

COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR

Introduction, Mission & Purpose

The Master of Science in Community Psychology prepares students for work across a variety of mental health and community related settings. The program focuses on how graduates identify and engage community agencies and resources in the delivery of services to those individuals and/or groups who need them. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Helping people to become change agents through the discipline of psychology.
- Developing a strong community awareness and working with the dynamic interactions between communities, agencies, organizations, and individuals.
- Teaching a prevention/developmental model of psychological health.
- Helping people learn to work with other community resources to create a strength-based, positive approach to therapeutic needs.
- Helping students earn the credentialing necessary (Licensed Professional Counselor) to base themselves soundly in community settings with the credibility needed for creating multidisciplinary approaches to individual and community needs.

Those who teach in and lead this program provide critical thinking skills of the discipline of Psychology to help graduates problem-solve beyond the individual therapy session and to look at multiple resources at hand. Whether a professional is working in consulting with an organization or with an individual mental health concern, the pairing of strong analytic frameworks for counseling with the awareness of community resources, trends, and problems provide the practicing professional with an exceptional ability to coordinate and enact three approaches for creating healthier environments for individuals and organizations.

Accreditation:

The Master of Science in Community Psychology (MSCP) is accredited by the Masters in Psychology and Counseling Accreditation Council (MPCAC) for the period of June, 2025 through June, 2033. www.mpcacaccreditation.org (<http://www.mpcacaccreditation.org>). The program is also accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. It is approved by the State of Wisconsin requirements for licensure as a professional counselor.

Learning Outcomes:

The outcomes are constructed through an integration of the following standards in the field:

1. The Psychology Department advanced level outcomes at Alverno College,
2. The Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs "Common Core Curricular Experiences" for Masters programs in psychology
3. The, licensing standards of the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services,
4. The central principles of Community Psychology.

In the construction of these outcomes, Psychology faculty considered core competences for the engaged community-astute, professional counselor. The competencies areas and courses align with the standards of the field and the State of Wisconsin.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Theoretical reasoning related to the individual and community: To engage in the complex dimensions of theory related to the individual and to the systems that mutually affect individuals and communities, particularly as these theories encompass an understanding of prevention strategies, counseling, and research. Specifically, the theoretical areas include, but are not limited to: the history and philosophy of counseling; 11 social and cultural diversity; human growth and development; learning; physiological psychology; wellness and prevention; personality development; group dynamics; trauma; stress; abnormal behavior; career development; family systems; addiction and treatment; helping relationships; research; measurement and evaluation; ethics and professional practice.
2. Methodological proficiency and relevance: Accurately and ethically apply theory and methods of prevention, counseling, research, and evaluation within a variety of social and cultural contexts; apply a practical grasp of civics for the purpose of aiding the welfare of specific client populations as well as the society as a whole.
3. Professional interaction: Effectively communicate with people across a variety of professional contexts, including relationships with clients, other service providers, inter-organizational collaborations, interdisciplinary management, community research, program evaluation, and consultation. Build coalitions by structuring and facilitating multidisciplinary teams.
4. Self-monitoring and reflection: Incorporate frameworks of professional practice in discerning the quality of self performance and self-awareness related to ethical professional practice including multicultural competence. Use supervision and consultation to monitor and enhance professional performance.
5. Ethical insight and action: Respond to the needs of others with sensitivity to various perspectives, including cultural, national, economic, racial, ethnic, gender, and spiritual differences; to act both interpersonally and in working with groups, with a clear grasp of civics, integrity, initiative, and vision in relationship to the APA and ACA Code of Ethics and the APA guidelines for serving diverse populations. Make ethical decisions and moral responses to complex, real-world dilemmas where multiple ethical frameworks and varied interests may be involved.

Faculty

Malena Taylor, Ph.D. Program Director and Chair of Community Psychology; Assistant Professor, MCP, malena.taylor@alverno.edu

- Ph.D., Clinical Psychology, Fielding Graduate University, Santa Barbara, CA
- M.A., Clinical Psychology, Fielding Graduate University, Santa Barbara, CA
- M.S., Human Services- Organizational Leadership and Management, Springfield College
- B.A., Independent Major/Chicano Studies University of Wisconsin- Madison

1. Professional Credential: Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), Licensed Psychologist

- Teaching Interests: Clinical mental health diagnosis and treatment, psychology of women and Latinx diaspora, multicultural counseling, couples & partner counseling; student supervision, lifespan development
- Professional Involvement: ALPFA, APA, PSI CHI, and NLPA; Private Practice/Group Practice Counseling and Consultation
- Personal Interests: Travel, reading, cooking/baking, spending time with family, health/wellness, hiking and pets.

Amy Hennings, Ph.D., Core Faculty Community Psychology, Associate Professor Psychology Department, amy.hennings@alverno.edu

- PhD Clinical Psychology, Walden University
 - M.A., Psychological Counseling, St. Mary's University
 - B.A., Psychology, University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire
 - Professional Credential: Licensed Professional Counselor, LPC
- Teaching Interests: Children and adolescents, trauma, human development, substance abuse counseling, research methods and assessment
 - Professional Involvement: Midwestern Psychological association (MPA), Lake County Crisis Response Team, HIV/AIDS Collar County Consortia, LAN (35), SAFE Housing Advisory Board
 - Personal Interests: Outdoor activities such as boating, kayaking, hiking and skijoring in winter with her dogs. Avid reader of psychological and murder mysteries.

Maria Guardiola, MS, LPC - Internship Coordinator, Assistant Professor Community Psychology, maria.guardiola@alverno.edu

- M.S., Clinical Psychology, Wisconsin School of Professional Psychology
 - M.S., Community Psychology, Alverno College
 - B.S., Community Leadership and Development; Psychology, Alverno College
- Professional Credential: Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)
 - Teaching Interests: Fundamentals of psychology as a science and a helping profession; human diversity in context and quality of life for individuals, communities, and societies; integrating research with practice through a multicultural and social justice lens
 - Professional Involvement: APA, IAPC, PSI CHI, SIP, NLPA
 - Personal Interests: Gathering with loved ones, reading, travel

MCP-645	Couples, Partners & Family Counseling	3
MCP-651	Research, Evaluation & Statistics Method	3
MCP-655	Group Dynamics Processing & Counseling	3
MCP-660	Individual Appraisal, Assmnt& Measuremnt	3
MCP-671	Substance Abuse Counseling	3
MCP-680	Counseling Theory: Ind, Group & Family	3
MCP-682	Adv Counslng Thry: Evidence Based Pract	3
MCP-685	Lifestyle & Career Development	3
MCP-688	Professional Ethics & Legal Issues	3
MCP-698	Pre-Clinical Requirement	0
MCP-699	Supervised Practicum	3
MCP-700	Supervised Internship I	3
MCP-720	Supervised Internship II	3
MCP-679	Physiological Psychopharmacology	3
MCP-601	Orientation to MSCP Program	0
MCP-630	Topics in Community Psy & Counseling	3
MCP-627	Culturally Engaged Counseling	3

Total Credits 60

Crse Times, Sequences, Absence, Backgrnd Chk

Most MSCP required courses are offered once a year. Most required courses are offered on Friday evening, Saturday morning, and Saturday afternoon. Internship courses always take place on Thursday evenings; students must inform site supervisors they are only available on alternate Thursday evenings during the school year. During Summer, classes are offered weekday evenings and/or asynchronously. Formal and informal surveys (e.g., course evaluations, advising sessions) are conducted to identify course needs and delivery. The 60-credit program includes foundations, theories, skills, and practice where students complete two, 6 credit electives (or more if desired).

Possible Course Sequences

There are several ways to complete the program. There is flexibility based on electives. Foundational courses are completed first, noting any prerequisites required for each course. This program is designed with 3 classes every semester plus 3 classes each summer (2 summers), students graduate in 2.5 years. Students can go more slowly. It is possible to graduate in exactly 2 years if students complete 4 classes for 2 semesters.

Attendance Academic Policy

Absences from Courses

Students are expected to attend classes and participate in learning activities. If, due to illness or unavoidable personal/professional commitments, students miss a class, they should consult with the faculty member involved and/or the MSCP Program Director as soon as possible in advance of the class for an alternative plan meeting the objectives of the missed class. Absence from more than one session of a three 3-credit required course requires student to repeat the course. Consistent lateness may be considered an absence.

Depending on the situation, the instructor or the MSCP Program Director may advise students to drop or withdraw from a course, or decide students are ineligible to continue attending a course if attendance has not been regular or the first class was missed. Students who choose

Major Req

MS Community Psychology (MCP.E.MSCP) Major Requirements 25-26 Catalog

Code	Title	Credits
MCP-600	Foundations/Comm Psychology & Counseling	3
MCP-611	Human Development in Community Contexts	3
MCP-620	Helping Rel: Prevention, Intervnt & Syst	3
MCP-625	Clin Mntl Hlth Cnsl: Diagnosis& Treatmnt	3
MCP-640	Trauma Counseling	3

to drop a course, have a responsibility to officially drop the course by contacting the Registrar's Office.

Background Checks

All students have a background check completed as part of their participation in MSCP 698, which is before the start of practicum/internship. This background check has several purposes:

- Ensures students are aware of any charges or concerns in future licensure or employment applications, and provide the opportunity to discuss potential ramifications with students
- Ensures students are free of charges preventing them from engaging in potential clinical collaborations with partner organizations.

submitting a request to extend program completion is the beginning of the sixth year in the program.

Academic Misconduct Academic Policy
(<https://catalog.alverno.edu/acadpol/acamis/#mscommunitypsychologymisconducttext>)

Intrnshp, Ind Stud, Prog Comp, Acad. Misconduct

The Practicum/Internship Experience

A Supervised Internship (which includes practicum and internship) is a key experiential learning component of the MSCP program. Supervised experiences as an intern prepare students work as a Licensed Professional Counselor. Students apply many of the concepts studied throughout the MSCP program in practicums/internships. Students are supervised by a licensed site supervisor; students actively participate in the group supervision that is provided in internship classes on campus.

Students prepare for an internship placement a year before the first internship, while completing prerequisites. The Internship Coordinator adds students to the MCP-698 Practicum course when internship prerequisites are completed. Students complete the internship application and submit the application to the Internship Coordinator. The application is reviewed by graduate faculty who also review academic progress and professionalism rubrics. Once the graduate faculty have approved candidacy for internship, students work with the Internship Coordinator to find an appropriate internship placement. Students are encouraged to seek an internship placement in anticipation of their placement. If students do this, the placement must be approved by the Internship Coordinator and the Program Director. The site supervisor must meet all the requirements to partner with the program. Primarily, the supervisor at the placement must be licensed, able and willing to supervise work for at least one hour every week. More specific guidelines for the internship experience and the class are presented when students receive the application.

The Site Supervisor, in consultation with the Internship Coordinator, may remove students who are performing inappropriately at the internship site. If removed students must meet with the Internship Coordinator and the Program Director before they secure another internship. If students are unable to complete the practicum or internship experience, may be dismissed from the program. The Program Director is available to help with this process.

Extension of Program Completion

Course work must be completed within seven years of entry into the MSCP program. Students not able to complete the program within this timeframe must submit a letter to the MSCP Program Director requesting an extension. The letter should explain why an extension is required and describe plans and timelines for program completion. The Program Director reviews the request and responds in writing. The deadline for