Each section consists of 17 questions and students must answer at least 11 correctly to pass a section. If a student does not pass a section of the exam on the second attempt, they will write an essay pertaining to the section of content. Students will be provided with a scoring rubric indicating minimum standards for passing and the response will be evaluated by faculty in the Counseling Psychology program.

If students are not able to meet minimum standards after the third retake attempt, the faculty will review the student's standing in the program and could result in dismissal. Retaking the test after the initial attempt could result in a delay in graduation.

Recommended Resources for Studying for the CPCE and NCE:

Erford, Hays, & Crockett (2014). *Mastering the National Counselor Exam and the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination* (2nd Ed.). Pearson: New York.

Helwig, A. A. (2018). *Study guide for the National Counselor Examination and CPCE Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination* (8th Ed.). Broomfield, CO.

Rosenthal, H. (2017). *Encyclopedia of counseling: Master review and tutorial for the National Counselor Examination, state counseling exams and the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination* (4th Ed.). Routledge: New York.

MASTER'S PROGRAM IN COUNSELING WITH A RESEARCH CONCENTRATION (72 credits)

Some students wish to develop more advanced research skills as well as counseling skills. This concentration requires two years and 72 credit hours to complete. Students wishing to complete a Master's thesis **are required to apply to participate in this track by the winter quarter of the first year of the program.** It is recommended that students begin discussing this option with their advisor during their first quarter of graduate work. **Students in the research concentration will not participate in clinic, and will not do an internship.** This is the only concentration students may pursue if they are interested in writing a thesis. The Research concentration does not meet requirements to achieve licensure.

Procedures for forming a thesis committee, developing a thesis proposal, etc. may be found by accessing this [site](#).

A thesis advisor is chosen based on mutual agreement between the student and a faculty member.

Master's Program in Counseling with a Research Concentration Sample Plan of Study (72 credit hours)

Students are expected to take course work in sequence. This means students who enter the program should begin in the fall with Basic Counseling Techniques, Counseling Theory, and Ethical and Legal Issues. Students should consult the class schedule for research, assessment and developmental courses, and elective courses. Students should note that most classes are offered once each academic year and **the schedule may change from year to year.** Some electives are offered during summer quarter.

Note: The Course plan below reflects those completing only the Research Concentration, not combined concentrations.

Please note that Sample Course Sequences, found on the [Counseling Psychology Handbooks, Forms, and Coursework Plans](#) page, are simply examples to be used as a planning tool, and not all students will be able to follow these sequences exactly.

LICENSURE

Most graduates from the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program will pursue their Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) license in Colorado. Other states have similar licenses. This is a link to the credential requirements for all mental health licenses in Colorado:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BzKoVwvexVATYVIBV0hRYTd4THc/view>

Following graduation, prior to the LPC, candidates must first secure their Licensed Professional Counselor Candidate (LPCC) license. The following is a link to the checklist for the LPCC application:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BzKoVwvexVATTGE4QmZkWnlzMlk/view>

The University of Denver Counseling Psychology MA program was approved in 2021 by the DORA board of Licensed Professional Counselors as it stands as officially meeting the standards for state licensure. Graduates of the program are not required to complete an educational equivalence review. Students may [apply for the LPCC](#) once program requirements are completed and may begin counting their post-graduation hours toward licensure in the state of Colorado when their degree is conferred (typically 6-8 weeks after final grades post).

You will receive more information throughout the program regarding licensure, and you may always contact the MA Training Director with any questions.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. **Email** is your primary way to receive communication about courses, program information, practicum/internship opportunities and other relevant information. You are expected to check your email regularly. All enrolled students in an MCE program are automatically subscribed to the program's email list(s). These lists are used to deliver official program notices and discussion of matters among students and faculty.
2. The program [canvas page](#) is utilized for document submission. You will receive an invite to join the canvas page when you begin the program. Please ensure to join immediately in order to stay on top of program document submission.
3. **A quality digital recorder is essential for this program.** Audiotaping sessions is a requirement for both practicum and internship. Taped sessions will be transcribed and reviewed with course instructors. DU's [IT](#) and [Library](#) departments offer short-term equipment rentals.
4. **Ask faculty for help.**

Non-Practicum Psychotherapy or Clinical Experience

Some students are working in practicum sites without being enrolled in the practicum class. Students who are in this position must inform the faculty. **If students are not enrolled in a practicum class, hours obtained in these sites will not be counted as practicum hours** (and cannot be used on an Internship application). Contact DORA [here](#)

MCE & University Policies & Procedures

All College and program policies are administered under the University of Denver's [Graduate Policy Manual](#), which are considered the minimum requirements for all members of the University community. The University of Denver reserves the right to make changes in the regulations, rules, fees or other aspects of the policy manual without advance notice. Please also see the [Morgridge College of Education Policies and Procedures](#)

Policies and Procedures of the Counseling Psychology Department

The following guidelines apply to each student's academic performance, classroom behavior, field-site performance, and general decorum while enrolled at University of Denver and includes interactions with peers, colleagues, supervisors, clients, other professionals, faculty, advisors, staff, and administrators. The Counseling Psychology Department recognizes that the development of professional behavior is an evolving process. As such, students will be offered feedback and guidance from the instructors and supervisors at various points throughout their program, but students are responsible for seeking such input on their own initiative. Attitude and attributes include but are not limited to:

1. A demonstration of the capacity to work collaboratively and respectfully with others in all aspects of their academic and professional training experience.
2. A sustained awareness of one's effectiveness and functioning in counseling and academic settings, as well as an awareness of one's personal and professional impact on others.
3. Demonstration of the capacity and willingness to actively respect professional boundaries in interactions with faculty, site supervisors, and staff.
4. Demonstration of the capacity to interpret accurately and reasonably the conduct of one's self and others.
5. A demonstration of and willingness to assume responsibility for learning by utilizing appropriate available resources to fulfill counseling and academic responsibilities (e.g. consultation, supervision, literature, etc.).
6. A demonstration of and willingness to meet academic and professional obligations in fieldwork and in the classroom in a timely and responsible manner.
7. A receptivity to constructive commentary and/or criticism from instructors to address such issues that may have been identified.
8. A demonstration of the capacity and willingness to evaluate one's self and others honestly, fairly, and sensitively (e.g. in supervision, in classroom exchanges and exercise, during conferences, etc.)
9. An ability to empathize with clients and an ability to demonstrate this quality effectively in professional roles and responsibilities.
10. A demonstration of recognition, appreciation, and sensitivity to individual differences and diversity in the human experience and the relevance of such understanding in academic and professional settings.
11. An overall knowledge, appreciation, and acceptance of the ethical standards and guidelines for professional practice in the counseling field, including but not limited to: sexual misconduct, violations of confidentiality, threats or assault of any kind against a client, co-worker, classmate, instructor, supervisor, or supervisee, claims of qualifications/expertise exceeding those possessed, providing services beyond actual training/experience, meeting the counselor's needs at the expense of the client, engaging in actions construed as sexual harassment, and violation of individuals' rights and personal dignity.

Annual Review

Successful completion of a program in Counseling Psychology is based on the demonstration of effectiveness in academic, professional, and personal areas as they relate to a student's professional objectives. The Counseling Psychology faculty have a professional responsibility to evaluate the academic, professional, and personal development of students in the training programs. The evaluation procedures serve two main purposes:

1. To provide students with information related to their progress that will enable them to take advantage of strengths and to remediate weaknesses in their academic, professional and personal development.
2. To provide the faculty with information about the progress of students that will facilitate decision making that is in the best interest of students and the profession they are preparing to enter. The faculty is concerned about the suitability of a student entering a profession with evidence of satisfactory performance in academic course work but with weakness in required practical skills, or behaviors, that are unethical, illegal, or unprofessional.

The Student Review and Retention Policy enables Counseling Psychology faculty to discuss and evaluate information about student progress. Student review is an ongoing and continuous process. Any faculty member may raise questions about a particular student's performance and progress during regularly scheduled department faculty meetings. At that time, any questions about students may be raised for faculty consideration.

In the Winter/Spring quarters, the Counseling Psychology faculty meet to review the progress of students. The purpose of the review is to determine whether a student is making satisfactory progress in graduate training. All students will receive a letter from the Training Director and Division Lead summarizing their progress in the program, providing specific feedback strengths and weaknesses on an annual basis. Minimal levels of satisfactory achievement are based on multiple factors including (but not limited to) course grades, clinical work, site supervisor feedback, and professional and ethical behaviors. Students are then encouraged to meet with advisors and/or faculty to discuss the outcome of their annual review.

A student deemed not to be performing at a high academic, professional, personal, and/or scientific level will be given an indication of the areas in which improvement is needed in the annual review as well as via a meeting with their advisor (or in some cases the Counseling Psychology Division Lead or Counseling Psychology faculty). If the student is demonstrating outstanding performance those accomplishments are also noted in the annual review. There are four possible outcomes and in all cases a letter addressing specific outcomes will be given to the student and placed in the student's departmental file:

1. The student is demonstrating exceptional skill and progress in their program.
2. The student is making satisfactory progress in the program.
3. The student is not demonstrating satisfactory progress but the issues are not deemed serious enough to be placed on probation. This student is notified to make an appointment with their advisor in order to receive feedback and to identify appropriate remediation procedures expected of the student. This remediation plan will be documented and re-reviewed at a specified time noted in the remediation plan. This outcome is also referred to as formal warning.
4. If, in the professional judgment of the department faculty (based on a faculty vote), a student's behavior is deemed substandard, unethical, illegal, and/or professionally unbecoming at any time during the course of training (including, but not limited to, course work, practica, internships, and violations of the student code of conduct), the faculty may either place the student on probation (with the creation of a remediation plan) or dismiss the student from the program.

**Note options 3 and 4 can be enacted at any time during a student's training.

For information on the University policy regarding the student process for appealing academic and student status related decisions, students should see the [Graduate Bulletin](#).

Student advancement in the program is intended to assure that each student maintains adequate progress in gaining knowledge, skills, competencies, and behaviors required for graduation and professional practice. The following are offered as examples of circumstances or performances that may be the basis for dismissal action:

1. Failure to maintain minimum academic standards
2. Unsatisfactory performance in counseling practica or internship
3. Academic misconduct or dishonesty
4. Criminal conviction of misconduct that affects ability to practice or be licensed
5. Failure to comply with established University or program timetables and requirements
6. Unethical practices and/or unprofessional conduct
7. Behavioral impairment that obstructs the training process and/or threatens client welfare
8. Failure to meet minimum standards in the eight content areas of the comprehensive exam.

The following subsections are offered to clarify the list above:

1. Failure to maintain minimum academic standards

Students are required to maintain a 3.0 GPA in both their overall graduate work and their degree program. The Counseling Psychology program places students on probation whenever their degree program or cumulative graduate GPA falls below 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale). Students will receive a letter informing them of their probationary status. Students are expected to be aware that they must maintain a 3.0 GPA during their graduate studies and, should they drop below a 3.0, they have one quarter to raise their GPA. Students on probation have one quarter to raise their GPA to 3.0 and return to regular status. A student failing to meet this requirement will not be permitted to re-enroll unless recommended by the department and approved by the MCE Associate Dean. As a matter of departmental policy, no incomplete grades may accrue during a probationary semester, and any incomplete grades assigned prior to the probationary period must be completed by the end of the probationary semester or the student remediation plan.

In the Counseling Psychology department, grades of C- or greater are considered passing, whereas grades lower than C- are considered failing. Credits carrying below a "C-" will not be accepted as meeting degree requirements. Also, as a matter of departmental policy, students may not accrue more than two "D's" or lower in their graduate program--whether those courses are within the department or courses taken through other departments. A third "D" (i.e., D+, D, or D-) in the program will result in the student's dismissal from the program, regardless of the student's overall grade point average. Students must retake all courses (up to two) in which they earned a D (i.e., D+, D, or D-) or lower. Students may refer to the Graduate Bulletin for the [Repeating Courses policy](#). Students earning a F in a course(s) will result in automatic review by the Counseling Psychology faculty and may result in dismissal from the academic program.

In support of this policy and in an effort to actively remediate student performance and manage expectations, the receipt of one or more grades below C- will yield the following:

- One grade below C- : Student will be issued a "Formal Warning"
- Two grades below C- : Student will be placed on "Probation"
- Three grades below C- : [Academic Dismissal](#), based on "severe academic or behavioral misconduct," will be initiated, per University process

Students are encouraged to review the "Grievances & Appeals" section of this document and the "Procedures for Academic Grievances and Appeals" section of the Graduate Bulletin for information related to student rights as they apply to academic dismissal.

2. Unsatisfactory performance in counseling practica or internship

Upon the recommendation of the student's clinical supervisor at their practicum or internship site and, after a performance review by the program faculty, a student who is judged to have failed to meet the program's expectations for the quantity or quality of clinical work or supervision during any counseling practica or internship, may be recommended to the Counseling Psychology Department faculty for review for dismissal as outlined in the Student Review and Retention Plan. If a student is dismissed from their practicum or internship for any reason as a result of their performance or behavior, they will be placed on probation and a remediation plan will be initiated. If the student is dismissed at any time during the quarter, the student will receive a D in that quarter and will need to repeat the course and requirements, including clinical field placement hours. If the student is dismissed following the completion of a quarter, the faculty will vote to determine whether the student will need to repeat the course and field placement hours.

3. Academic misconduct or dishonesty

Academic misconduct or dishonesty by a student includes, but is not limited to, disruption of classes, giving or receiving of unauthorized aid on examinations, or in the preparation of notebooks, themes, reports, or other assignments, or, knowingly misrepresenting the source of any academic work, falsification of research results, plagiarizing another person's work, violation of regulation or ethical codes for the treatment of human subjects, or otherwise acting dishonestly in research. Of note, it is unacceptable in academic settings to use other people's ideas or data without giving them credit. This is called plagiarism and is considered unethical according to the ACA (2010) Code of Ethics. As a result, the department faculty wants to clarify that it is similarly unacceptable to "borrow" another student, author, or publisher's work without giving him or her credit. Using papers written by others, or parts of papers, materials, and handing it in as your own work is clearly unethical. Students should not copy something written or published by others.

An instructor may, with due notice to the student, treat as unsatisfactory any student work that is a product of academic misconduct or dishonesty. If an instructor deems other judiciary action for academic misconduct or dishonesty by a student to be advisable, or if a student wishes to protest a grade based on work judged by an instructor to be a product of academic misconduct or dishonesty, the case shall be reported to the Chair of the Counseling Psychology Department. If suitable solutions are not reached, the case shall be reported to the MCE Associate Dean.

4. Criminal conviction of misconduct that affects ability to practice or be licensed

A student whose conduct, within or outside of the program, has resulted in the conviction of a crime that would preclude licensing or certification in Colorado as a psychologist may be dismissed from the program by action of faculty.

5. Failure to comply with established University or program timetables and requirements

The DU Office of Graduate Studies Policy allows for master students to complete their degree program within 5 years. Failure to complete the degree within the established time limits will result in termination unless the student successfully petitions for an extension. The student initiates the petition via MyDU and must be supported by the advisor in order to be considered. If the petition is not approved, the student will be terminated from the program. Students may petition for an extension of time for a minimum of one quarter and up to a maximum of one year per request. Petition procedures and instructions are detailed in the [Graduate Studies Policy Manual](#). It is also expected that students will make reasonable and consistent progress toward their degree. "Reasonable and consistent" means that students register for at least 8 credits per quarter during their first year in the program, and 20 credits per year thereafter until course work is completed. Students who are not making "reasonable and consistent" progress toward their degree may be put on probation or dismissed from the program.

6. Unethical practices and/or unprofessional conduct

As students or professionals, Master's students in Counseling Psychology are expected to follow the American Psychological Association and American Counseling Association Codes of Ethics and the DU "Code of Student Conduct." Failure to abide by these standards while enrolled as a student in the counseling program will lead to probationary status and/or may be grounds for dismissal from the program. Students who are not functioning effectively in any of the following areas as determined by the faculty: academic, ethical, personal, interpersonal, or practice areas will be advised of deficiencies and required to remediate them. This may include retaking courses or practicum, other tasks or assignments, or possibly undergoing a psychological evaluation and/or psychotherapy at the student's expense. Students may also be placed on probation. If the terms of probation are not met or remediation is not successful as determined by the faculty, students may be dismissed from the program (see below).

7. Behavioral impairments that obstruct the training process and/or threaten client welfare

Student conduct that, in the opinion of the faculty and/or the student's supervisors, is the result of behavioral impairment and that obstructs, interferes with, or threatens the training of fellow students or welfare of clients, students, faculty or supervisors may result in student dismissal from the program or referral for remediation. In the case of referral for remediation, the student may be asked or required to withdraw from classes and may be placed on a leave of absence from the program until such time as the student is able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the faculty that she/he is able to return to the program without impairment. Students may, as part of their remediation, be asked to consult other professionals including psychotherapists and engage in consultation or psychological treatment. Examples of impairment having the potential for student dismissal or referral include, but are not limited to: substance abuse, dual relationships with clients or students/supervisees for whom the student is

responsible; lying or misrepresenting oneself to clients, faculty or supervisors; failure to refer or practicing outside of one's area of competence without appropriate supervision; chronic lateness and/or absence from academic and clinical responsibilities; behavior that interferes with or jeopardizes the well-being of clients, students, faculty, or supervisors; unsupervised practice; and infractions of University rules for student conduct.

- 8. Students are required to meet a minimum of 65% in each of the eight content areas on the CPCE used for the Counseling comprehensive examination.** Students are able to retake the test twice for a total of three attempts to achieve these minimum standards. Students who fail to meet these standards will be reviewed by the faculty and could be dismissed.

Violation of the DU Honor Code

All members of the University community are expected to assume the responsibility of observing certain ethical goals and values as they relate to academic integrity. Essential to the fundamental purpose of the University is the commitment to the principles of truth and honesty. This Honor Code is designed so that responsibility for upholding these principles lies with the **individual** as well as the entire community.

The purpose of this Honor Code is to foster and advance an environment of ethical conduct in the academic community of the University, the foundation of which includes the pursuit of academic honesty and integrity. Through an atmosphere of mutual respect, we enhance the value of our education and bring forth a higher standard of academic excellence. No member of the University community, including students, faculty, staff and administrators, shall act in any way that could reasonably be construed as an intentional misrepresentation or deception in academic or professional matters.

Students should refer to the [Morgridge College of Education Policies and Procedures](#), the [University Graduate Bulletin Policies](#), and the [Honor Code & Student Conduct Policies and Procedures](#) website for further information on the rationale, authority, and enforcement of the University's Honor Code.

Probation and Remediation Processes

When student concerns begin to emerge in any of the three domains in the program: academic, professionalism, and clinical, students will meet with their advisor and training director to address the emerging concerns. This process will be considered a Verbal Concern and will be summarized by the Training Director in an email summarizing the meeting and points to be addressed by the student. The email will be sent to the student, advisor, ASA, and Division Lead, with a copy placed in the student's file. This is not considered to be discipline, but rather an opportunity for students to address concerns before the disciplinary process is initiated.

If concerns persist after this initial meeting, a formal Written Concern will be initiated in which the Training Director will write a letter to the student documenting ongoing concerns as well as specific recommended remedies. If the student does not address these concerns within 30 days, the discipline process will be initiated and the student will be placed on probationary status with a remediation plan developed.

If a student is placed on probation or receives a formal warning, a remediation plan will be developed by the training director in collaboration with the student, the advisor, and potentially other faculty as needed. This plan will be approved by the core Counseling Psychology Department faculty. This plan will be in writing and will be signed by the student, the advisor, and Training Director. A copy of the plan will be provided to the student and a copy will be placed in the student's departmental file. More specifically, if the department faculty determines the student should be placed on probation, the following steps will be taken:

1. The Training Director will notify the student, in writing, that the student is on probation or is being given a formal warning. Additionally, the student shall meet with the advisor to discuss the procedures that will be used regarding the probation.
2. The Training Director, student, the student's advisor, and potentially other faculty will develop a plan for remediation of the student's behavior. This plan will (a) define the student's problem areas, (b) identify the expected behavior patterns or goals, (c) specify possible methods that could be used to reach these goals, which may include personal counseling, self-structured practica, behavioral change, and/or additional academic course work, (d) delineate specific goals and how goal attainments will be demonstrated, and (e) designate a date for goal attainment or reevaluation (must be within six months of date of initiation).
3. After approval from the core Counseling Psychology faculty, a copy of the approved plan will be signed and dated by the student, the student's advisor, and the Training Director. Once all signatures have been attained, the Training Director will email a copy of the approved signed plan to the student, the Division Lead, and the Faculty Advisor. An electronic or hard copy will be provided to the student.
4. At or near the date for reevaluation, the student's progress or lack thereof will be reviewed by the core department faculty. Reevaluation will include any associated documentation including the handbook or provided by faculty, students and/or other relevant parties. Based on the review, the Training Director will make one of the following recommendation to the core faculty:
 - a. **Continuation in the program:** the specified concerns no longer present a significant problem and the student is allowed to continue in the program.
 - b. **Continued probation and remediation:** if progress is documented on the first evaluation, an updated behavioral plan is prepared, and a date is set for another reevaluation at the department faculty's discretion.
 - c. **Dismissal from the program:** if the student has failed to attain the behavioral goals and there is no expectation that they can reasonably attain them in the near future.

5. The student will be notified in writing, by the Training Director, of the reevaluation decision and it will be requested that the student make an appointment with the advisor and training director for feedback concerning the decision.
6. The student will be requested to sign and date the reevaluation decision. One copy will be given to the student, and one copy will be placed in the student's file.
7. Depending upon the reevaluation decision by the department faculty (as outlined in 5 a, b, and c. above), the student and the advisor will review the options available to the student.
8. If the faculty recommends dismissal from the program, the Division Lead will send a written notification to the student. A copy of the notice will be placed in the student's permanent file.
9. If dismissal from the program is recommended, the student will be given 30 days, within the regular academic year, in which to (a) prepare and present to the faculty a written response to the notification, and (b) request, in writing, a faculty review of the termination recommendation, if the student chooses.
10. Upon receipt of a written request from the student regarding the termination recommendation during the 30-day period described in step 13a, the faculty will review the written response.
11. Following review of the written response, the program faculty will (a) review the student's progress in the program, (b) review the student's behaviors as related to expected professional and personal behaviors, (c) review the student's remediation progress, and (d) render a decision as to whether the dismissal recommendation is to be upheld.
12. The Division Lead will provide written notification of the decision to the student.
13. If the dismissal decision is upheld, the Division Lead will forward a formal dismissal recommendation to the MCE Associate Dean and Office of Graduate Education.

If the student is not satisfied with the department faculty's decision, the student may file an appeal or grievance in accordance with the procedures outlined below.

Grievances and Appeals Process

First Level: Informal Resolution

Students are expected to attempt to resolve complaints informally with the faculty or staff member, administrator or committee responsible for the academic decision. This attempt must include discussion of the complaint with the involved party or parties. *If all reasonable informal efforts to resolve a complaint fail, the student may file a formal grievance or appeal.*

If the complaint involves a charge of unlawful discrimination, the student may report the situation to the Office of Equal Opportunity or an appropriate supervisor who must immediately notify the Office of Equal Opportunity

Second Level: Submission of the Formal Grievance or Appeal to Division Lead or Associate Dean

If a student elects to file a formal grievance or appeal, it must be filed within 45 calendar days into the next quarter after the contested decision or grade was officially recorded and during which the student is enrolled at DU. All grievances and appeals must be filed in writing, signed and dated by the student and include supporting documentation at the time it is filed. The grievant/ appellant must minimally provide the following:

1. a clear description of the decision being grieved or appealed,
2. the basis or bases for challenging the decision,
3. the identity of the party or parties who made the decision,
4. the specific remedy or remedies requested, and
5. a description of all informal resolution attempted.

The decision of the Division Lead (in cases where it is not appropriate to go to the Division Lead, the Associate Dean can be informed) must be issued in writing within 30 days of receiving the grievance and shall include all of the following:

1. a copy of the student's formal grievance,
2. relevant findings of fact,
3. decision and the reasons for the decision reached, and
4. the remedy which is either granted or denied and/or any alternative remedies suggested.

Third Level: Submission of the Formal Grievance or Appeal to Dean

The party who finds the resolution unsatisfactory may appeal the decision in writing to the dean of the academic unit within five working days of receiving the Program Director or Division Lead's written decision.

The Dean may render a decision on the matter or may refer the grievance or appeal to a standing grievance/appeal committee or establish an ad hoc committee to hear the matter. When an ad hoc committee is established, the student who lodges the appeal may designate one of the faculty members who will serve on this committee. This member must be tenured or tenure-track faculty from the University of Denver. Members of the unit involved in the grievance may not serve on the ad hoc committee and must recuse themselves if they are members of the standing committee.

The committee may, at its discretion, receive from the student, relevant faculty or staff members or other individuals, any additional evidence or argument that it deems necessary to resolve the grievance or appeal.

The appeals committee will begin deliberations as soon as possible and provide the dean a written recommendation no later than 30 days after the date that the dean's office received the written dated request for appeal at this level. The dean will make a final decision and distribute it to all affected parties within five working days after receiving the committee's recommendation.

Fourth Level: Submission of the Formal Grievance or Appeal to Provost

The party who finds the resolution unsatisfactory may appeal the decision to the Provost within five working days of receiving the dean's decision. The Provost will hear only those grievances and appeals based on problems of process or concerns of bias, retaliation, or other improprieties unrelated to protected class status and not on differences in judgment or opinion concerning academic performance. Within five working days after receiving the appeal, the Provost may refer grievances or appeals to appropriate bodies or personnel. If the issue is referred to the Graduate Council, its chair will appoint three members of the Council as a Grievance Committee to hear the case and shall designate one of the committee members to serve as chair.

Anyone called upon by the Provost or the Provost's designee shall submit a written recommendation within 30 days of receiving the case. The Provost is the final authority in the matter and will report the disposition of the case to all involved parties within 30 days of receiving a recommendation from the designee.

Scope of Review

Any University agent charged with reviewing a formal grievance or appeal may gather additional relevant facts if necessary and/or meet with involved parties. The reviewer will base the decision on documented evidence.

Deviation from Procedures

These guidelines provide basic steps for resolving appeals and grievances. The steps may vary based upon the structure of the academic unit or the particularities of the situation. The provost or their designee may choose to approve or may direct a deviation from these procedures, for example, postponement of a time limit or elimination or addition of a step in the process, in order to ensure an effective and timely resolution.

Grievance or Appeal Record

Documentation in support of a grievance or appeal will be held by the person responsible for considering the grievance or appeal at that stage and passed along to the person responsible for the next step, if any. A record of meetings or interviews must be made and kept as part of the grievance or appeal record as well. The complete grievance or appeal record will consist of the original grievance or appeal, all documentary evidence and all formal decisions made at each step of the process.

Failure to Meet Deadlines

If after a formal grievance or appeal is filed, the University agent charged with review of the grievance or appeal fails to meet any deadline at any stage of the process, the grievant/ appellant may proceed directly to appeal to the next higher University administrator in the manner prescribed by these Procedures, subject to the relevant time limitation calculated from the date of the missed deadline. The failure of any University administrator to meet any deadline shall not entitle the grievant/ appellant to any relief requested, nor shall such a failure be construed as tantamount to a decision in the grievant/ appellant's favor. Any grievant who fails to meet the deadlines imposed by these Procedures will be bound by the decisions previously made.

ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Student Representatives

Each cohort from each program within the CP department has two to three student representatives. The representatives act as liaisons between faculty and students. At the beginning of each academic year, the department will solicit applications for available student representative positions. Each Training/Program Director will select representatives based on the information provided in the application. The service term for student representatives is one year with the option for renewal to be decided with the Training/Program Director during the Spring term of each academic year.

Responsibilities of Student Representatives:

- Meet regularly with the Training/Program Director. This is the opportunity to bring initial concerns related to the program.
- Communicate relevant information to the cohort.
- Exhibit leadership for engagement with the faculty and program.

Research Labs

Master's students are invited but not expected to participate in faculty research labs. Participants frequently have an opportunity to present posters at national and regional conferences or co-author papers. Students should contact a faculty member if they are interested in joining their research team.

Mentoring Program

Each entering student will be randomly paired with a second year Master's student mentor. The mentoring relationship can be tailored to each student's individual needs and is designed to help incoming students navigate the program. The Training Director provides initial mentorship training as well as ongoing support to mentors throughout the year. Mentors will be chosen at the end of Spring quarter and paired with incoming students prior to the start of school. Mentors and mentees will have an opportunity to meet at the beginning of the academic year.

ADVISING

Academic Advisor

When a student is admitted, an academic advisor is assigned. The academic advisor works with the student to complete and approve the Coursework Plan, select electives, and submit necessary documentation for transfer credits or other coursework-related documentation. The academic advisor also guides the student in the development of the student's professional goals. All of the faculty members are available for career guidance. However, only the academic advisor should give the student academic program advice and approvals.

- ✓ Students are required to make appointments to meet with their advisor at least once per academic year
- ✓ First-year students should meet with the academic advisor during the first quarter of study.
- ✓ Students should come prepared to their academic advising appointments, bringing any relevant forms and an unofficial transcript.

Faculty members generally work on nine-month contracts during the regular academic year. During the summer, students may need to work with the Division Lead if their advisor is not available.

Students are assigned an academic advisor at the start of their program and it is expected that these assignments will remain in place throughout the student's time in the program. Conflicts between advisors and advisees should first be addressed between the two parties, potentially with the support of the Division Lead or program director. Should the student feel uncomfortable addressing their concerns with their advisor, they may consult with the Program Director or Division Lead for guidance on appropriate next steps.

In extraordinary circumstances, a student may request an advisor change. Before requesting an advisor change, students should take the following steps to address issues with their advisor:

1. Set up a meeting with your advisor to address concerns and develop a plan to meet your professional needs.
2. If issues continue, initiate a meeting with the program director or Division Lead with your current advisor to address concerns.
3. If concerns are still not resolved, submit a formal request by email to the program director or Division Lead notifying them of your intention to request a change of advisor.

To request a change of advisor:

1. Schedule a meeting with your current advisor to notify them of your plans to submit a request. Work with them to identify any steps that may be necessary to complete before transitioning to another advisor.

2. Request a meeting with the Division Lead or program director to provide information on your request for an advisor change and identify available faculty members. Faculty may have limitations on the number of advisees they are available to support, and this may differ with a number of factors (e.g., sabbaticals, number of current advisees).
3. Contact the faculty member you and the Division Lead or program director have agreed on, to request a transfer. Keep in mind that faculty members may accept or decline these requests at their own discretion.
4. Once all parties have agreed with the transition, fill out the Advisor Transfer Request Form, signed by both advisors, yourself, and the Division Lead or program director. Completed forms should be sent to the department's Academic Services Coordinator as soon as possible, and no later than the start of the following academic quarter (including Summer term).
5. Schedule a meeting with your new advisor to review your progress, current standing, degree plan, and immediate goals. To help facilitate this process, please be sure to provide a copy of your degree plan, annual review letters, and a copy of your unofficial transcript.

AGENCIES AND STUDENTS

Workers' Compensation, Liability Insurance, and Potential Risk

This information is provided to clarify University of Denver procedures and responsibilities pertaining to workers' compensation coverage, student liability insurance coverage, and off-campus University related work and activities.

Workers' Compensation Coverage

Students are not covered by the University of Denver for injuries sustained while working in field placement positions. Field placement agencies should consult the Division of Workers' Compensation (303) 575-8700 or their professional accountant for advice on workers' compensation coverage as it relates to students in salaried positions. Further clarification of policies related to workers' compensation coverage may be obtained from the Risk Management Director at the University of Denver at (303) 871-2327.

Liability Insurance Coverage

All students in the Counseling Psychology program are required to obtain their own malpractice insurance and maintain it throughout their practicum, internships, and clinic experiences. Most students obtain this insurance from either the American Psychological Association or the American Counseling Association. Student policies are available for reduced rates.

Notice of Potential Risk

Please be advised that clinical or research activities performed in field placement settings may carry with them certain attendant risks. Each student must assess whether or not their level of training and amount of supervision provided by the agency is suitable to the routine and/or unique requirements and demands of the field placement environment in which they work. If a student has a concern about the risk level of the practicum or internship site, she or he needs to speak to the Training Director and Practicum or Internship instructor who will help assess this risk and then address the problem if needed.

OTHER RESOURCES

International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS)

<https://www.du.edu/iss/> <http://www.du.edu/intl/elc>

International students will find support at ISSS. They can assist with the following:

- ✓ Advocacy for international student and scholar issues on campus
- ✓ Cultural adjustment and immigration advising
- ✓ Orientation and employment workshops
- ✓ Support of international student organizations
- ✓ Cross-cultural programming
- ✓ Issuance of immigration documents, authorizations, and certification letters

Office of Equal Opportunity (EEO)

The Office of Equal Opportunity is responsible for ensuring compliance with the University's anti-discrimination policies related to race, ethnicity, national origin, age, religion, disability, genetic information or veteran status and promoting full compliance with all applicable federal, state and local discrimination laws. For more information, please visit: <http://www.du.edu/equalopportunity/>. Equal Opportunity can assist with:

- ✓ Consultation concerning issues of possible discrimination, harassment or retaliation
- ✓ Investigation of complaints of discrimination, harassment and/or retaliation
- ✓ Education designed for your department or organization that focuses on prevention
- ✓ Consultation or training for search and screening committees
- ✓ Consultation regarding reasonable accommodations for participants with disabilities and for religious accommodations
- ✓ Consultation regarding disability access problems
- ✓ In conjunction with the Center for Multicultural Excellence, activities to improve the climate for diversity in your department or organization

Office of Title IX

The Office of Title IX is responsible for ensuring compliance with the University's anti-discrimination policies related to sex or gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and promoting full compliance with all applicable federal, state and local discrimination laws. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.du.edu/equalopportunity/titleix/index.html>.

The Office of Title IX can assist with:

- ✓ Consultation concerning issues of possible gender-based discrimination, harassment, violence, or retaliation
- ✓ Investigation of complaints of gender-based discrimination, harassment, or retaliation
- ✓ Investigation of sexual misconduct matters including sexual assault (non-consensual sexual contact)
- ✓ Investigation of relationship violence matters including domestic violence and dating violence
- ✓ Investigation of stalking
- ✓ Education designed for your department or organization that focuses on prevention
- ✓ Consultation on appropriate support for pregnant or parenting students, faculty and staff

Computer Labs and Technology Resources

A computer lab is available for Morgridge College of Education students in 210 Ruffatto Hall. Throughout Ruffatto Hall, there are large monitors for use by students working in groups or individually; a VGA cable is needed in order to connect to these monitors.

Computer lab hours vary but normally range from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays. Weekend hours may be available; please check the schedule. The lab is closed on holidays.

Software Installed in Computer Lab

The Microsoft Office Suite consisting of Access, Excel, FrontPage, Internet Explorer, PowerPoint, Publisher, and Word is on all lab computers. In addition, SPSS, Mozilla, Chrome, Adobe Acrobat Reader, and Windows Media Player are installed along with many Morgridge College of Education course-specific software titles. Research Methods and Statistics course software is also available. For questions about specific software titles, please call 303-871-3222 for information.

Technology Support and Services

The technology staff are housed in Katherine A. Ruffatto Hall and are available to provide technical help in the computer lab and classrooms Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call 303-871-3222. Students and faculty may also request assistance from the UTS Helpdesk by calling 303-871-4700.

Student Training

The University Technology Services (UTS) offers [various training and events](#) to accommodate the specific needs of DU students. Their goal is to help students become familiar with various software applications, the University Internet, user login and email use, and course resources such as Canvas. Courses are available free of charge to all students who have a DU ID number. The DU Discoveries program provides setup assistance to entering students.

Computer and Software Purchases

Academic discounts are available for all DU students when purchasing a new computer from select retailers. The University has formed alliances with several computer manufacturers. Visit the [Laptops and Learning Page](#) for more information. DU students may also buy computer software at a substantial educational discount from the DU bookstore. Please visit the bookstore website (dubooksore.com) or visit the Bookstore in the Driscoll Center for information about software titles and pricing.

University Writing Center

The [University Writing Center](#) works with all University of Denver students, staff, and faculty as part of the Writing Program's mission to create and sustain a robust culture of writing on the DU Campus. The Writing Center offers individual consultations, pre-recorded webinars, and many other resources and opportunities.

Procedure for Student Booking Study and Meeting Spaces

The MCE utilizes a computerized room scheduling system, [Momentum](#). This system is open for students to book spaces for academic-related activities in KRH.

Room Reservation Tips:

- ✓ Many rooms on campus can be reserved using the [Internal Events Portal](#).
- ✓ Simply log-in with your My4D credentials to create and submit your event request.
- ✓ our request is then sent to a scheduler who will approve or deny your event. **Submitting a request does NOT guarantee use of a space until the scheduler has approved it.**
- ✓ All classrooms have layout diagrams posted within the room. Please keep in mind that if students use a room it is their responsibility to place it in its original configuration before leaving. This will ensure that the next user will have the same experience that prior students had

APPENDIX: COURSEWORK PLANS**Clinical Mental Health Counseling Concentration****COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM
COURSE WORK PLAN – MASTER OF ARTS
Handbook Year: 2025-2026**

Student Name: _____ Student#: _____

Email: _____ Advisor: _____

Course Name	Course Number	Credit Hours	Quarter Completed
Concentration Program Requirements			
Lifespan Development	CNP 4645	5	
Orientation to Clinical Practice*	CNP 4735	1	
Trauma-Informed Counseling	CNP 4300	5	
Introduction to Assessment	CNP 4702	5	
Counseling Theory*	CNP 4700	5	
Career Counseling	CNP 4710	5	
Group Counseling Theory*	CNP 4720	5	
Research Methods and Program Evaluation	CNP 4730	5	
Basic Counseling Techniques*	CNP 4740	3	
Intermediate Counseling Techniques*	CNP 4741	3	
Professional Development in Counseling*	CNP 4743	1	
M.A. Clinic (2 qtrs./5 credits each)	CNP 4755	10	
Diversity: Multicultural Counseling Psychosocial Issues*	CNP 4773	5	
Psychopathology*	CNP 4784	5	
MA Counseling: Legal/Ethical Issues*	CNP 4795	5	
Subtotal		68 cr. hrs.	
Electives			
Subtotal		10 hrs. min.	
Practicum and Internship			

Counseling Psychology Practicum: Beginning*	CNP 4750	3	
MA Internship (3 qtrs., 3 credits each)	CNP 4751	9	
Subtotal		12	
Transfer Credit			
Subtotal		90	

* The course needs to be completed in year one.

SUMMARY	Credit Hours Required	Student Hours per Transcript
Concentration	68	
Electives	10 min.	
Practicum and Internship	12	
Transfer Credit		
TOTAL	90 min.	

Additional Degree Requirements

1. Passing the program comprehensive exam is required.
2. Grade Policy: The CP Program requires a satisfactory quality of achievement with a cumulative grade point average of "B" (3.0) or better. The average is determined based on the University's grading system. Any student whose overall grade point average falls below a 3.0 will be warned, put on probation, suspended, or terminated from the program. Credits carrying below a "C-" will not be accepted by the CP program as meeting degree requirements.
3. Students should contact the National Board for Certifying Counselors (NBCC) to make sure that their curriculum – especially electives – meets NBCC eligibility.

I have met with my advisor, and I have received and take responsibility for understanding the licensing requirements in the state in which I plan to obtain licensure. (check here)

Date_____

Student's Signature_____

Advisor's Signature_____

Research Counseling Concentration
**COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM
 COURSE WORK PLAN – MASTER OF ARTS
 Handbook Year: 2025-2026**

Student Name: _____

Student #: _____

Email: _____ Advisor: _____

Course Name	Course Number	Credit Hours	Quarter Completed
Research – one of these two is required			
Quantitative Research Design or	RMS 4930	3	
Education Research and Measurement	RMS 4900	4	
Plus			
Introductory Statistics	RMS 4910	4	
Master's Thesis Research	CNP 4995	3	
Foundations			
Introduction to Assessment	CNP 4702	5	
Subtotal		15-16 min.	
Concentration			
Lifespan Development	CNP 4645	5	
Counseling Theory*	CNP 4700	5	
Career Counseling	CNP 4710	5	
Group Counseling Theory*	CNP 4720	5	
Research Methods and Program Evaluation	CNP 4730	5	
Basic Counseling Techniques*	CNP 4740	3	
Intermediate Counseling Techniques*	CNP 4741	3	
Professional Development in Counseling*	CNP 4743	1	
Diversity: Multicultural Counseling Psychosocial Issues*	CNP 4773	5	
Psychopathology*	CNP 4784	5	
MA Counseling: Legal/Ethical Issues*	CNP 4795	5	
Subtotal		47	
Practicum or Internship			
Counseling Psychology Practicum: Beginning	CNP 4750	3	
Subtotal		3	

Electives			
		6-7	
Transfer Credit			
Subtotal			

* The course needs to be completed in year one.

SUMMARY	Credit Hours Required	Student Hours per Transcript
Research	10-11 min.	
Foundations	5	
Electives	6-7	
Concentration	47	
Practicum	3	
Transfer Credit		
TOTAL	72 min.	

Additional Degree Requirements

1. Passing the program comprehensive exam is required.
2. Students must successfully defend their Master's Thesis.
3. Grade Policy: A satisfactory quality of achievement with a cumulative grade point average of "B" (3.0) or better is required by the CP Program. The average is determined on the basis of the University's grading system. Any student whose overall grade point average falls below a 3.0 will be warned, put on probation, suspended, or terminated from the program. Credits carrying below a "C-" will not be accepted by the CP program as meeting degree requirements.
4. Students should contact the National Board for Certifying Counselors (NBCC) to make sure that their curriculum – especially electives – meets NBCC eligibility.

I have met with my advisor, and I have received and take responsibility for understanding the licensing requirements in the state in which I plan to obtain licensure. (check here)

Date_____

Student's Signature_____

Advisor's Signature_____

PLEASE SIGN AND SUBMIT THE HANDBOOK AGREEMENT ON
CANVAS AFTER READING