MASTER OF PSYCHOLOGY IN COUNSELLING PSYCHOLOGY

[MPSYCH (COUNSELLING PSYCHOLOGY)]

NQF Level 9
HPCSA-accredited
professional training



The Master of Psychology in Counselling Psychology [MPsych (Counselling Psychology)] is a professionally oriented postgraduate qualification designed to prepare graduates for registration as Counselling Psychologists with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA).

The programme integrates advanced psychological theory, evidence-based therapeutic practice, and a supervised practicum to develop ethically grounded, critically reflective and contextually responsive practitioners.

Grounded in South Africa's diverse sociocultural landscape, the programme equips students to address a wide range of psychological challenges across individuals, couples, families, groups, organisations and communities.

WHY STUDY COUNSELLING PSYCHOLOGY AT SACAP

- HPCSA-accredited professional training pathway to register as a Counselling Psychologist upon successful completion of the programme and passing the HPCSA Board exam
- Strong emphasis on applied learning and real-world practice
- Embedded Work Integrated Learning (WIL) throughout the first academic year
- Placement at an HPCSA-accredited internship site in the second year
- Exposure to diverse client populations and contexts
- Focus on social justice, cultural responsiveness and community impact
- Development of reflective, ethical and competent practitioners

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www.sacap.edu.za 0860 77 11 11

SACAP
The South African College of Applied Psychology



PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The MPsych (Counselling Psychology) is structured over two years:

YEAR 1 (M1): ACADEMIC AND PRACTICUM TRAINING

- Five integrated modules:
  - Applied Community Psychology and Group Interventions
  - Psychotherapeutic Interventions and Professional Practice
  - Psychological Assessment, Ethics and Professional Practice
  - Psychopathology Across the Lifespan and Psychopharmacology
  - Case Study Research in Counselling Psychology
- Embedded Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) across modules
- Weekly clinical supervision
- Development of a mini-dissertation

YEAR 2 (M2): INTERNSHIP

- Full-time, 12 months supervised internship in an HPCSA-approved site

PRACTICUM

A defining feature of the programme is its strong emphasis on practice-based learning.

Students engage in:

- Psychotherapy with clients under supervision
- Psychological assessments
- Community-based interventions and group work
- Case formulation, report writing and feedback processes

Practicum begins in Year 1 and continues throughout that year, ensuring that students progress into their internship with applied competence and professional readiness.

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

The programme develops advanced competencies in:

- Psychological assessment and diagnosis (DSM-5-TR and ICD-11)
- Evidence-based therapeutic interventions
- Case formulation and treatment planning
- Psychopathology across the lifespan and psychopharmacology
- Community psychology and psychosocial interventions
- Research design and practice-based inquiry
- Ethical, legal and professional practice

GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES

Graduates of the programme will demonstrate:

- Ethical and professionally accountable practice
- Cultural humility and contextual responsiveness
- Integration of theory, research and practice
- Advanced critical thinking and clinical reasoning
- Reflective and self-aware professional identity
- Commitment to social justice and community wellbeing

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Graduates who successfully complete the programme, internship and HPCSA Board Examination may register as Counselling Psychologists with the HPCSA, and work in:

- Government and public health sectors
- Healthcare settings
- Community and non-profit organisations
- Schools and educational institutions
- Corporate and organisational environments
- Private practice

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- An Honours degree or equivalent qualification in Psychology (NQF Level 8) or completion in the year of application
- A minimum academic average (typically 65%) in final year psychology courses
- Successful completion of SACAP's selection process

A COMMITMENT TO IMPACT

The MPsych (Counselling Psychology) is designed to develop practitioners who not only demonstrate professional competence, but who are also equipped to contribute meaningfully to individual wellbeing, community development and broader societal transformation

BAC ACCREDITED

Accredited by the British Accreditation Council

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