

Counseling Psychology Program




Howard University
APA Accredited



About the Program

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Degree in Counseling Psychology, is an APA accredited program (since 2002), designed to train professional psychologists in the Scientist-Practitioner model, consistent with APA-accreditation guidelines.

The Program embodies a balanced training experience in the science of psychology, theoretical foundations, application of therapeutic skills, and research, and thus prepares skilled counseling psychologists to function successfully in a variety of professional settings with diverse populations.



Doctoral Program in Counseling Psychology

The mission of the Program is to educate and train counseling psychology students using a Scientist-Practitioner philosophy to provide services in research, teaching and/or practice. It encourages students to identify and use prevention and intervention strategies that focus on the optimum strengths of each client.

The Program emphasizes theory, research, knowledge, experiences and concerns focused on a broad spectrum of diversity (e.g., race, gender, culture, class, sexual orientation, socio-economic differences, and disability), specifically as related to individuals in urban communities.

The Program embraces the Scientist-Practitioner model and embodies a balanced training experience in the scientific and theoretical foundations of psychology and in applications of practice skills and research.

The Program encourages a hypothesis-testing approach toward obtaining and evaluating information and it encourages the examination of empirical literature related to planning and evaluating interventions that focus on prevention or remediation of problems.

The Program emphasizes prevention of psychological problems, the teaching of effective coping skills (to prevent problems), and the development of effective problem-resolution skills to remediate negative coping behaviors.




Program Faculty

Shareefah N. Al'Uqdah, Ph.D., Howard University, Assistant Professor;

Urban mental health; community violence, parenting issues, mental health outcomes; PTSD, Depression; and counseling Muslim clients. Dr. Al'Uqdah currently serves as Program Director for the Doctoral Counseling Psychology Program.

Gizelle Carr, Ph.D., Howard University, Assistant Professor; Social justice interests of counseling psychology (particularly as they relate to marginalized groups' navigation of power and privilege) and forensic psychology. Immigrant mental health and xenophobia, mental health of girls in the juvenile justice system, culturally competent assessment, and construct validity issues of assessment measures in the forensic setting

Angela D. Ferguson, Ph.D., University of Maryland-College Park, Associate Professor; Intersections of identity from a racial, gender, and sexual orientation perspective; multiple forms of oppression and self-concept/psychological well-being; cross-cultural resilience factors in the process of recovery from traumatic injury; women's leadership styles.



Program Faculty

Ivory A. Toldson, Ph.D., Temple University, Associate Professor; Co-occurring disorders; criminal and police psychology; urban issues in counseling; African American men in the criminal justice system; and psychometric assessment.

Kevin Mwata Washington, PhD, Texas A & M University, Associate Professor; Cultural Trauma Treatment (Post Enslavement Systemic Trauma, PEST), community violence exposure impact on Blacks and Latina/os, multicultural counseling and psychotherapy (emphasis people of African ancestry) for families and couples, spirituality and resilience factors, Multicultural (Black) men identity dynamics, Ubuntu Psychotherapy, Dr. Washington is currently the President of the Association of Black Psychologists.

Kamilah M. Woodson, Ph.D., California School of Professional Psychology-Los Angeles, Associate Professor; Health-related risk behaviors (substance abuse & risky sexual behaviors), exposure to violence; mental health disparities, and issues related to internalized racism (as a function of hair texture and skin color).



FLOW CHART FOR THE PH.D. DEGREE IN COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY

1. **Admission** (GPA, letters of recommendation, GRE scores, and personal statement and interview).



2. **Provided with a “Doctoral Program of Study”** (upon entry). Students are expected to adhere to the curriculum scheme and matriculate through the program as a cohort, except where course(s) have been waived.



3. **Portfolio Review** (During the second semester of each year while enrolled in the program). The portfolio review is conducted annually by the Counseling Psychology Doctoral Faculty to evaluate students’ adherence to program objectives and progress towards the degree.



4. **Comprehensive Examination** (a 12-hour examination over 2 days). The Doctoral Comprehensive Examination is taken after the completion of course work or near completion of coursework, typically in the 4th year of the program. Students should apply for the Comprehensive Examination on the proper form through their academic advisor (using the Intent to Take the Preliminary / Comprehensive Examination form; located <http://www.howard.edu/schooleducation/overview/dforms.html>).



FLOW CHART FOR THE PH.D. DEGREE IN COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY (CONT'D)

5. **Dissertation Proposal** (approval of a proposal for dissertation research). A dissertation proposal is developed in conjunction with the student's research advisor and three additional dissertation committee members. A fifth member (from outside the University) is assigned to the dissertation committee upon scheduling the Final Oral Examination of the dissertation. (Students must propose the dissertation before they are approved to apply for internship).



6. **Application for Admission to Candidacy.** Students can be admitted to candidacy after (a) completing major course work, (b) passing the Comprehensive Examination, (c) satisfying the Expository Writing Examination requirement, and (e) having the dissertation proposal approved.



7. **Internship.** A year-long internship at an APA-accredited facility.



8. **Dissertation Defense.** This is the Final Oral Examination of the dissertation research.



Length of Time for Completion of the Ph.D. Degree

Students are expected to complete a Ph.D. degree within a maximum of seven years from the date of initial registration in the program.

Those who have not completed the degree within that time will be automatically dropped. Students dropped in this manner may petition for readmission and may be readmitted upon recommendation of the departmental Graduate Faculty and approval by the GSAS.



About the Program

- ▶ The Counseling Psychology Doctoral Program is a full-time program and does not offer distance learning classes or part-time enrollment.
- ▶ **Time to completion**
Years to complete Ph.D. program (based on graduates of the past 7 years, since the Program has been accredited):
Mean = 6.53
Median = 6.00




Transfer of Credits

The program does not accept transfer courses to the doctoral program. You may request a waiver of a course in the doctoral program, if you have already taken the course in a counseling psychology program from a recognized accredited institution.

The Counseling Psychology Program at Howard University will waive up to two (2) courses from a previous, accredited institution with a grade of B or better into the Ph.D. program, dependent on the approval of the Program faculty.

Official transcripts, the course syllabus and a Waiver of Required Courses form must accompany any request for a transfer of credits. If a course is waived, an elective may be required in lieu of the waived course



Course Viability

- ▶ The Graduate School places limits on the age of courses that can be counted toward the fulfillment of graduation requirements.
- ▶ Credit for courses pursued more than seven and less than ten years, prior to the term in which the student presents herself/himself for the final examination, can be counted toward the fulfillment of degree requirements only if they are restored with the approval of the departmental Committee on Graduate Studies and the Dean.



Grades and Academic Status

- ▶ A cumulative grade point average of 3.00 (B) is required for graduation.
- ▶ A Ph.D. student will be permitted only two grades below B-, and will be dismissed after he/she receives a third grade below B-.
- ▶ A student who falls below 3.00 GPA will be given due notice by the Graduate School that he/she must raise his/her quality point index to 3.00 in the next two terms in residence.
- ▶ **Students who earn a C or lower will be required to remediate**
- ▶ Students failing to do so will be dismissed from the Graduate School.
- ▶ A student who demonstrates an inability to perform satisfactorily at the graduate level may be recommended for dismissal.



Cost of Attendance

Program Costs --per semester (X2 for a year (2015-2016, full-time enrollment)

Tuition	\$15,272.50
Endowment	\$15.00
Self-Help Fee	\$5.00
Technology Fee	\$125.00
Matriculation Fee*	\$471.50
Total Cost	\$15,889.00
Part-time Rate Per Credit Hour	\$1,700.00



Course Requirements

- ▶ Our program is a full time program
- ▶ Courses are sequential and developmental
- ▶ They are offered on every day of the week except Friday
- ▶ Some are in morning or early evening.
- ▶ Our course scheme does not include summer courses; thus, some semesters you may take 5 courses a semester.
- ▶ Research lab and externship (supervision of training) are included within these courses.

- ▶ Please review our course scheme on the web for specific course offerings.



Clinical Requirements: Externship and Internship

- ▶ Practicum will take place the second semester of students' first year
- ▶ Externship and Internship are required components of the Counseling Psychology Doctoral Program.
- ▶ Students begin their externship in the second year of the Program and continue to take this course until the end of their third year.

- ▶ The internship is the capstone experience of professional education and training preparatory for the application of psychology in health and human services and is an intensive one year period of supervised practice that usually follows the completion of graduate coursework and clinical training.



Funding Information

- ▶ Douglass Fellowship--The Frederick Douglass Doctoral Scholars fellowship program is awarded to **new** Ph.D. students who are also new to the Graduate School. It is designed to recruit academically talented students with an interest in college or university teaching to pursue Ph.D. studies in the Arts & Humanities and Social & Behavioral Science disciplines to Howard University.
- ▶ The Frederick Douglass award is offered on a competitive basis upon recommendation by the candidate's prospective department chair and the Financial Aid Advisory Committee. The minimum, cumulative GPA requirement from the applicant's current or most recently attended institution is **3.5**



Funding Information

- ▶ McNair Fellowship--The Ronald E. McNair Graduate Assistantship Program is designed to support **new and continuing students** who are seeking a Ph.D. and were McNair scholars as undergraduates. The McNair Assistantship is merit-based and offered on a competitive basis to students pursuing doctoral studies from all disciplines upon recommendation by the Financial Aid Advisory Committee
- ▶ Domestic and International students are eligible for this assistantship. Candidates must be applying to a Ph.D. program and submit a Howard University Graduate School admission application prior to the McNair graduate assistantship deadline. The minimum, cumulative GPA requirement is **3.2** from the candidate's current institution.



Funding Information

- ▶ Students in the program are eligible to receive Graduate Assistantship funding through the Graduate School and through the School of Education.
- ▶ Scholarship awards can also be found through professional organizations such as the American Psychological Association and the Ford Foundation.
- ▶ A number of research centers, grants, and academic programs on campus hire Counseling Psychology doctoral students. Examples of these include the Center for Drug Abuse Research (CDAR), CAPSTONE Institute, the Howard University Early Learning Programs, the TRIO Programs (including Upward Bound, and Math-Science Initiative), and the *Journal of Negro Education*.
- ▶ In addition, individual faculty members may also have grants and contracts that provide financial assistance opportunities for students



Admission Information

- ▶ Approximately 40-70 applicants a year
 - ▶ We admit 4-8 per year

- ▶ Strong applicants
 - ▶ Strong GRE Scores
 - ▶ Strong Essays
 - ▶ Strong research background
 - ▶ Strong psychology foundation

