

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **MASTERS OF SCIENCE IN PSYCHOLOGY**

#### **What are the requirements for admission?**

Applicants will be considered academically eligible for admission if they earned a Bachelor degree with a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 or above from an accredited institution of higher learning. Completed applications may be reviewed on a case by case basis if the academic credentials of the applicant do not meet the minimum requirement, but his or her cumulative undergraduate GPA was at least 2.50. Enrollment may be recommended at the discretion of the Admissions Committee. In those cases, a GPA of 3.00 must be maintained in the first session in order to retain matriculation status.

#### **Do I need to take the GRE in order to be considered for admission?**

No. The university does not require students to take the GRE to be admitted into the Masters of Science in Psychology.

#### **I heard that there are 3 majors. What are they and how are they different from each other?**

The three majors are Mental Health Counseling, Marriage & Family Therapy, and School Counseling. The Mental Health Program requires completion of 61 credits, the Marriage & Family Therapy 52 credits, and School Counseling 49 credits. While some foundation courses are taken by all students (i.e. Counseling Theories & Practice, Theories of Personality), other courses are designated for a specific major to meet state requirements for licensure. In addition, the practicum hours required by each of the three different majors is different due to state requirements (Mental Health students complete 1,000 hours of practicum, Marriage & Family students complete 450 hours, and School Counseling students complete 240 hours.)

#### **I have an interest in two different majors. Can I apply for both?**

Applicants can apply for dual major status. Students would have to complete the coursework for each of the majors but are not required to repeat courses that are required by both programs. Both set of practicum hours would be needed to be completed to obtain the dual major degree.

### **What if I start in one major and want to add another? How do I inform the University of my interest in the second major?**

Students can request to schedule a meeting with an advisor to discuss their interest in the second major. The advisor will inform the students of the additional coursework that will be required by the second major as well the change to their practicum requirements. The Dual Major change / add form is approved by the Program Director.

### **What if I change my mind and just want to complete one major?**

Students enrolled as a dual major student can write a letter to the Program Director to request a change of status. The letter should indicate that the student is currently enrolled as a dual major student and list both majors. The letter should indicate the sole major that the student would like to remain enrolled in after the change of status has occurred.

### **I have taken some courses at another university. Will I be able to transfer any of those courses?**

Six (6) transfer credits may be applied towards the terminal Master's degree. Courses which have been completed more than five (5) years prior to the date for which the student applies for admission to the University can only be transferred with the approval of the Program Director. There is no time limit for the transfer of credits from completed degrees at CAU or other accredited institutions. Only courses completed at an accredited institution of higher learning and passed with a grade of "B" or better (3.00 on a 4.00 scale) will be eligible for transfer.

### **I work during the day. How am I supposed to be able to attend courses?**

The Master of Science in Psychology is designed to meet the needs of working individuals. Courses are held once a week for 15 weeks and are mostly held in the evening. Generally a course will begin at either 6 p.m. or 8:30 p.m. Some courses are scheduled from 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. Some courses held on Saturday morning. Partially online and fully online courses are also available.

### **How many sessions are there in the academic calendar?**

The university has 3 sessions held during each calendar year, Spring, Summer, and Fall sessions. The Spring session typically runs from January through April, the Summer session runs from May to August, and the Fall session runs from September through December.

### **Am I expected to attend the sessions consecutively?**

In order to maintain your matriculation status, students are expected to attend each of the sessions consecutively.

**What if I want to take a session off or I have a personal / health issue which will require me to take some time away from the university?**

Students can request to take a leave of absence. The student will fill out an institutional leave agreement form which will need to be approved by the Program Director. Once signed, the student will take the form to the Finance Department and pay the corresponding fee. The leave of absence is only good for one session. The Program Director may approve up to 3 leaves of absence. Any additional leave of absences will require the approval of the Chancellor.

**What is the typical class size that I can expect?**

Class size ranges from eight to twenty students.

**Do I have to wait until the Fall session in order to be able to enroll?**

Students can apply and be admitted to start in any session of their choice.

**If I should require some additional assistance with questions regarding my academic coursework or career, who can I turn to for help?**

Each of the three majors has been assigned a specific advisor to assist you with issues related to your academic progress. In the event that your academic advisor is not available to assist you on a given date or time, another advisor may be able to assist you.

**I have a question regarding university policies. Are there any sources online that I can consult?**

The university's website is located at <http://www.mia.albizu.edu>. Students can click on the button marked "Student Resources". The page will contain information about the university, its history, and policies and procedures available as downloadable files.

**How many credits do I need to take to be eligible for Financial Aid?**

There is no specific number of credits that a student needs to take to be eligible for Financial Aid. However, students who are enrolled on a full time basis will receive a larger amount of Financial Aid than those students who are considered part time. Students at the Masters Level need to be taking a minimum of 6 credits per session to be considered full time. Please consult with a Financial Aid office if you have any further questions.