

A Guide to Completing the Application for the University of Hawai'i at Hilo

Master of Arts in Psychology

M.A. Checklist

- UH Hilo Graduate application form
- Application fee, \$50
- Official transcripts from all colleges or universities (must be received in a sealed envelope)
- Baccalaureate degree transcripts from international institutions must be submitted to an independent [transcript evaluation service](#)
- Psychology Personal Statement including short- and long-range goals (see page 2 of this Guide)
- Resume
- 3 Recommendations from academic and/or professional referees
- GRE scores (general test only) [UH Hilo code: 4869]

For international applicants:

- [International Graduate Student Supplemental Information Form](#)
- TOEFL or IELTS scores (non-native speakers of English; see Eligibility Criteria)

Deadline for receipt of all application materials: February 1
International applicants: January 1

Program Mission

The mission of the Master of Art program in Counseling Psychology is to provide multiculturally-focused, student-centered graduate training in counseling psychology. The program is designed to train students to become knowledgeable, skillful, ethical and multiculturally competent counselors, who will be able to help people in need of professional counseling services. For students who may wish to pursue a doctoral degree in psychology, the program provides training in advanced statistics and research methodology and also offers opportunities for students to gain research experience by participating in ongoing projects and/or by initiating their own research projects. The program assigns a high priority to meeting the educational and personal needs of its students and is based on a scientist-practitioner model.

Program Goals

- provide students with the knowledge and skills to counsel clients from diverse backgrounds (e.g. ethnic/racial, socioeconomic, age, gender)
- provide students with a broad understanding of general counseling theory and practice and evidence-based practice
- provide students with a strong scientist-practitioner foundation
- provide students with both knowledge of the social, psychological, health, and economic problems that citizens of Hawai'i face and the professional skills to help people cope with and manage these problems in the future
- prepare students for the academic requirements of a doctoral degree in counseling psychology or a related field

Application Process

New students are accepted for Fall semester only. The priority application deadline is February 1. Complete applications received after the priority deadline will be considered on a space available basis. The UH Hilo Admissions Office receives applications and supporting documents and maintains the applications through final notification. Applications that meet the admission requirements will be forwarded to the Psychology Department where they will undergo a comprehensive review. Priority will be given to students applying for full-time enrollment, but a few outstanding applicants for part-time enrollment may be admitted. Admission decisions will be made by the Graduate Admissions Committee of the Psychology Department and forwarded to the UH Hilo Admissions Office, which sends the final notification to the applicant.

Admission Status

The applicant's admission status is valid only for the semester to which the applicant is accepted. Applications for students who do not register or who withdraw from the University are voided but retained for a period of one (1) year. Students may reapply for admission the next year by submitting a new graduate application with the application fee.

Eligibility Criteria for Admission

An applicant must:

- 1) have earned a baccalaureate from a regionally accredited institution.
- 2) have a GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in the last 60 semester credits.
- 3) have a strong background in psychology, with a minimum of 15 semester credits of work in psychology. Highly recommended are an introductory class in psychology, statistical techniques, research methods, and two 300-level or higher courses in psychology. Courses in closely related fields may be acceptable.
- 4) have taken at least one 3-credit course in statistics and one 3-credit course in research methods from any discipline.
- 5) obtain a score of 550 (paper based), 213 (computer based), or 79 (internet based) on the TOEFL (applicants for whom English is not the native language). The IELTS score must be 6.0. Students with degrees from colleges whose language of instruction is English need not submit TOEFL scores).

Psychology Personal Statement

Your personal statement should address the following:

1. Your short and long-term academic and career plans.
2. Your reasons for pursuing a Master's degree in Counseling Psychology.
3. How graduate study at UH Hilo will help you accomplish your goals.
4. How your experience has prepared you for graduate study and work in the field of counseling psychology.
5. Attributes that make you well suited to the field of counseling psychology.

Transfer of Credits

Requests for transfer of credits must be made during the first semester in which the student is enrolled in the program; departmental approval for all credit transfers is required. Only credit hours with a grade of B or better from accredited universities are transferable. Credit hours for practicum and internship courses are not transferable. Transfer credit hours must have been completed within five years prior to admission. Students may transfer a maximum of 12 semester hours (or its equivalent). On rare circumstances, requests for an exception to this limit could be considered by the program faculty. All requests for transfer of credits must be accompanied by a transcript and course syllabi.

International Admissions

Official college transcripts in the original language and official translations into English must be provided. To expedite your application, all graduate applicants with international transcripts are required to send the baccalaureate transcript for professional evaluation by one of the credential evaluation services listed on our web site:

<http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/academics/graduate/intlgraduate.php>

Only graduates of accredited universities will be considered for acceptance.

Employment Opportunities

Graduates from the program will be able to work in a variety of counseling settings that include, but are not limited to, state and federal counseling agencies, a variety of mental health programs, schools, and the private mental health care industry. Employment prospects for professional counselors are good in Hawai'i and in many other areas of the United States. Currently a shortage of qualified counselors exists, and employment opportunities in this field are expected to grow at a faster than average rate over the coming years.

Course of Study

The Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology program's curriculum was designed to satisfy the educational requirements for licensure in mental health counseling in Hawai'i. The core curriculum consists of course work in methods, concepts, and skills of the profession and the evidence-based practice of counseling psychology. Program electives will enable students to choose courses in family counseling, school and career counseling and special topics courses. During the second year of study, students will complete a practicum course and an internship designed to provide counseling experience in real-life practice settings. Students who wish to prepare and defend a Master's thesis may do so. Overall, students will complete 60 credits of graduate course work. It is expected that full-time students will complete the degree in two years starting in the summer before their first Fall Semester. Students will need to maintain a 3.0 GPA to remain in the program.

For questions regarding program information, contact:

Dr. Bryan S. K. Kim, Director

MA Program in Counseling Psychology

UH Hilo Department of Psychology

(808) 974-7439

bryankim@hawaii.edu

<http://counseling.uhh.hawaii.edu/>

For questions regarding the application process::

Māhealani Jones, UH Hilo Admissions

200 West Kāwili St, Hilo HI 96720-4091

(808) 974-7414, (800) 897-4456

amyj@hawaii.edu

REQUIRED COURSES (51 Credits)

Course	Cr	Title
PSY 601	(4)	Applied Multivariate Statistics
PSY 602	(3)	Research Methodology and Program Evaluation
PSY 603	(4)	Psychological Assessment
PSY 604	(3)	Professional Identity, Ethics, and Legal Issues
PSY 611	(3)	Lifespan Human Development
PSY 612	(3)	Career Development
PSY 613	(3)	Psychopathology over the Lifespan
PSY 620	(3)	Counseling Theories
PSY 622	(4)	Group Work and Counseling
PSY 623	(3)	Social and Cultural Foundations
PSY 624	(3)	Counseling Skills
PSY 640	(6)	Counseling Practicum
PSY 659	(9)	Internship

ELECTIVES (9 Credits)

PSY 614	(3)	Family System
PSY 641	(3)	School Behavior, Adjustment, and Problems
PSY 642	(3)	Educational and Vocational Assessment
PSY 643	(3)	School and Career Guidance and Consultation
PSY 651	(3)	Theories of Family Counseling
PSY 652	(3)	Couple Counseling
PSY 694	(3)	Advanced Topics
PSY 699	(3)	Directed Studies
PSY 700	(3)	Thesis Research (repeatable)

For financial aid assistance, please contact:

UH Hilo Financial Aid Office
 200 W. Kāwili St.
 Hilo, HI 96720-4091
 (808)974-7323, (808)933-0861 (fax)
uhhfao@hawaii.edu

Native Hawaiian students who need assistance with applications and/or scholarships please contact:

Kīpuka Native Hawaiian Student Center
 (808)933-0897
<http://kipuka.uhh.hawaii.edu/>

Frequently Asked Questions

Cost: \$366* per credit hour 2012-2013 resident tuition
 \$841* per credit hour 2012-2013 non-resident tuition
 *Proposed tuition

- 1. How long does it take to complete the program?**
 The program is designed to be completed in 2 years, including the summer sessions.
- 2. What are the entrance requirements?**
 See Check List and Criteria for Admission on front of this form.
- 3. Do I have to take the GRE?**
 Yes, applicants are required to submit General GRE exam scores to UH-Hilo.
- 4. Is there a passing GRE score?**
 No, there is no minimum required score.
- 5. Can I transfer credits?**
 Yes, up to 12 graduate credits excluding Practicum and Internship may be transferred, subject to program approval.
- 6. How much will it cost to live in Hilo?**
 You should budget approximately \$19,000 (residents) and \$25,000 (non-residents) per year for tuition, books, housing, food, and personal expenses.
- 7. Is financial aid available?**
 Contact the UH Hilo Financial Aid Office for information: (808) 974-7323.
- 8. Do I need a computer?**
 Yes, or at least daily access to one.
- 9. Is there a website for the program?**
 Yes, the website has information on pertinent program information:
<http://counseling.uhh.hawaii.edu/>
- 10. Do I need to write a Masters Thesis?**
 Some students may elect to write a Master's thesis in preparation for application to a doctoral program.

Re: _____

Ability to Handle Scholastic Demands

Outstanding Above Average Average Below Average Poor Unable to Rate

Ability to think clearly and logically						
Ability to comprehend theoretical material						
Ability to assimilate theoretical material and comprehend its relevance to real life situations						

Motivation for Counseling Career

Commitment to professional growth						
Desire to help people						

Personal Qualities

Ability to cope effectively with his/her own life stresses						
Ability to work with people who are under stress						
Ability to assume responsibility; carry out assignments and tasks; dependability						
Demonstrates initiative, resourcefulness						
Ability to maintain amicable relationships with others						
Humanitarian orientation: empathy, altruism, compassion						
Ability to exercise sound judgment; emotional maturity						
Evidence of personal integrity						
Ability to be flexible and capable of change						

Ability to Communicate

Verbal ability						
Writing ability						
Listening ability						

In an attached letter, please elaborate on any details you think would help the admissions committee make a decision regarding this applicant's suitability for graduate work and a career in counseling psychology.

Thank you very much for your time and thoughtful consideration in responding to the applicant's request for your recommendation.