

An Introduction to Graduate Study in Clinical/Counseling Psychology and Related Fields

2nd Edition



What's Inside

- Types of Clinical/Counseling degrees and associated work
- Preparing for graduate school
- Selecting the schools to apply to: What to look for in a program
- Employment outlook
- Licensure
- Colorado Graduate Programs in Clinical/Counseling Psychology and Related Fields

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I. Types of Clinical/Counseling Degrees and Associated Work

If you like the helping professions and want to be able to counsel people or provide therapy, you will probably want to pursue a graduate degree. (In Colorado, it is possible to be a counselor without an advanced degree, but there are many advantages to getting a master's or doctoral degree before attempting to make a career out of providing mental health services. See licensure section for additional information.) There are many different graduate programs available, and it is essential that you understand the difference between the programs so that you pursue what's right for you.

Many factors must be considered before deciding the type of program that you will apply to. This is a very personal and individual decision, and there is no "right" program except for what is the best fit for you. Primarily, you will want to be very clear about your ultimate career goals, so that you choose a graduate degree that will best prepare you for your desired line of work. Other factors to consider include the number of years, the expense, the acceptance rates, and your qualifications for the degree program to which you are applying. Ultimately, you want to apply to a program that best meets your needs and offers the level of education you want (doctorate or master's), the coursework and training essential to what you ultimately want to do (research; teaching; individual, couples, or family therapy; assessments or testing; working with children, adults, elderly, etc.), as well as the theoretical orientations you want to learn (cognitive behavioral therapy, acceptance and commitment therapy, solution-focused therapy, psychoanalytic therapy, etc.).

What follows is an overview of the major types of graduate programs in clinical and counseling psychology. It is strongly encouraged that you go beyond this brief overview, and that you further explore the different degree options by talking to professionals with the graduate educations that you are considering. There are also some excellent guidebooks that you can reference, which will further explain the differences between programs and details about specific schools: *Insider's Guide to Graduate Programs in Clinical and Counseling Psychology* (Sayette & Norcross, 2018), and *Graduate Study in Psychology* (American Psychological Association, 2018).

Applying to graduate school is an expensive and time-consuming process, so you will want to make sure you get it right! Taking your time and applying to the right degree program for *you* will likely lead to an easier and more successful application process, appropriate and rewarding graduate training, and a happy and satisfying career!

a. Doctoral Programs in Clinical Psychology/Counseling Psychology/School Psychology

Doctoral programs in Clinical Psychology or Counseling Psychology or School Psychology offer the most substantial level of training. For clinical programs, the current trend is to apply directly to doctoral programs following your undergraduate degree. Many counseling psychology programs prefer to accept students who have already earned a master's degree. Some doctoral programs will have you work towards and earn your master's degree within the first few years of your doctoral training; in these programs the master's degree is built in to their curriculum but is not a terminal degree. Regardless of the program you apply to, you will want to *make sure* it is accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA), or—in the case of school psychology programs—by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). You can see a list of APA approved sites by visiting:

<http://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation/programs/index.aspx>. NASP-approved programs can be seen here: <https://www.nasponline.org/standards-and-certification/graduate-program-approval-and-accreditation/nasp-approved-programs>

i. Clinical Psychology Ph.D.

The clinical psychology Ph.D. (Doctorate of Philosophy) tends to be the most competitive graduate psychology degree. The program follows the “scientist/practitioner” or “Boulder Model” of training, meaning approximately 50% of your training will consist of learning about and conducting clinical research and approximately 50% of your training will consist of learning and practicing evidence-based talk-therapy. Even within clinical psychology Ph.D. programs, there will be some variability in terms of how research-focused the education is. Programs that are more research-focused tend to be more selective, but they are also likely to provide more funding to their graduate students. You will likely be required to take a few years' worth of coursework in statistics and research design so that you can ultimately conduct your own research, culminating in your dissertation. Your research might focus on treatment outcome or psychological assessment or the symptoms and development of a particular mental health problem. Empirically validated treatments, assessments, and diagnosing will be emphasized in a clinical psychology training program. Additionally, you will have extensive training in psychological theory and practice.

Most clinical psychology Ph.D. programs are housed within a major university, usually the Psychology Department, and the graduate position is funded by research grants that faculty members have secured. When applying to this type of program, you apply to work with a specific mentor who has research funding or opportunities to take on a graduate student, and whose research area matches your own interests (e.g., PTSD, depression prevention, etc.). Depending on the year and funding, a particular clinical psychology Ph.D. program may or may not accept graduate students/applications.

The “clinical” in clinical Psychology indicates that you are trained to work with people with more severe psychopathology – people who are likely to meet criteria for one or more mental health disorders found in the DSM (e.g. anorexia nervosa, schizophrenia, bipolar I/II

disorders, etc.). However, you are also likely to work with people who are experiencing normal psychological crises (e.g. grief, stress). Some clinical psychologists work as generalists, treating people with a variety of problems, and others focus on a specific group or disorder (e.g., children, the elderly, eating disorders, ADHD). Your training will prepare you to work with a variety of mental health problems and in a variety of settings.

- **Training Emphasis:** intelligence and diagnostic assessments/testing, diagnosing, research, DSM disorders, empirically supported treatments, psychotherapy theory and practice
- **How Long it Takes to Earn Your Degree:** 5 years minimum, full-time (4-5 years coursework, research, clinical training; 1 year of clinical internship)
- **Entering Class Size:** 2-10
- **Average Acceptance Rates:** The average acceptance rate into a clinical psychology Ph.D. program is 6% (Sayette & Norcross, 2018). However, not all clinical psychology Ph.D. programs are the same, and they vary on the research/practice continuum. The more research-focused programs accept fewer than 5% of applicants, whereas the more balanced and practice-oriented programs accept a little more than 10% of applicants (Sayette & Norcross, 2018).
- **Financial Aid:** Though clinical psychology Ph.D. programs have, on average, the most difficult admissions rates of all doctoral programs in clinical/counseling/school psychology, they also provide the most financial aid and funding. Nearly 90% of graduate students in a research-oriented clinical psychology Ph.D. program receive tuition waivers *and* a stipend for research or a teaching assistantship. If the clinical psychology Ph.D. program has an equal emphasis on research and practice, this percentage drops to 54%. In other words, the more research focused the program, the harder it is to get in, but the more funding you are likely to receive (Sayette & Norcross, 2018).
- **General Requirements for Completion of the Ph.D.:** clinical training and practicum, completion of a master's thesis as a part of the Ph.D. program, completion and approval of a dissertation (usually involving original research), year-long, fulltime pre-doctoral internship
- **Professional Activities with this Degree:** psychotherapy (80%), diagnosis/assessment (64%), teaching (50%), clinical supervision (50%), research/writing (51%), consultation (47%), administration (53%) (Norcross & Sayette, 2012)
- **Career Placement:** private practice, universities or colleges, medical schools, outpatient clinics, community mental health centers, psychiatric hospitals, general hospitals, Veterans Administration, other

ii. Counseling Psychology Ph.D.

The counseling psychology Ph.D. (Doctorate of Philosophy) shares the “scientist-practitioner” or “Boulder model” of training seen in clinical psychology Ph.D. education. You will spend approximately 50% of your time training as a research scientist and approximately 50% of your time learning and practicing applied work in across several

broad domains: counseling process and outcome; supervision and training; assessment and testing, including applications in career counseling; and prevention and health. As with clinical Ph.D. programs, you will likely be required to take a few years' worth of coursework in statistics and research design so that you can ultimately conduct your own research, culminating in your dissertation. Your research might focus on counseling process and outcome, like how the therapeutic relationship or cultural variables affect treatment efficacy.

Most counseling psychology Ph.D. programs are housed within a major university, and graduate students may be funded by research grants that the faculty members have secured – resulting in more financial assistance than most master's or Psy.D. programs. When applying to a counseling psychology Ph.D. program, you apply to work with a specific mentor who is accepting applications and whose research area matches your own interests. Depending on the year and funding, a particular counseling psychology Ph.D. program may or may not accept graduate students/ applications.

The “counseling” in counseling psychology indicates a historical focus on people’s assets and strengths, on person/environment interactions, and on helping clients cope with significant life transitions. You will be trained to assess, diagnose, and treat the broad range of mental disorders included in the DSM, though the emphasis is less on pathology and more on regular life challenges such as work or relationship problems, health concerns, and significant life adjustments. Your training will prepare you to work with a variety of mental health problems and in a variety of settings.

- **Training Emphasis:** research, intelligence and diagnostic assessments, vocational and career assessments, cultural influences, diagnosis of DSM disorders, empirically supported treatments, psychotherapy theory and practice
- **How Long it Takes to Earn Your Degree:** 4-5 years minimum, full-time (4-5 years coursework, research, clinical training; 1 year of clinical internship)
- **Entering Class Size:** 2-10 students
- **Average Acceptance Rates:** The average acceptance rate into counseling psychology Ph.D. programs is 8%. The more research-focused the program is, the more difficult it will be to get accepted (Sayette & Norcross, 2018).
- **Financial Aid:** The counseling psychology Ph.D. has considerable variability in financial aid and funding. It is estimated that 10% to 89% of graduate students receive both tuition waivers and a stipend for a research/teaching assistantship. The more research focused the program, the more funding you are likely to receive (Norcross & Sayette, 2012).
- **General Requirements for Completion of the Ph.D.:** clinical training and practicum, completion of a master's thesis as a part of the Ph.D. program, completion and approval of a dissertation (usually involving original research), year-long fulltime pre-doctoral internship.

- **Professional Activities with this Degree:** psychotherapy (75%), diagnosis/assessment (62%), teaching (60%), clinical supervision (54%), research/writing (50%), consultation (61%), administration (56%) (Norcross & Sayette, 2012).
- **Career Placement:** private practice, universities or colleges, community mental health centers, medical schools, outpatient clinics, psychiatric hospitals, general hospitals, Veterans Administration, other.

iii. School Psychology Ph.D.

The school psychology Ph.D. (Doctorate of Philosophy) mostly shares the Boulder model or “scientist-practitioner” training model seen in clinical and counseling psychology Ph.D. programs. You will spend approximately 50% of your time trained as a research scientist and approximately 50% of your time learning and practicing the art of working with children in schools. Most school psychology Ph.D. programs are housed within a major university, usually within the Department of Education, and graduate students may be funded by research grants that the faculty members have secured. When applying to this type of program, you apply to work with a specific mentor who is accepting applications and whose research area matches your own interests. Depending on the year and funding, a particular School Psychology Ph.D. program may or may not accept graduate students/applications.

The “School” in “School Psychology” indicates that you will be trained to test, assess, diagnose, and provide interventions to children and youth in school settings. The school psychologist maintains a focus on child and youth development and systems, child psychopathology (e.g., autism spectrum disorders, learning disorders, anxiety, depression, etc.), prevention for at-risk youth, and a focus on learning, behavior, and intervention in school settings. Your training will prepare you to work with a variety of learning, behavioral, and mental health problems faced by school-aged children and youth. While most school psychologists (81%) will later work in schools, they are trained and prepared to work in a variety of settings. However, state licensure requirements vary from state to state, and some jurisdictions do not allow school psychologists to practice in non-school settings. Also, the Ph.D. in school psychology is more accessible than a Ph.D. in clinical psychology with a child focus.

For further information about school psychology, check out APA’s Division of School Psychology (www.apa.org/about/division/div16.aspx) and the National Association of School Psychology (www.nasponline.org)

- **Training Emphasis:** learning, behavior, assessment, psychopathology, prevention, intervention, school-aged children and youth
- **How Long it Takes to Earn Your Degree:** 5-6 years full-time (4 years of course work, 1 year of internship)
- **Entering Class Size:** 4-8 students
- **Average Acceptance Rates:** According to the APA’s 2018 Graduate Study in Psychology Summary Report, the average acceptance rate into School Psychology Ph.D. programs in

2018 was 32% (which places school psychology doctoral programs among the highest median acceptance rates)

- **Financial Aid:** The School Psychology Ph.D. has considerable variability in financial aid and funding
- **General Requirements for Completion of the Ph.D.:** research, school training and practicum, completion of a master's thesis as a part of the Ph.D. program, completion and approval of a dissertation (often involving original data collection), year-long fulltime internship
- **Professional Activities with this Degree:** The main duties include observing classroom dynamics; developing and evaluating behavioral management programs; administering, scoring, and interpreting intelligence and personality tests; educating school personnel on topics such as classroom management and learning strategies; providing individual and group therapy and/or psychoeducation to students; referring students and their families to outside services (Himelein, 1999)
- **Career Placement:** public school settings (81%) including nurseries, pre-school, elementary, middle, high school, and colleges and universities; other career settings include school-based mental health centers, hospitals, social service agencies; academia - universities or colleges; research centers (retrieved from <https://careersinpsychology.org/employment-outlook-guidance-school-psychologists/> April 10, 2019)

iv. Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.)

The "Doctor of Psychology" (Psy.D.) program or the "Vail Model" of training developed as an alternative training model to the Ph.D. or "Boulder Model." This program follows the "professional" model of training, with a primary focus on the practice of psychology. This is the perfect option if you want to focus on clinical training but are not interested in quantitative research or a career in academia. If you envision yourself teaching at a 4-year college or university, this is *not* the degree you will want to pursue, as you will not be trained for an academic position. On the other hand, if you see yourself *practicing* psychotherapy and you want doctoral training, this may be the perfect option for you!

Psy.D. programs are mostly free-standing private schools that are "for-profit," meaning that both class sizes and tuitions are likely to be high to support the expenses of the program. PsyD programs tend to be significantly larger in class size than Ph.D. programs. You are more likely to get accepted into a Psy.D. program, but you will pay for it in tuition.

A Psy.D. degree will train you to practice talk-therapy with clinical populations – populations with psychopathology as seen in the DSM. You are likely to work in a variety of settings including private practice, outpatient clinics, or hospitals as a licensed clinical psychologist. Though there is stigma that a Psy.D. is less of a degree than a Ph.D., the similarities between the programs far outweigh the differences, and the licensing process is the same. Psy.D.s and Ph.D.s alike are "psychologists" following completion of their degree and attainment of licensure. You should choose the program that is the best fit for *you*.

- **Training Emphasis:** psychological theory and practice, testing/assessments, being a consumer of psychological research
- **How Long it Takes to Earn Your Degree:** 3-4 years, full-time (3 years of coursework, practicums and 1 year of clinical internship)
- **Entering Class Size:** 20-60 students (Norton & Sayette, 2012)
- **Average Acceptance Rates:** ~40% (Norcross et al., 2010)
- **Financial Aid:** Financial assistance for Psy.D. graduate students is very low. Only 1-10% of students receive full financial assistance (tuition waiver and stipend). Most students pay the heavy tuition and living expenses through personal funds or student loans. Over 30% of graduate students from Psy.D. programs have more than \$120,000 in debt when they graduate from their program (Norton & Sayette, 2012).
- **General Requirements for Completion of the Psy.D.:** clinical training and practicum, completion of a master's thesis as a part of the Psy.D. program, completion and approval of a dissertation, year-long fulltime internship. (Some Psy.D. programs require traditional research-based dissertations while others require "doctoral papers," which are less rigorous than traditional dissertations.)
- **Professional Activities with this Degree:** psychotherapy, diagnosis/assessment, clinical supervision, consultation, administration
- **Career Placement:** private practice, outpatient clinics, psychiatric hospitals, general hospitals, Veterans Administration, other

b. Master's Programs in Psychology and Related Fields

If you want to become a therapist, but you don't want the many years of training (or potential debt) required to complete a doctoral program, a master's level graduate degree may be a good option for you. In fact, master's level therapists are becoming the main providers of psychotherapy and are more frequently hired by insurance companies.

Master's level graduate programs take an average of two years to complete, collectively have a 50% acceptance rate, and lead to substantially more career opportunities than bachelor's degrees. The master's degrees that we will review below are terminal degrees, meaning they will prepare you to work directly in the field of mental health upon completion of your degree and licensure.

Master's level therapists often have their own private practice (and charge roughly 75% of what doctoral level therapists charge). You will also frequently see master's level therapists employed in outpatient clinics, mental health centers, general and psychiatric hospitals, adoption centers, government agencies, and other sites.

There are many types of master's programs in psychology and related fields, so it is important that you understand the differences and choose to apply to the type of master's programs that will best prepare you for the specific work you want to do. Also, the curriculum will vary greatly from program to program, so make sure you take a close look at the course requirements of all

programs you are considering. Remember, there is no right or wrong, just what is the best fit for *you*.

i. Master's in Social Work (M.S.W.)

Of the master's degree options, the M.S.W. is perhaps the most versatile, flexible, and possibly recession-proof of all. The M.S.W. has earned tremendous respect, and allows for a wide variety of career possibilities, including adoption specialist, guidance counselor, social services caseworker, policy analyst, agency director, immigration reform advocate, family therapist, mental health counselor...and more.

M.S.W. programs vary considerably, and many offer a clinical or community training focus. Clinically-focused M.S.W.s will focus on serving as advocates, therapists, and service providers for "at-risk" populations whose mental health has been negatively affected by social and economic systems. It is likely that you will focus even further to work specifically with children, families, individuals, the elderly, or couples. Community-focused M.S.W.s focus on solving community problems through social change. They are likely to focus on program development, administration, social policy development, politics, and social movements.

There are some big advantages to the M.S.W. degree, including higher rates of admission (65%), few research requirements, an emphasis on practical training, and licensure eligibility across all 50 states.

- **Training Emphasis:** direct mental health services and interventions, social advocacy, social policy, social change
- **How Long it Takes to Earn Your Degree:** 2 years, full time
- **Entering Class Size:** approximately 40 students in an entering class
- **Average Acceptance Rates:** 65% (Norcross & Sayette, 2012)
- **Financial Aid:** Students pay tuition through private funds and student loans.
- **Common Careers with this Degree:** hospital care manager, school social worker, mental health center clinician, private practice therapist, school guidance counselor, child welfare caseworker, social services administrator, adoption agency service provider, etc.

ii. Clinical Psychology Master's Program (M.A.)

The master's degree in clinical psychology is an excellent option for students interested in the theory and practice of psychotherapy with a more acute population. Course work and practicums will be tailored to provide interventions with individuals with mental health disturbances and/or psychiatric illness. Some basic training with assessments and research is likely to be provided, but not emphasized. Theoretical orientations taught are likely to be empirically based and will most likely include cognitive behavioral therapy.

- **Training Emphasis:** theory, practice, and consumer research pertaining to psychopathological populations (e.g. personality disorders, attention deficit disorder, PTSD, etc.)
- **How Long it Takes to Earn Your Degree:** 2 years, full time
- **Entering Class Size:** The mean entering class size is 35 students (http://www.psichi.org/pubs/articles/article_549.aspx#Table1)
- **Average Acceptance Rates:** The average acceptance rate into clinical psychology master's programs is 37% (Norcross & Sayette, 2012).
- **Financial Aid:** Students pay tuition through private funds and student loans.
- **Career Placement:** private practice, outpatient clinics, community mental health centers, government agencies, school counseling centers, hospitals

iii. Counseling Psychology Master's Program (M.A.)

The master's degree in counseling psychology is an excellent option for students interested in helping people with emotional distress ranging from everyday life struggles to relationship woes, work troubles, etc. Students who pursue this degree are okay with less emphasis on research and assessment training and may end up working with relatively undisturbed clients who face normative problems that cause emotional distress (e.g., adjustment problems). This degree also has the benefits of high acceptance rates, 2 years of practical training, and licensure eligibility across all 50 states.

Specializations within Counseling: Other specializations within Counseling Psychology Master's programs include Substance Abuse and Addictions Counseling, Health Counseling, LGBTQTI counseling, Marriage Counseling, Religious Counseling, Veterans Counseling, & Trauma Counseling.

Of the different tracks or specializations within Counseling Psychology, the most common is a track or specialization in addictions and substance abuse. Individuals with this specialization gain in-depth knowledge of addiction, its psychological, biological, and cultural underpinnings, and its treatment. Substance abuse and addiction are major problems in the U.S., and with the current opioid crisis, the need for more professional addiction counselors is high. If this is your population of interest, be sure to seek a counseling master's program with this specialization or track. Though preferable, earning a master's degree is not the only way to work as a substance abuse or addictions counselor. One can receive training and certifications as an addiction counselor at all degree levels, including associates, bachelors, masters, and doctorate programs.

- **Training Emphasis:** minority/cross-cultural issues, vocational/career issues, adjustment difficulties, multiculturalism, psychotherapy theory and practice related to normal crises (e.g., bereavement, life transitions, stress); a specialization in addictions and substance use will emphasize drug and alcohol addiction
- **How Long it Takes to Earn Your Degree:** 2 years, full time

- **Entering Class Size:** the average school has a little over 50 students in an entering class (http://www.psichi.org/pubs/articles/article_549.aspx#Table1)
- **Average Acceptance Rates:** 63% (Norcross & Sayette, 2012)
- **Financial Aid:** Students pay tuition through private funds and student loans.
- **Common Careers with this Degree:** private practice, outpatient clinics, community mental health centers, government agencies, school counseling centers, hospitals

iv. School Psychology Master's Program (M.A.)

If you want to work with children and families within a school setting, a master's degree in school psychology may be a perfect fit. It is increasingly common to see grade schools and high schools employ a master's level therapist right within the school. You would have the same academic schedule as teachers, and may even have summers off!

In a school psychology program you would be trained specifically to work with children in the school setting. You will learn how to provide screening and diagnostic assessments for children's learning, mental health and behavioral needs. You may provide direct mental health services to the children or connect the child and family with outside resources. A major goal will be to help children succeed emotionally, socially, and academically. A big part of your training and career will be to collaborate and communicate effectively with parents, educators, and community resources and leaders.

One disadvantage of pursuing a master's degree in school psychology is that your professional work is likely to be limited to the school setting. If this is not a concern for you, then this program might be an excellent option.

- **Training Emphasis:** behavioral screenings/assessments for youth, direct mental health services and interventions, serving as an advocate for children and their families, treatment planning and referrals
- **How Long it Takes to Earn Your Degree:** 2 years, full time
- **Entering Class Size:** approximately 40 students in an entering class (http://www.psichi.org/pubs/articles/article_549.aspx#Table1)
- **Average Acceptance Rates:** 48.9% (http://www.psichi.org/pubs/articles/article_549.aspx#Table1)
- **Financial Aid:** Students pay tuition through private funds and student loans.
- **Common Careers with this Degree:** school therapist, school mental health services coordinator, program evaluator

v. Masters in Marriage and Family Therapy (M.F.T.)

Marriage and Family Therapists focus their training and practice on couples and families, and the psychological and relational issues that often arise in interpersonal relationships. Most M.F.T.s assess the problems the couple may face, and then move quickly towards interventions that will solve the particular problem(s). Often, the treatment interventions are brief, solution-focused, and specific, and draw from family systems research and theory.

Marriage and family counselors are especially trained to help the distressed couple communicate their emotions and differences, reconnect, and regain closeness and intimacy. M.F.T programs are short, have relatively high acceptance rates, and have licensing reciprocity across all 50 states. This is an excellent graduate program choice for the student who is not concerned with having a broader and more comprehensive training in counseling, and who specifically wants to work with couples and relational issues. For more information, visit the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy at www.aamft.org.

- **Training Emphasis:** theory and practice of couples therapy, sex therapy, family therapy
- **How Long it Takes to Earn Your Degree:** 2 years, full time
- **Entering Class Size:** approximately 40 students in an entering class
- **Average Acceptance Rates:** roughly 50% or higher
- **Financial Aid:** Students pay tuition through private funds and student loans.
- **Common Careers with this Degree:** private practice therapist; marriage and family counselor within a community mental health center, agency, or group.

vi. Masters in Applied Behavioral Analysis

Applied Behavior Analysis Masters Programs focus their training and practice on treating children and families with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other mental health disorders or problems (e.g., intellectual disabilities, ADHD, aggression, etc.) through Behavioral Analysis. Behavioral analysis focuses on reducing negative behaviors and increasing positive behaviors. Given the rise of Autism the last 40 years, ABA has become a desired and valued profession. Most programs offer a 6-course sequence that prepares students to sit for and pass the BCBA certification exam. Through an ABA program you will learn how help increase certain adaptive behaviors, teach social skills, improve social interactions, increase self-monitoring and self-control, implement self-care strategies, teach emotional regulation, and more.

ABA Master's programs are short, have relatively high acceptance rates, and are in high demand. Most states have autism health insurance mandates, ensuring insurance companies pay for ABA services. As a result, ABA professionals tend to have high demand for services and more earning power. This is an excellent graduate program choice for the student who is wanting to work with children and families with Autism Spectrum Disorder or other behavioral problems using a behavioral therapy method. For more information visit: <https://www.appliedbehavioranalysisedu.org> and www.abadegreeprograms.net

- **Training Emphasis:** behavioral change, ethics, behavioral assessment, research methods, program development
- **How Long it Takes to Earn Your Degree:** 2 years, full time. The degree involves writing a thesis and between 1,000 -1,500 hours of supervised practicum.
- **Entering Class Size:** this ranges from a few students to over 200, but many programs accept 25-40 students in an entering class

- **Average Acceptance Rates:** data is not available
- **Financial Aid:** Students pay tuition through private funds and student loans.
- **Common Careers with this Degree:** individual practitioner of ABA in mental health, special education, or developmental services. Common placements are in private autism clinics, home-based settings, schools, community mental health centers, residential settings (e.g., group home, foster home). They are often titled as counselors or therapists, Certified Autism Specialists (CAS), or case workers.

c. Other Graduate School Options

i. **Medical Degree (M.D.)**

Another graduate school option is to pursue a Medical Degree by applying to medical school (4 years) and then specializing in “psychiatry” for your residency (4 years). In your psychiatry residency, you will be trained to conduct talk-therapy as psychologists are, however you will mostly assess, diagnose, and treat patients by prescribing medications.

Students often dismiss the idea of psychiatry, as admissions to medical school can seem too difficult. However, the acceptance rates may be higher than the most competitive doctoral programs in clinical and counseling psychology. In order to apply to medical school, you would need to satisfy some of the undergraduate pre-requisites (e.g., biology, chemistry, etc.).

There are many advantages to a medical degree. Becoming a psychiatrist would result in higher average pay than any other graduate degree in the mental health field, allow you to prescribe psychotropic medications, and allow for more work in a hospital setting. If you like understanding and treating mental illness from a more biological perspective, this may be the right path for you.

- **Training Emphasis:** assessment, consultation, and assessment services in school settings with children, youth, families, and school professionals around issues related to learning, behavior, and mental health.
- **How Long it Takes to Earn Your Degree:** 4 years for the medical degree, and an additional 4 years for the psychiatry residency
- **Average Acceptance Rates:** roughly 50% (<http://startmedicine.com/App/applicationprocess.asp>)
- **Financial Aid:** Students pay tuition through private funds and student loans, though there is often funding for the most qualified students.
- **Common Careers with this Degree:** medical doctor (psychiatrist) in private practice or a hospital setting, teaching, supervision, administration

II. Preparing for graduate school

a. Coursework

In general, graduate programs in Psychology will expect applicants to demonstrate a broad education within the field. As such, our Psychology major is specifically designed to provide that breadth. Thus, simply by completing the requirements for the major, the student will have taken the first step in gaining the preferred coursework. However, our major also offers opportunities for students to select coursework to strengthen and enhance their personal interests and goals. **A student interested in pursuing graduate education in the field of clinical and counseling should strongly consider pursuing the new Clinical and Counseling concentration within the Psychology major at MSU Denver.**

The concentration in Clinical and Counseling Psychology is designed to better meet the needs of our students who plan on a career and/or graduate school in the broader field of mental health. The curriculum combines the foundational courses from the psychology major with the core courses from the clinical and counseling area. Coursework will examine the personal and interpersonal functioning of individuals, therapeutic skills, assessment/diagnosis, treatment and intervention. In addition to coursework, students are required to complete an internship at an approved facility as their senior experience.

The goals of the Clinical & Counseling Concentration at Metropolitan State University of Denver, are to:

- Prepare students for successful job placement and/or graduate admissions in clinical and counseling psychology
- Educate students on the basic principles, major theories, significant research findings, current issues, and emerging concepts in the field of mental health. This will include a focus on:
 - cognitive, behavioral, and emotional functioning of individuals
 - identification, assessment and understanding of personality, clinical disorders and other mental health problems
 - therapeutic skills
 - treatment and interventions
 - research methods
 - ethics
 - psychological well-being
 - working with diverse populations from a multicultural perspective
- Provide students with the opportunity to apply and build on their learning through an approved internship in the community

To formally enroll in the concentration, see an advisor in the Department of Psychological Sciences.

b. Selecting an appropriate minor

A wide variety of minors can be used to supplement and enhance a student's preparation for Clinical/Counseling graduate education. Depending on the student's specific interest, minors of value may include:

- Biology
- Business
- Criminal Justice and Criminology
- Gender, Women, & Sexualities Studies
- Gerontology
- Human Services
- Social Work
- Sociology

c. Grade point average (GPA) and Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores

Virtually all graduate programs consider GPA an important admission criterion. In a review of 232 Clinical Psychology doctoral programs, Norcross, Ellis, and Sayette (2010) reported that, among incoming students, the average GPA was 3.6 (SD = 0.17). More recent research has shown the median GPA for people accepted to master's programs in psychology as a whole was 3.46 and for doctoral programs in psychology, mean GPA was 3.65 (APA, 2018).

It should be noted that only 4% of master's programs and 10% of doctoral programs listed in the APA's (2018) *Guide to Graduate Study in Psychology* require applicants to take the GRE psychology subject test, whereas 78% of master's programs and 90% of doctoral programs require the general GRE. A review of graduate programs in Colorado revealed that, among those requiring the GRE, in every case GRE scores were accorded either "high" or "medium" weight in making admissions decisions.

According to the APA:

The overall mean GRE scores reported for applicants admitted to master's degree programs... are GRE-V [verbal]: 153; GRE-Q [quantitative]: 150. The overall GRE scores reported for applicants admitted to doctoral programs... are GRE-V: 158; GRE-Q: 155; and GRE-Subject: 705 (2018, p. ix).

d. Personal statement

The personal statement is typically one of the most important components of a graduate school application. It is an intellectual autobiography that allows graduate programs the ability to get to know you and determine whether or not you are a good fit for their program. In addition, it is often used as a way to evaluate your writing ability. Unfortunately, there is not a uniform way to complete the personal statement and each program may evaluate these slightly differently. That said, here are some basic tips that often prove helpful.

- i. Read *very carefully* what each particular program expects from a personal statement. Some will be vague while others will be quite specific.

- ii. Articulate why you are a good fit *specifically for the program to which you are applying*. This means that if you are applying to multiple programs you likely will not be able to draft one general statement and turn it in to every program. Crafting a general statement as a template can be helpful, but make sure you personalize it for each application. For example, writing that you wish to seek a degree in counseling for a program that specializes in couples and family therapy would not demonstrate that you are an applicant wishing to attain the specific kind of training the program provides. These sorts of oversights often cause applications to be removed from further consideration.
- iii. Read the biographies of faculty members from each program you are applying to. Be familiar with their interests and the research they have completed and are in the process of completing. This gives you a “lay of the land” and demonstrates that you have done your homework. For most Ph.D. programs, a mentor model is used in which specific faculty select applicants they wish to work with, making this item especially important.
- iv. Perhaps more than other types of graduate programs, clinical and counseling programs are interested in learning about you as a person. since who you are is crucial to what kind of therapist you might become. However, resist the urge to “over share.” For example, do not write about past psychiatric history or very personal family experiences. Some good questions to ask yourself include: Are the personal stories I’m sharing relevant to my ability to succeed as a graduate student? Do they demonstrate maturity? Would they raise any red flags about my character?
- v. Be a RUTHLESS editor. Have multiple people with a keen eye for grammar and content read each version of your statement before submitting it. Now is not the time to get timid about receiving honest feedback! It may sting initially, but it will increase your chances of acceptance in the long run.

e. Letters of recommendation:

Along with GPA and GRE scores, letters of recommendation are generally very important elements in graduate school admissions decisions. According to Norcross and Sayette (2012), letters of recommendation rank at or near the top of admissions criteria among both master’s and doctoral programs in 22 clinical and counseling psychology. Obviously, it is critically important for you to solicit and receive the strongest letters possible. Advisors within the Department of Psychological Sciences have compiled information on the process by which you can solicit these letters. This information can be accessed on the Department website: <https://msudenver.edu/media/content/departmentofpsychology/documents/LettersofRecommendationinfosheetrevision102014.pdf>

f. Extracurricular activities: how important are these?

- i. **Research:** If your goal is to gain admission into a Ph.D. program, research experience is

essential. It is less essential at the master's level but never hurts. MSU Denver offers a number of ways to obtain research experience. Student clubs such as Research Club and the Clinical & Counseling Club routinely complete scholarly projects and present at peer-reviewed conferences. There are also opportunities to work as a RA (Research Assistant) with individual faculty members. It is always best to get involved in these activities earlier in your academic career as opposed to trying to cram them all into your final semester. For students seeking admission to a Ph.D. program, multiple research experiences will likely be mandatory.

- ii. **Teaching:** While teaching experience is not required for admission to most programs, it can be a nice to have some experience in the classroom if your goal is to be admitted to a Ph.D. program, since teaching undergraduate classes is often required of Ph.D. students. Unfortunately, many Ph.D. programs don't spend a lot of time formally training students how to teach. The ability to get experience as a Teaching Assistant (TA) at the undergraduate level is a unique experience that MSU Denver's Department of Psychological Sciences provides. Should you be interested in becoming a TA, reach out to professors who you have had multiple classes with and/or have a good relationship with.
- iii. **Internships:** Getting some kind of clinical experience can seem daunting when you do not yet have a degree or a license of any kind, but it is very possible. Some students go through MSU Denver's internship services (in the Classroom to Careers Hub: <https://www.msudenver.edu/career/forstudents/internship/>) while others carve out a placement for themselves, often in consultation with faculty. Keep in mind that an internship through MSU Denver will award you course credit and most are unpaid. Master's and Psy.D. programs look very closely at undergraduate clinical experience. One way to think about this is that programs often prefer demonstrated performance over potential. They want to make certain that a student is not just in love with the idea of becoming a clinician but has actually experienced some of the challenges that go along with the work. Ph.D. programs also value some clinical experience, though they often value research at least as much if not more.
- iv. **Volunteer work:** Volunteer work is a nice addition to any curriculum vitae. Selecting specific opportunities that provide a chance to work with people and practice core clinical skills can be especially beneficial. One example of this over the years on MSU Denver's campus has been Project Homeless Connect, which gives students the chance to work one-on-one with persons experiencing homelessness. Keep in mind that volunteer work alone is often *not* a sufficient replacement for a longer-term internship of some kind, but rather, a nice complement.
- v. **Paid employment:** Most MSU Denver students work, and some are fortunate to find employment in the psychology field. If you are interested in finding work that helps both your financial situation and your odds of getting into graduate school, here are some types

of employment open to undergraduate students: behavioral tech/behavioral health tech at a general or psychiatric hospital; applied behavior analysis (ABA)-type work with one of the many autism treatment centers in Colorado; shift work at a residential treatment center for adolescents; and client care at a shelter or substance treatment facility. That list is not exclusive, but is a good place to start your search for psychology related work without an advanced degree (or without completion of the bachelor's!).

III. Selecting schools to apply to: What to look for in a program

a. Accreditation

The accrediting body for doctoral programs is the American Psychological Association or APA. This accreditation is essential when evaluating doctoral programs. In the last few years an increasing number of free standing or for-profit institutions have been offering doctoral degrees that are not accredited by the APA. Often these programs will note that they have some other kind of accreditation or are “in the process of seeking” APA accreditation. This can be very deceptive advertising; making sure that the school to which you are applying already has APA accreditation is essential. In addition, schools without accreditation will often say things like “our graduates *may* be eligible to become licensed psychologists.” An APA approved program *guarantees* that graduates will be able to sit for licensure whereas other programs do not.

The APA no longer accredits master's programs in clinical and counseling psychology. The accrediting body for most master's programs in psychology is the Council for Accreditation of Counseling And Related Programs, or CACREP. For students seeking a master's degree, the website CACREP.org can be a wonderful resource containing, among other items, a complete database with links to every program that is accredited. (CACREP also accredits some doctoral programs, but it is important to note that these programs *do not* necessarily allow one to sit for licensure as a psychologist. They are often designed to give the student additional training in higher-level skills such as counseling supervision.) A second accrediting body for psychology and counseling programs, the Master's in Psychology and Counseling Accreditation Council (MPCAC), offers legitimacy for master's programs that do not fit within CACREP guidelines. For programs in marriage and family therapy, the accrediting body is the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE); for programs in social work, the accrediting body is the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE); and for programs in school psychology, the accrediting body is the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). All of this can be very confusing, so be sure to talk with an advisor or trusted faculty member for more information.

b. Costs

Given the small number of applicants accepted into Ph.D. programs, many programs (but not all) provide full tuition waivers and even a small (emphasis on *small*) stipend for students to live on. Often the number of applicants accepted is determined by how much funding the university

has in a particular year. The funding is generated through research. What this means is that while tuition may be waived, extra work is required. Ph.D. students are often required to complete research and teach undergraduate classes in addition to completing their coursework. This can make for some very long work weeks (think 60+ hours) and should be considered carefully before applying. It should be noted that not all Ph.D. programs “fund” their students. Some schools provide only “half funding” in certain years and others require students to find outside graduate assistantships—doing various work on campus—that are competitive and not guaranteed to all students accepted into the program. In these cases, students could end up paying full or near full tuition should they fail to secure an assistantship. It is recommended that you clearly understand a school’s approach to funding Ph.D. students prior to accepting any offer for admission.

Most Psy.D. programs are housed in private universities in “schools of professional psychology.” What this means in short is that internal funding for students is scarce. Moreover, given that many of these programs are in private universities it also means that the cost of tuition is quite high. All told, students are often on the hook for tens of thousands if not hundreds of thousands of dollars over the entire course of study which, on average, lasts between 3-5 years. The financial commitment necessary to attend such a program should be calculated and seriously weighed prior to pursuing admission.

Very few scholarships or other sources of internal funding are typically available for master’s level students. Often students end up funding the degree themselves through student loans or other external monies. However, since the average course of a master’s program is two years, students end up having fewer years to fund than they would in a doctoral program.

c. Online programs: Are they worth it?

There has been a recent proliferation of online colleges and online learning in general. While this can be an effective way to learn in some disciplines, for students wishing to become counselors and work closely with living and breathing humans, it is not ideal. A quick rule of thumb: if it appears too good to be true, it probably is. For example, if a school promises that you can get your entire degree while completing classes at home in your underwear and go into the world and start practicing as a counselor upon completion, you should probably be skeptical. Becoming a skilled counselor requires years’ worth of work with people and live supervision from mentors. Doing this online is simply impossible. If a program offers the ability to take a course or two online, that is likely no problem and to be expected in the digital world we live in. However, if your desire is to take the entire program online it might be wise to reexamine whether the field of clinical and counseling psychology is the best fit for you and whether you can dedicate the time it takes necessary to get the training required of a good clinician.

IV. Employment outlook

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) (<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/psychologists.htm>), the employment outlook for psychologists from

2016-2026 is greater than average. The BLS predicts a 14% growth in the number of jobs available to psychologists. The current median pay for psychologists is \$77,030. Additional information can be found on the APA website (see <http://www.apa.org/careers/resources/guides/careers.aspx>).

For Bachelor's and Master's level substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors (<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/substance-abuse-behavioral-disorder-and-mental-health-counselors.htm>), the employment outlook from 2016-2026 also suggests an increasing need. The BLS predicts 23% growth in the number of jobs available. The current median pay is \$43,300 for substance abuse, behavior disorder, and mental health counselors.

V. Licensure

Regardless what type of training you pursue after graduation, it should be done with an eye towards licensure. Once you fulfill the obligations of your master's or doctoral program, you will have your degree, but you will not yet be licensed to practice. Licensure is important so that you can provide therapy independently, accept pay through insurance, supervise, and be competitive in the job market. The types of mental health licenses and certifications—and the requirements to earn them—vary from state to state, so if you plan to leave Colorado it will be important to check the requirements in your destination state. The following are the types of credentials necessary to practice in the mental health arena in the State of Colorado.

a. **Licensed Psychologist**

In Colorado, to become a licensed psychologist you must obtain a doctoral degree (PhD or PsyD) from a program accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA), or from a program equivalent to an APA-accredited program (this is much more challenging to prove than APA accreditation!). Included in the doctoral program will be a year-long, full-time internship and—for those in PhD programs—completion of the doctoral dissertation. Once you've obtained your degree, you'll need 1500 hours of post-doctoral experience practicing psychology under supervision. Before you can earn the license, you'll need to pass both the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) and the state jurisprudence exam.

Licensed psychologists are able to provide the kinds of services described for the other licenses (individual, group, couple, and family therapy in independent practice), but are more likely to engage in additional professional duties such as assessment/testing, teaching, and supervision.

b. **Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)**

If you wish to hold the title of Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) in Colorado, you must first get a Master of Social Work or Doctorate of Social Work degree from a CSWE (Council on Social

Work Education)-accredited university or college. You then will need to apply for your Licensed Social Work (LSW) title and earn your supervised clinical social work experience. You'll need to provide verification of a minimum of two years (3,360 hours) of supervised work experience in the practice of clinical social work, supervised by an LCSW. You'll also need to receive a passing score on the Clinical Level Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) exam. In addition, as with all of the Colorado licenses, you must pass the open-book jurisprudence exam.

Licensed Clinical Social Workers impact people on societal, individual, and family levels. They are able to practice independently, providing mental health services to a wide variety of people, often with a particular emphasis on underserved populations such as people contending with poverty, homelessness, child abuse, domestic violence, etc.

c. Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)

To become a licensed professional counselor, you will need education at the master's or doctoral level. Your program must either be CACREP-accredited or substantively equivalent. CACREP is an independent agency that accredits master's degree programs in addiction counseling, clinical mental health counseling, marriage and family counseling, and school counseling. Once you graduate, you'll need to work under supervision for a specified period. The length of time depends on your educational level – the requirement is 2,000 hours of post-master's work or 1,000 hours of post-doctoral work. If you're completing 2,000 hours it needs to be spread out over a period of at least 2 years; if you're completing 1,000 hours, it needs to be spread out over a twelve-month period. You'll also need to take two exams. One is the National Counselor Examination administered by the NBCC (National Board for Certified Counselors), and the other is the Colorado jurisprudence exam, which is an open-book exam required of all psychotherapists in the state.

Once you earn an LPC, you are able to practice independently, to perform individual and group therapy, to accept insurance reimbursement, and to provide services across a broad range of problem areas.

d. Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT)

To become eligible for a Colorado marriage and family therapist license, you must have a master's or doctoral degree from a program accredited by the COAMFTE (Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education). After completing the master's degree program you must then complete at least 2000 clock hours of experience over a minimum of two years. Of the 2000 experience hours 1500 of the hours have to be face-to-face in direct contact with a client. At least 1000 of the hours have to be working with couples or families in diagnosing, assessing and intervention. For those who have completed a doctoral

program, the experience requirement is slightly different: 1500 clock hours of direct contact with clients over a minimum of one year, with at least 1000 of the hours involving families and couples for the purpose of diagnosing, assessing, and treatment. As with the other professional licenses, the LMFT requires passing a nationwide exam (in this case, the MFT exam) as well as the state's jurisprudence test.

As an LMFT, you can practice independently, accept insurance reimbursement, and work with individuals, couples, and families to help better the relationships within the family dynamic.

e. Licensed Addictions Counselor (LAC)

If you are interested in working in the area of substance-related disorders and their treatment, CAC credentialing is an important consideration. Licensed addictions counselors must have a master's degree plus (or including) specialized training in the treatment of addiction. Other requirements include completion of 3,000 hours of supervised work experience in the addiction treatment field, a passing score on the national Master Addiction Counselor (MAC) exam, and a passing score on the Colorado jurisprudence test.

f. Certified Addictions Counselor (CAC)

If you wish to be an addictions counselor without pursuing a master's degree, there are four different levels of certification in Colorado. In terms of academic achievement, CAC I and CAC II levels require only a high school diploma or GED. In addition, though, you will need specific training (often provided through addiction treatment centers) in order to earn the certification. For a CAC I, you must complete at least 112 hours of training in such areas as addiction counseling skills, professional ethics, client record management, and pharmacology. In addition, the CAC I requires 1,000 hours of clinically supervised work experience in addictions. These work and training hours can often be obtained on-the-job at a treatment center. The CAC II builds on all of the CAC I criteria and requires an additional 126 hours of specific training and an additional 2000 hours of supervised work experience. In addition, to earn a CAC II you must pass a national examination. The CAC III cannot be reached without at least a bachelor's degree; it involves all of the requirements of the CAC II, plus an additional 56 hours of training and an additional 2000 hours of supervised work experience.

Because the certifications in addictions counseling demand significant levels of training and experience, they are respected designations. Some professionals who are licensed in other areas (e.g., licensed psychologist, licensed clinical social worker) also earn and maintain their CAC credentials to indicate a specialization in addictions treatment.

g. Registered Psychotherapist

Colorado has liberal statutes regarding who may provide psychotherapy. It is not mandatory to have an advanced degree or to earn licensure. In fact, individuals with no specific training or education may call themselves therapists and provide counseling services as long as they register their credentials in a statewide database. The requirements for registered psychotherapists in Colorado include earning a high school diploma or GED, passing a statewide jurisprudence exam (an open-book test covering the laws and rules of mental health practice in Colorado), and composing a brief statement describing therapeutic orientation and listing years of experience. While this is the quickest and least expensive way towards becoming a mental health professional, there are some obvious disadvantages. Psychotherapists who lack licensure may also lack the competence to provide effective services, are ineligible to accept third-party reimbursement (insurance payments), and will not likely be hired by mental health organizations, agencies, or hospitals.

VI Colorado Graduate Programs in Clinical/Counseling Psychology & Related Fields

a. Adams State University

<https://www.adams.edu/academics/graduate/counselor-education/>

- i. M.A. in Counseling (offered both online and on-campus)
 - a. Clinical Mental Health (CACREP accredited)
 - b. School Counseling (CACREP accredited)
- ii. Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision (online; CACREP accredited)

b. Colorado Christian University <https://www.ccu.edu/ccu/mac/>

- i. M. A., Counseling (CACREP accredited)

c. Colorado State University <http://graduateschool.colostate.edu/programs/>

- i. M. A, in Counseling and Career development (on-campus)
 - a. School Counseling (CACREP accredited)
 - b. Career Counseling (CACREP accredited)
 - c. College Counseling (CACREP accredited)
- ii. M. S., Human Development and Family Studies
 - a. Marriage and Family Therapy Specialization
 - b. Prevention Science Specialization
- iii. M. S., Addiction Counseling
- iv. Ph.D., Counseling Psychology (APA accredited)
- v. M.S.W., Social Work
 - a. Graduate Certificate in Advanced Clinical Behavior Health

- b. Graduate Certificate in Conflict Resolution and Mediation
 - c. Graduate Certificate in Military and Veteran Culture
 - d. Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Administration
 - e. Graduate Certificate in PreK-12 School Social Worker
- vi. Ph.D., Social Work
- d. **Denver Seminary** www.denverseminary.edu
 - i. M.A., Counseling
 - a. Clinical Mental Health (CACREP accredited)
 - b. School Counseling (CACREP accredited)
- e. **Metropolitan State University of Denver** <https://www.msudenver.edu/graduate-studies/>
 - i. M.S.W., Social Work
 - ii. M.S., Clinical Behavioral Health, emphasis in Addictions Counseling
- f. **Naropa University** <https://www.naropa.edu/academics/masters/clinical-mental-health-counseling/licensure-and-credentialing.php>
 - i. M.A., Mental Health Counseling
 - a. Contemplative Psychotherapy and Buddhist Psychology
 - b. Mindfulness-Based Transpersonal Counseling
 - c. Somatic: Body Psychotherapy
 - d. Somatic: Dance/Movement Therapy
 - e. Transpersonal Art Therapy
 - f. Transpersonal Wilderness Therapy
- g. **Regis University** <https://www.regis.edu/Academics/Degrees-and-Programs.aspx?filterDegree=Graduate>
 - i. M.A., Counseling (CACREP accredited)
 - ii. Post-graduate certificates
 - a. Counseling Children and Adolescents
 - b. Marriage and Family Therapy
 - c. Depth Psychotherapy Counseling
 - d. Counseling Military Families
 - iii. M.S., Criminology
 - iv. M.A., Marriage and Family Therapy (COAMFTE accredited)
- h. **University of Colorado, Boulder** <https://www.colorado.edu/psych-neuro/>
 - i. Ph.D., Clinical Psychology (APA accredited)
 - ii. Ph.D., Behavioral Neuroscience

- iii. Ph.D., Behavioral, Psychiatric, and Statistical Genetics

- i. **University of Colorado, Denver** <http://www.ucdenver.edu/programs/Pages/default.aspx>
 - i. M.A., Counseling (CACREP accredited for all tracks)
 - a. Couple and Family Counseling/Therapy
 - b. Clinical Mental Health
 - c. Higher Education and Student Affairs
 - d. School Counseling
 - ii. MPH, Community & Behavioral Health
 - iii. Ph.D., Clinical Health Psychology (APA accredited)
 - iv. Ph.D., Health and Behavioral Sciences

- j. **University of Colorado, Colorado Springs** <https://www.uccs.edu/degreesandprograms/uccs-doctoral-degrees>
 - i. M.A., Counseling and Human Services
 - a. School Psychology (CACREP accredited)
 - b. Clinical Mental Health (CACREP accredited)
 - ii. M.A., Psychology
 - a. Clinical
 - b. Psychological Science
 - iii. M.S., Health promotion
 - iv. Ph.D. Clinical Psychology
 - a. Emphasis in Geropsychology (APA accredited)
 - b. Emphasis in Trauma (APA accredited)

- k. **University of Denver** <https://www.du.edu/academics/graduate-programs?search=psychology>
 - i. Ph.D., Child, Family, & School Psychology
 - ii. Ed.S., Child, Family, & School Psychology
 - iii. Ph.D., Affective/Social/Cognitive
 - iv. Ph.D., Clinical Child Psychology (APA accredited)
 - v. Psy.D., Clinical Psychology (APA accredited)
 - vi. M.A., Counseling
 - a. Clinical Mental Health Counseling (NPCAC accredited)
 - b. School Counseling
 - c. Research
 - vii. Ph.D., Counseling Psychology (APA accredited)
 - viii. M.A., Forensic Psychology
 - ix. M.A., International Disaster Psychology

- x. M.A., Sports and Performance Psychology
- xi. M.A., Sport Coaching
- xii. M.S.W, Social Work
- xiii. Ph.D., Social Work

l. University of Northern Colorado <https://www.unco.edu/graduate-school/degrees-and-programs/>

- i. M.A., Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CACREP accredited)
- ii. M.A., Marriage, Couples, and Family Counseling/Therapy (CACREP accredited)
- iii. M.A., School Psychology (CACREP accredited)
- iv. M.A., Criminology and Criminal Justice
- v. M.A., Rehabilitation Counseling (CACREP accredited)
- vi. MPH, Community Health Education
- vii. Ed.S., School Psychology
- viii. Ed.S, School Psychology with Applied Behavior Analysis Emphasis
- ix. M.S., Sport and Exercise Science – Social Psychology of Sport and Physical Activity Emphasis
- x. M.A., Sports coaching
- xi. Ph.D., Counseling Psychology (APA accredited)
- xii. Ph.D. Counselor Education and Supervision (CACREP accredited)
- xiii. Ph.D. School Psychology (APA accredited)
- xiv. Ph.D. Sport and Exercise Science – Social Psychology of Sport and Physical Activity Emphasis
- xv. Ph.D. Rehabilitation Counseling and Sciences

m. University of Phoenix <https://www.phoenix.edu>

- i. M.S., Counseling/Clinical Mental Counseling (CACREP accredited at the Utah and Phoenix campuses only)
- ii. M.S., Psychology

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