

UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN

M.S. IN COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

The M.S. in Counseling Psychology (48 credits hours) program is designed to give graduate students a broad background in mental health counseling and to prepare them to work in a variety of contexts: schools, industrial settings, and mental health facilities.

The program is administered by the Behavioral Sciences Department (Faculty) and is designed to meet independent accreditation standards. A Christian world view will inform the interpretation of current psychological and counseling theories.

Philosophy

The M.S. in Counseling Psychology Graduate Degree adopts an eclectic or integrative training model. It emphasizes holistic development of the physical, mental, social and the spiritual nature of the students as they prepare to meet the needs of their clients in a professional and efficient manner.

Objectives

The program seeks to achieve the following objectives:

1. To enrich and sharpen the skills and broaden the knowledge base of counseling students.
2. To nurture the development of professionals who are capable of conducting quality research in the Behavioral Sciences.
3. To empower leaders and prepare managers of Community Mental Health Services.
4. To prepare future psychologists, counselors, and social workers whose professional practices are governed by Christian, ethical, and professional principles.
5. To provide postgraduate experience in counseling and psychology that prepares the student to pursue doctoral studies in those disciplines.

Prerequisite

Students wishing to pursue the M.S. degree in Counseling Psychology need to fulfill the following requirements:

1. Completed an undergraduate degree from a recognized institution (preferably a degree in the Behavioral Sciences), with no GPA below 3.0
 2. Completed the following courses: Introduction to Psychology, Statistics (preferably Research Methods I), History and Systems of Psychology.
- * Students who do not have all of the prerequisite courses will be advised to take relevant undergraduate courses in the Behavioral Sciences Department before they are matriculated into the graduate program.

Admission Procedures

- * Application for admission should be sent to: Office of Admissions, Graduate Studies: Counseling Psychology, University of the Southern Caribbean, Maracas, Trinidad, W.I.

- * All applicants must have completed an undergraduate degree from a recognized institution. An official transcript from that institution must be submitted directly to the Office of Admissions.
- * Applicants wishing to take courses for personal or professional development or for transfer to another institution may enroll as: Non-Degree Student. Non-Degree students may take a maximum of 9 credits in this category. They must apply for regular admission status if they intend to take more than 9 credits. Non-Degree students are not eligible for student loans. A limit of 9 credit hours earned as a non-degree student may be applied towards a master's degree program. Students who have already earned a graduate degree and are taking classes for licensure purposes should apply as Degree: Licensure Seeking. Such students are eligible for student loans.
- * Graduate Program applicants must submit the following documents for evaluation:
 - i) Application with non-refundable fee (US \$50. or TT equivalent)
 - ii) Two (2) completed Reference Forms
 - iii) Statement of Purpose (300 words) in a clear and articulate scholarly manner.
 - iv) Certified photocopy of Bachelor's Degree.
 - v) Two (2) recent passport size photographs notarized or certified.

Matriculation Requirement

Applicants should have earned a Bachelors degree from a creditable institution with a "B" grade average or better. If this requirement is not met, provisional admission may be granted. Regular admission may be obtained after the student has maintained a 3.0 GPA for 15 credits. All applicants who do not have formal training in psychology or counseling will be required to take a preliminary set of courses in Psychology and Counseling (by advisement).

Schedule and Continuity Requirements

Students who wish to complete their program with the time stipulated **must** enter the program and follow the recommended sequence of courses. They **must** also take the recommended number of credits. The M.S. in Counseling program begins in September of each year.

The M. S. Degree requires that all students:

- * Maintain a "B" grade average or better throughout their study.
- * Repeat courses in which they earn grades, which are below "B-". A GPA below 3.0 will result in automatic placement on probation. A letter of warning will be issued in such an instance.
- * If a GPA of 3.0 is not reinstated during the next session or set of courses, the student will be informed by letter of not meeting program standards, and will not be allowed to continue in the M.S. Counseling Psychology program.

Emphasis

The Counseling Psychology Program (M.S.) offers three (3) emphases: Marriage/Family Counseling, School Counseling, and Community Counseling. Students can choose electives that will enable them to explore those topics in greater details.

Accreditation

The M.S. Counseling Psychology Graduate Degree is designed to meet the criteria for accreditation established by the Adventist Accreditation Association (AAA), the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT), the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), and the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (AAMFT). Additional courses/standardized test results (e.g. GRE) may be needed for certification outside of Trinidad or entry into other graduate programs.

Cost of Program

The cost of this program is \$12,000. TT (twelve thousand dollars) per semester for six (6) semesters which will be \$72,000. TT (seventy two thousand dollars) for the entire program, which should run for about two years.

M.S in Counseling Psychology Program
Behavioral Science Department (Faculty)

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|-------------|--|-----------|
| CORE | (39 Credits) | 39 |
| A. | <u>Fundamentals</u> | |
| 1. | COUN 501 Christian Counseling: Approaches & Techniques | 3 |
| B. | <u>Foundations of Counseling</u> | |
| 1. | PSYC 510 Developmental Issues: Counseling Implications | 3 |
| 2. | PSYC 511 Psychological Research Methods | 3 |
| 3. | COUN630 Crisis Intervention | 3 |
| C. | <u>Research & Evaluation</u> | |
| 1. | PSYC 620 Psychological Testing and Assessment` | 3 |
| 2. | PSYC 615 Behavioral Statistics | 3 |
| D. | <u>Counseling Context</u> | |
| 1. | COUN 520 Theories and Techniques in Counseling | 3 |
| 2. | PSYC 525 Group Processes: Theory and Practice | 3 |
| 3. | MFTH 615 Marriage, Family and The Life Cycle | 3 |
| E. | <u>Professional Standards and Ethics</u> | |
| 1. | PSYC 650 Professional Ethics | 3 |
| 2. | COUN 530 Practicum I (Yr. I) | 3 |
| 3. | COUN 531 Practicum II (during yr. II) | 3 |
| 4. | PSYC 699 Master's Project/Thesis | 3 |
| | Electives (9 Credits) | 9 |
| | <u>Marriage/Family Counseling</u> | |
| 1. | MFTH 535 Marriage Counseling | 3 |
| 2. | COUN 611 Child Psychotherapy | 3 |
| 3. | COUN 635 Family Therapy | 3 |
| | <u>School Counseling</u> | |
| 1. | COUN 605 Issues in School Counseling | 3 |
| 2. | COUN 555 Career Development | 3 |
| 3. | COUN 625 Administration/Supervision of Guidance Services | 3 |
| | <u>Community Counseling</u> | |
| 1. | PSYC 540 Multicultural Issues | 3 |
| 2. | PSYC 630 Psychopathology: Classification and Treatment | 3 |
| 3. | PSYC 645 Organizational Psychology | 3 |
| | | 48 |

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

| COURSE | DESCRIPTION | CREDITS |
|---------------------|---|----------|
| COUN 501 | Christian counseling: Approaches and Techniques This overview examines major trends in psychotherapy from a Christian perspective. Special attention is given to understudy essential interviewing and counseling skills. | 3 |
| COUN 520 | Theories and Techniques in Counseling This course examines the major theories of counseling from A multicultural perspective with emphasis on the integration of theory and practice. (Pre-requisite: COUN 501 Christian Counseling). | 3 |
| COUN 530/531 | Practicum I and II The practicum is designed to give students the opportunity to develop and sharpen acquired skills and to learn new ones, as Well as to synthesize and integrate various aspects of their preparation to function within a work setting. Each practicum student is expected to complete 600 hours of practicum Experience (COUN 530 require 300 clock hours; COUN 531 Require 300 clock hours) | 3 |
| COUN 555 | Career Development This course reviews and examines the major theories of career development. Students will be exposed to various assessment models, dimensions of career life planning, and current strategies and techniques of career counseling. | 3 |
| COUN 605 | Issues in school Counseling This course introduces students to the major writings and Issues in school counseling. This course takes a critical look at current administrative practices, roles and the appropriate function of school guidance and counseling programs. In addition, career development Theories and counseling protocols will be examined in order to maximize the potential of school children as well as adult learners. (Pre-requisite: COUN 510 Developmental Issues) | 3 |
| COUN611 | Child Psychotherapy This course will provide a comprehensive and critical analysis of the theoretical and applied approaches to child psychotherapy. The first unit will review foundations in child psychotherapy, discussing three principal paradigms: psychodynamic, child-centered and cognitive-behavioural theories. We will additionally | 3 |

discuss systems family therapy in the context of family-based approaches for working with children. The second unit will discuss the practice of child psychotherapy and the therapeutic, legal, ethical and cultural issues and the responsibilities of the therapist. Treatment planning, case conceptualization and general therapy techniques and procedures will be addressed. The third unit will examine specific evidence-based treatment interventions for children struggling with anxiety, trauma and depression. In this unit there will be cases presentations by participants.

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| COUN 625 | Administration/Supervisor of Guidance This course examines the history, philosophy and principles of School Guidance Services. The issues logically will include protocol involved in designing, implementing and managing comprehensive school guidance and counseling programs. Emphasis will be placed on: definition of roles, classification of functions, optional use of resources, referrals, consultation and evaluation of guidance services. | 3 |
| COUN 630 | Crisis Intervention This course introduces solution – focused and brief therapeutic approaches to address various types of crises that affect the lives of individuals and families. | 3 |
| COUN 635 | Family Therapy The course reviews major approaches to family treatments, patterns of family conflicts and mechanism of conflict resolution, effects of psychotherapeutic interventions on family functioning and theories and definitions of family psychopathology. Students will study the family life cycle approach. (Pre-requisite: MFTH535 Marriage, Family & The Life Cycle). | 3 |
| PSYC 510 | Developmental Issues: Counseling Implications This course examines major life span developmental theories. The course emphasizes the concept that human beings have the capacity for development and thus are amenable to therapeutic change throughout the life span. | 3 |
| PSYC 511 | Psychological Research Methods This course reviews: the basic principles of descriptive and inferential statistics. Random sampling distributions and the central limit theorem are used in hypothesis testing. T-test, Chi Square and other correlation coefficient are used in analysis is introduced and students are introduced. The course provides students with the principles, knowledge base, methods and techniques of psychological research. | 3 |

Students are exposed to the concepts of Validity and Reliability as well as the SPSS software.

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| PSYC 525 | Group Processes: Theory and Practice This course presents the essential theoretical concepts for understanding group dynamics. Students are introduced to group counseling (Pre-requisite: PSYC 510 and COUN 501) | 3 |
| PSYC 540 | Multicultural Issues The course will review the research and other writings on human behavior in diverse social groups in different countries. The following will be emphasized: (i) group dynamics (ii) psychological bases of behavior (iii) conflict resolution (iv) counseling various social and ethnic groups (v) evaluation of social programs within multicultural societies. (Pre-requisite: COUN 501 and PSYC 510) | 3 |
| PSYC 615 | Behavioral Statistics This course introduces multivariate statistical analyses. One of its objectives is to introduce students to the logical and applications of Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) and the fundamentals of multiple regression. Emphasis is placed on: the impact of the departure from normality homogeneity of variance, linearity and Factor Analysis. (Pre-requisite: PSYC 511) | 3 |
| PSYC 620 | Psychological Testing and Assessment This course discusses the major challenges associated with the development of valid, reliable and useful tests. The course also highlights the correct interpretation of scores of standardized instruments in an effort to maximize the clinical benefits of using those instruments. The major types of published or standardized tests are reviewed. (Pre-requisite: PSYC 511) | 3 |
| PSYC 630 | Psychopathology: Classification and Treatment This course introduces students to basic concepts of history, current paradigms, and assessment of psychology with special emphasis on American Psychiatric Association diagnostic classification system (DSM-IV) and counseling/clinical approaches to treatment | 3 |

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| PSYC 645 | Organizational Psychology The course focuses on the factors that influence people's motivation, commitment and productivity in organizations. Current management practices and their impact on workers' mental health and performance will be examined in order to equip mental health workers with skills that may facilitate human growth within cooperations. (Pre-requisite: PSYC 511) | 3 |
| PSYC 650 | Professional Ethics The course is designed to introduce students to ethical codes of professional standards and legal guidelines relevant to the field of counseling. Students are expected to produce an original paper on an ethical issue of relevance in this field. | 3 |
| PSYC 655 | Program Evaluation This course introduces students to the rationale for the current emphasis on program evaluation as a necessary compliment to the use of social intervention. It emphasizes the techniques used to assess the efficiency of social programs. It gives skills used to effect policy development, shape the design and implementation of social interventions, and improve the management of social intervention. (Pre-requisite: PSYC 511) | 3 |
| PSYC 696 | Masters Project Each student selects a topic and develops a scholarly paper under the supervision of an advisor. The major findings of his/her investigation will be orally presented to the members of the committee (Pre-requisite: PSYC 511) | 3 |
| PSYC 699 | Master's Thesis Each student will select a topic and develop a scholarly paper under the supervision of an advisor. The major findings of his/her investigation will be orally presented and defended in the presence of his/her committee members, (Pre-requisite: PSYC 511 and PSYC 615) | 3 |
| MFTH 535 | Marriage Counseling The course introduces the students to different models for conducting Marriage and Couple counseling to help couples with various marital problems. The emphasis is on pre-marital counseling. (Pre-requisite: COUN 520) | 3 |
| MFTH 615 | Marriage, Family and the Life Cycle This course prepares students to: i) understand and work with the family life cycle approaches in order to understand how the family system changes over time and how these changes impact the family | 3 |

unit over time.

ii) expose students to models for conducting marriage counseling that foster long lasting and healthy relationships.

iii) review major approaches to family therapy, with special emphasis on family communication and interaction, family conflicts and conflict resolution. (Pre-requisite: PSYC 510 and COUN 520)



UNIVERSITY *of the* SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN

Royal Road, Maracas, St. Joseph, Trinidad

Main Campus Graduate Tuition & Non-Tuition Fees

- Please note that ALL fees are quoted in TTD. The exchange rate is \$6.70 TTD: \$1:00 USD.
- Both fees and exchange rates are subject to change without prior notification.
- All students are required to pay health insurance.
- The caution deposit fee is charged once, in the semester that the student begins classes and is admitted in the dormitory.
- Please refer to the "Policies & Procedures for GATE Funded Students - Undergraduate & Graduate Students" on AEORION, and in your student email Inbox.

| M.S. COUNSELLING PSYCHOLOGY | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|---|--------------------|
| This programme is GATE funded. | OTHER FEES (per year) | | | REGISTRATION/GENERAL FEE (16 Modules x \$335.00) | |
| | Semester 1 | Semester 2 | Semester 3 | | |
| Health Insurance | | | | General Fees (year 1) | \$2,680.00 |
| Single | \$300.00 | \$300.00 | \$225.00 | General Fees (year 2) | \$2,680.00 |
| Family | \$600.00 | \$600.00 | \$450.00 | TOTAL COST | \$5,360.00 |
| (August rate (single)) | | | \$75.00 | | |
| (August rate (family)) | | | \$150.00 | | |
| Residence Halls | | | | TUITON COST (16 Modules x \$4,500.00) | |
| Women's Residence Hall (with two-meal plan) | \$10,000.00 | \$10,000.00 | \$5,000.00 | Tuition cost (year 1) | \$36,000.00 |
| Men's Residence Hall (with two-meal plan) | \$10,000.00 | \$10,000.00 | \$5,000.00 | | |
| Cafeteria (additional meal) | \$3,000.00 | \$3,000.00 | \$1,440.00 | Tuition cost (year 2) | \$36,000.00 |
| Marriage Complex | \$12,000.00 | \$12,000.00 | \$12,000.00 | TOTAL COST TUITION | \$72,000.00 |
| (caution deposit fee for Marriage Complex) | \$3,000.00 | \$3,000.00 | \$3,000.00 | | |
| Other Fees | | | | OVERAL COST OF PROGRAM | 77,360.00 |
| Caution Deposit Fee | \$640.00 | \$640.00 | \$640.00 | | |
| Late Registration Processing Fee | \$384.00 | \$384.00 | \$384.00 | | |
| Incomplete Fee (per course) | \$200.00 | \$200.00 | \$200.00 | | |
| Gym Fee (optional) | \$150.00 | \$150.00 | \$120.00 | | |

HERE ARE OUR ACCESSIBLE PAYMENT OPTIONS FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

- 1) Payments must be made to: **University of the Southern Caribbean**
- 2) Personal cheques and third party cheques are not accepted.
- 3) Payments of up to \$500.00 (cash) can be made at the Cashier's Station, Finance Division, Administration Building. Cash payments of more than \$500.00 must be made at the local banks listed below.
- 4) **Online payment facility is available on AEORION using your Visa credit card, payment must be made in TT dollars.**
- 5) Students who will be making their payments at the Cashier in the Administration Building must take a number and be seated. When your number is called, you will then proceed to the Cashier.
- 6) Payments of full amounts for tuition, general and other fees can be made at the Banks listed below or at the Cashier's Station, Finance Division, Administration Building, using your LINX, Debit Card, Credit Card, Certified Cheques, bank drafts, or international money order ONLY. **When paying at the banks, please provide the Bank Teller with your Name and USC I.D. number to place on the transaction.**
- 7) If paying in TT Dollars, payment should be made at the RBC Bank Account Number: 1000-810-705-3657-6.
- 8) If paying in US Dollars, payment should be made at RBC Bank Account Number: 1000-180-103-1657-3.
- 9) If paying via Wire Transfer, please note the Wire Transfer information that is carefully itemized for easy reference:

USD DOLLAR TRANSACTION

RBC Royal Bank, Eastern Main Road, St Augustine, Trinidad, W. I. Swift Code –RBTTTTPX. Bank of New York, 48 Wall Street, NY, NY, USA. ABA# 021-000-018 to credit A/C # 890-0016-329 in the name of RBC Bank T&T Ltd. For further credit to A/C # 1000 180 103 16573 in the name of University of the Southern Caribbean.

UK POUND/STERLING TRANSACTION

RBC Royal Bank, Eastern Main Road, St Augustine, Trinidad, W. I. Swift Code –RBTTTTPX. National Westminster Bank PLC, Devonshire Square, London, EC2M 4XB, GB. Swift Code-NWBKGB2L in the name of RBC Bank T&T Ltd. For further credit to A/C # 1000 180 103 16573 in the name of University of the Southern Caribbean.

EURO TRANSACTION – through BELGIUM

RBC Royal Bank, Eastern Main Road, St Augustine, Trinidad, W. I. Swift Code –RBTTTTPX. ING Belgium NZ/SA Marnix Building, 1050 Brussels Belgium. Swift Code-BBRUBEBB010 in the name of RBC Bank T&T Ltd. For further credit to A/C # 1000 180 103 16573 in the name of University of the Southern Caribbean.

EURO TRANSACTION – through GERMANY

RBC Royal Bank, Eastern Main Road, St Augustine, Trinidad, W. I. Swift Code –RBTTTTPX. Deutsche Bank AG, 60262 Frankfurt AM Main, Germany. Swift Code-DEUTDEFF in the name of RBC Bank T&T Ltd. For further credit to A/C # 1000 180 103 16573 in the name of University of the Southern Caribbean.

Payments made at the cashier are automatically entered into the student's account; however you must ensure that you receive a receipt from the university cashier for your records.

Students' Exchange Rate

The University of the Southern Caribbean wishes to advise all its students that in light of the continued depreciation of the TT dollar vis à vis the US dollar, effective July 1, 2017 the exchange rate applicable for all transactions has been adjusted from TT\$6.40 to TT\$6.70 to the USD. Both fees and exchange rates are subject to change without prior notification.

***Student Finance Department
studentfinance@usc.edu.tt
1-868-662-2241/2, Ext. 1225***