

Master of Science (M.S.) in Clinical Psychology

Admissions Requirements

Admission to the MS Clinical Psychology degree program requires that a student has earned a Baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited academic institution. An applicant must have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale), as well as a 3.0 or greater GPA in courses in the social and behavioral sciences, in order to be competitive in the admissions process. The General Test score of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) taken within the past 5 years is also required. Official reports of the GRE score must be submitted directly to the Institute from the Educational Testing Service (school code 5639).

Applicants whose native language is not English must have taken the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) within the past two years and obtained equivalent scores of 600 paper and pencil version, or 250 computerized version, or 100 internet-based. The Institute also accepts the International English Language Test System (IELTS) with an overall band score of 7.0 on the academic IELTS with no individual band scores below 6.0.

Applicants holding degrees from institutions outside of the United States must arrange to have these transcripts translated and evaluated course-by-course. In addition to the official copy of each International Transcript, the Office of Admissions must receive an official "Course-by-Course Evaluation" directly from an approved evaluation service (ex. www.wes.org or www.ece.org).

Academic success at the Institute is enhanced by a candidate's undergraduate coursework in the social or behavioral sciences. Consequently, it is recommended, though not required, that applicants complete a minimum of 18 credit hours of undergraduate coursework in basic psychology (including areas such as abnormal, developmental, experimental, physiological and social psychology, statistics, tests and measures, learning and motivation, and personality theory) prior to entering the program. However, applicants with no previous coursework in psychology will be considered for admission. If admitted, such applicants will be required to take additional coursework offered by the Institute during the first year of their program to make up for these deficiencies.

In addition, given the Institute's aim to integrate subject matter on the nature of the human person from Catholic philosophical and theological tradition into our psychology curriculum, all students are required to complete four courses in the areas of theology and philosophy in order to graduate. These courses are not ancillary to the psychology curriculum but rather provide the primary subject matter for its integrative dimension. Students who apply should be prepared to undertake rigorous graduate level studies in philosophy and theology in areas relevant to psychology. For those with no formal education in theology or philosophy, we highly recommend as preparation for studies at the Institute that you familiarize yourself with the general content of the following ecclesiastical texts:

From Vatican II:

Lumen gentium, Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (1964)

Dei verbum, Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (1965)

Gaudium et spes, Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (1965)

Dignitatis humanae, Declaration on Religious Liberty (1965)

Apostolicam actuositatem, Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity (1965)

From the Papal Writings

Pius XI: Casti Connubii, On Christian Marriage (1930)

Paul VI: Humanae Vitae, On the Regulation of Birth (1968)

John Paul II:

- Redemptor hominis, On the Redeemer of Man (1979)
- Veritatis splendor, On Fundamental Questions on the Church's Moral Teaching (1993)
- Evangelium vitae, On the Value and Inviolability of Human Life (1995)
- Fides et ratio, On the Relationship between Faith and Reason (1998)
- Ecclesia de eucharistia, On the Eucharist in its Relationship to the Church (2003)
- Theology of the Body, Part One: "Original Unity of Man and Woman," "Blessed are the Pure of Heart."

In considering applicants to the M.S. in Clinical Psychology degree program, the faculty Admissions Committee considers the following factors: cumulative undergraduate GPA (as well as graduate GPA if applicable), undergraduate GPA of courses in the social and behavioral sciences, GRE scores, letters of recommendation, interview responses, answers to essays on the application, and TOEFL or IELTS scores (where applicable). The admission process is focused on the individual. Therefore, personal interviews will be arranged with all applicants meeting the published academic criteria. In the case of prohibitive distance, or other extenuating circumstances, the applicant to the Master of Science in Clinical Psychology degree program may petition to have the in-person interview requirement waived and conducted by telephone.