

Doctor of Psychology

Psy.D. in Counseling and School Psychology



Train to become a Health Service Psychologist.

Help save lives and build futures. Serve diverse populations in a range of settings.

Rivier's Psy.D. program in Counseling and School Psychology prepares students to become Health Service Psychologists. The program prepares graduates to obtain licensure as professional psychologists who are trained to work with diverse populations. As trained and licensed psychologists, graduates have the education and experience for the independent delivery of healthcare services. They provide preventive, consultative, assessment, and treatment services in a broad range of settings including independent or group practice, multidisciplinary clinics, counseling centers, hospitals, and schools.

Program Overview

Rivier's program follows a practitioner-scholar training model, which integrates clinical skills with the empirical foundations of the discipline. The program is designed to be completed in no fewer than five years, including a three-year academic residency (one or two days a week required on campus with evening courses available) and a 2,000-hour internship. Doctoral students attend the University full-time during all semesters and are required to limit outside employment to no more than 20 hours per week. This allows students to devote time to their studies, program activities and events, practicum placements, research, and faculty advising and mentoring.

Licensure and Accreditation

Rivier's program is fully accredited by the American Psychological Association. The standards for accreditation are designed to ensure preparation for entry-level psychological practice. Some states require licensure candidates either to have a degree from an APA-accredited doctoral program or to prove that their program is equivalent. Rivier's curriculum meets the New Hampshire Board of Psychologists' requirements for licensure.

** Program requires 60 credits of prerequisite/foundation graduate courses; traditional students must complete 120 credits; some may be waived if the applicant has completed relevant Master's-level coursework.*



Course Format

On campus
1-2 days per week,
2-3 evenings per week
(depends on number of courses enrolled in)



60* Credits

to complete
program



5+ Years

estimated
program length



Psy.D. in Counseling and School Psychology

Program of Study

The number of credit hours required to earn the Psy.D. degree is dependent upon each student's prior education; therefore, the program of study and course sequencing is often unique to each student in consideration of applicable foundation courses completed and transfer credits. Foundation courses must be completed before core doctoral courses begin. Foundation courses are also open to students currently pursuing graduate study.

FOUNDATION COURSES

EDUC 501	Fundamentals of Research
CNSL 505	Advanced Psychology of Human Development
CNSL 530	Assessment of Learning & Reading Disabilities
CNSL 538	Cognitive Assessment I
CNSL 610	Basic Human Interaction
CNSL 614	Clinical Counseling Theories
CNSL 615	Clinical Counseling Techniques
CNSL 616	Group Counseling
CNSL 618	Ethics of Clinical Mental Health Counseling
<i>or</i>	
CNSL 701	Foundations of School Psychology
CNSL 623	Marriage and Family Therapy
CNSL 624	Psychopathology
CNSL 629	Addictive Behaviors
CNSL 704	Personality Assessment I
CNSL 705	Neuropsychological Assessment I
CNSL 720	Social and Cultural Foundations
CNSL 721	Advanced Multicultural Perspectives

ELECTIVE COURSES

Choose three courses from the following:

CNSL 807	Psychopharmacology
CNSL 808	Foundations of Neuropsychology
CNSL 814	Seminar: Group Psychotherapy
CNSL 830	School-Based Consultation
CNSL 831	Classroom-Based Assessment
CNSL 832	Community Consultation
CNSL 835	School Neuropsychology

CORE COURSES

CNSL 801	History and Systems
CNSL 802	Biological Bases of Behavior
CNSL 803	Cognitive-Affective Bases of Behavior
CNSL 804	Social Bases of Behavior
CNSL 806	Seminar: Psychopathology and Interventions
CNSL 809	Psychometrics
CNSL 810	Cognitive Assessment II
CNSL 812	Personality Assessment II
CNSL 815	Evidence-Based Treatment: Children and Families
<i>or</i>	
CNSL 816	Evidence-based Treatment: Adults
CNSL 820	Developmental Psychology
CNSL 821	Professional Psychology: Ethics and Standards
CNSL 825	Aging
CNSL 833	Supervision, Consultation & Systems
CNSL 838	Seminar: Internship and Professional Development
CNSL 864	Research Methods and Design in Psychological Research
CNSL 881	Quantitative Analysis in Psychology
CNSL 886	Doctoral Clinical Internship I
CNSL 887	Doctoral Clinical Internship II

Practicums

TIER 1	CNSL 792	Initial Practicum I	TIER 2	CNSL 840	PsyD Practicum I	TIER 3	CNSL 843	Advanced Clinical Experience I
	CNSL 793	Initial Practicum II		CNSL 841	PsyD Practicum II		CNSL 844	Advanced Clinical Experience II
	CNSL 794	Initial Practicum III		CNSL 842	PsyD Practicum III		CNSL 845	Advanced Clinical Experience III

Practicum experiences occur across diverse settings which include community mental health, testing/assessment sites, and schools. Diversity of client population is emphasized, and students must spend at least two semesters working with an underserved population. Students work closely with faculty to plan their practicum experiences.

Doctoral Research Project

Working closely with faculty, students complete a doctoral research project as part of the program. These research courses enable students to develop their research proposal, conduct research, and prepare for their dissertation defense.

CNSL 892	Directed Research in Psychology	CNSL 896	Research in Psychology
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Meet The Dean



Ralph B. Sperry, Ph.D., ABPP

Dean, Division of Counseling and Psychology
Director, Psy.D. in Counseling and School Psychology

Dr. Ralph Sperry is a licensed clinical psychologist, licensed marriage and family therapist, and one of only 51 psychologists who has achieved the American Board of Professional Psychology's Board Certification in Organizational and Business Psychology. He is licensed in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, where he maintains a private practice and holds leadership roles in mental health organizations.

Before joining Rivier, Dr. Sperry held CEO positions at Providence Behavioral Health Hospital in Massachusetts, at Elmcrest Psychiatric Institute in Connecticut, and at Pinion Hills Hospital in New Mexico. Most recently, he was the Executive Director of Elliot

Hospital's and Southern New Hampshire Hospital's Behavioral Health Services, where he led efforts to establish a new 144-bed behavioral health hospital to reduce the extended wait times in their Emergency Departments.

He has also pioneered research in behavior analysis for autism, opened special education schools, advised Boston Public Schools, and served as a global expert for the U.S. State Department, advising on training programs for clinicians and national care systems worldwide.

M.A. in Counseling – En Route Degree

Newly enrolled students in the Psy.D. program who do not have a master's degree have the option to earn a Master of Arts in Counseling while en route to their doctoral degree. This is a milestone degree and does not make a student eligible for any type of licensure. The M.A. in Counseling degree curriculum is only comprised of the prerequisite foundation coursework that all students must complete before beginning the doctoral coursework. Having a master's degree along with the doctorate gives a competitive edge to students when seeking the required year-long, final-year internship. Students choosing this option will be awarded the master's degree upon completion of the prerequisite foundation coursework and Initial Practicums I and II.

Most students who enter the Psy.D. program with master's degree will have already completed many of the foundation-level courses; however, they must complete all the foundation coursework prior to beginning doctoral courses. This en route degree is unnecessary for those who already hold a master's degree, and they are not eligible for this program.

Degree Completion Requirements

- Satisfactory completion of all foundation, doctoral core, and elective courses
- Satisfactory completion of practicum requirements, including a minimum of six semesters
- Successful completion of a 50-week, 2,000 hour clinical internship (one year full-time or two years part-time)
- Successful completion of both an oral and written comprehensive exam
- Mentor with an advisor and research committee to conduct research related to your area of interest and defend and complete a doctoral research project
- Cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 or higher
- Satisfaction of all Rivier University financial obligations

Academic Accreditation

Rivier University is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE).



The Psy.D. program is fully accredited by the American Psychological Association, which grants national accreditation for programs in health service psychology. The University's next accreditation review is scheduled for 2033. Rivier's Psy.D. curriculum meets the State of New Hampshire licensing requirements for psychologists.



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

Questions related to the program's accredited status should be directed to the Commission on Accreditation, Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation, American Psychological Association, 750 1st Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002, (202) 336-5979, apaaccred@apa.org, www.apa.org/ed/accreditation.

Application Requirements

To apply to the Doctor of Psychology in Counseling and School Psychology (Psy.D.) program, please submit:

1. A completed Online Application
2. Official transcripts from all undergraduate and graduate institutions where you have received degrees and/or course credit
3. A written Statement of Purpose (3-6 pages) that reflects:
 - a. Your professional experience and how this experience relates to doctoral study
 - b. Your reasons for pursuing doctoral study
 - c. Research and/or clinical goal(s), problem(s), and/or question(s) you may wish to address during doctoral study and research
 - d. How doctoral study will enhance your personal and professional career goals
 - e. Why you think you would be a good fit for the combined program in counseling and school psychology
 - f. Diversity experiences and evidence of a commitment to serving diverse populations
4. At least three Letters of Reference that speak to your professional and/or academic work, potential for successful completion of doctoral study, and character. We encourage you to provide individuals making the recommendations with a copy of your Statement of Purpose to ensure that recommendations address these topics. Letters of Reference must have been written within six months of the date of the completed application.
5. GRE scores submission is optional.
6. For students whose native language is not English:
 - a. Evidence of proficiency in the English language
 - b. Official scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), International English Language Testing System (IELTS) and the Pearson Test of English (PTE) are accepted
 - c. Doctoral programs require minimum scores of TOEFL (95), IELTS (7.0), and PTE (66)

Application Process

1. Complete and submit an application online using PSYCAS, the Centralized Application Service for graduate psychology.
 - For more information about PSYCAS and to apply, visit: psycas.liasoncas.com.
2. Review all application requirements and request official transcripts.
3. Ask questions by contacting us at (603) 897-8507 or email admissions@rivier.edu.

The University reserves the right to make changes when appropriate and necessary as needed without notification. Please refer to the academic catalog on the University website for the most up-to-date information. (0824)

Schedules and Deadlines

Applications are accepted throughout the year and are reviewed upon completion. Applicants are interviewed by the Dean, virtually or in person, and additional faculty may be involved, if necessary. Upon acceptance, applicants may enroll and commence the program in the fall, spring or summer.

Interviews

Finalists for admission are invited to campus for interviews with members of the Core Faculty Committee. Depending upon circumstances and availability, some interviews may be conducted with video conferencing. Interviews are conducted in individual and/or group formats. Applicants are asked to expand on aspects of their application, including but not limited to their personal statement of purpose and reasons for seeking doctoral study.

Acceptance into the Program

Shortly after their interview, the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies Admissions notifies each applicant of their admission status.

Quick Links



Ask a Question
admissions@rivier.edu



Talk to an Enrollment Counselor
rivier.edu/team



Talk with the Dean
rsperry@rivier.edu



Register for a Virtual Information Session
events.rivier.edu



Tuition & Fees
rivier.edu/tuition



Request Information
inquire.rivier.edu



Doctor of Psychology Website
rivier.edu/psyd