

DUAL LAW JD/MA IN PSYCHOLOGY OR CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING (CMHC)



Program Description Aspects

of legal practice often involve a psychological dimension, including nuanced interviewing, empathy for clients, inferring motivation, predicting behavior, selecting juries, and understanding psychological reports and testimony.

Two dual degree options enabling graduate study in psychology and counseling are offered through collaboration between VU's Graduate School and the School of Law. Each option provides a different level of psychological competency relevant to legal practice. Because a limited amount of coursework for each degree may apply toward the other, the total number of credits required for the dual degree is substantially less than that required for both degrees individually.

JD/MA Psychology The JD/MA Psychology augments the JD with a 30-credit MA in psychology. This program requires a total of 108 credits for both degrees and provides a general foundation in theories of personality and counseling. Coursework in professional issues and ethics for mental health counselors, as well as integrative work in law and psychology, is also required. This program is suited for law students whose practice may require understanding of and sensitivity to psychosocial issues (family law, mental health, children, the elderly, social services, etc.), but may also benefit others planning to work in settings where an understanding of human behavior is advantageous. This degree does not prepare students as mental health professionals.

JD/MA CMHC The JD/MA Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC) is intended for law students who are interested in becoming licensed mental health counselors in the State of Indiana or other states offering the licensure option. This program combines the 90-credit JD with a 60-credit MA CMHC. Because each degree recognizes coursework completed for the other, the total credits amount to 132-138. This program serves students having a variety of goals related to the growing integration of law and psychology, including:

- legal practice with a focus in mental health and social service (e.g., legal expert for Mental Health Centers);
- mental health and social service administration where understanding of the law and ability to interact with legal systems is required (e.g., director of a social service agency);

- government employment dealing with regulatory procedures and laws that impact mental health and social service agencies, professionals, and clients;
- legal work for national, regional, or state mental health organizations and associations;
- understanding of issues pertinent to the practice and enhancement of mediation using standard counseling techniques;
- positions that, for whatever reason, require credibility within the mental health professions.

Program Requirements Law school students are encouraged to begin coursework in psychology 2-3 semesters prior to beginning studies in the law program. The JD and MA degrees need not be awarded simultaneously; rather they are presented when the requirements for each degree are fulfilled. Students in the MA CMHC degree program should plan a minimum of 1-2 additional semesters beyond the third year of law school. Curriculum

JD/MA Psychology (in addition to meeting the JD requirements)		
Core Requirements		15 credits
COUN 660	Helping Relationships: Counseling Theories	3 cr
COUN 693	Foundations of Professional & Ethical Issues in Counseling	3 cr
PSY 700	Law & Psychology: Integrative Project	3 cr
Select six credits from the following:		
LAW 245	Pretrial Skills	3 cr
LAW 285	Race Relations & the Constitution	2 cr
LAW 485	Family Law	3 cr
LAW 486	Law & Health Care Process	3 cr
LAW 487	Elder Law	3 cr
LAW 488	Selected Topics in Elder Law	2 cr
LAW 495B	Children & the Law	3 cr
LAW 495K	Alternative Dispute Resolution	3 cr
LAW 662	Legal Clinic	2-3 cr
Electives in Psychology/Counseling		15 cr
JD/MA CMHC (in addition to meeting the JD requirements:)		
Core Requirements		39 credits

COUN 545	Community & Health Counseling	3 cr
COUN 570	Assessment in Counseling: Testing & Appraisal	3 cr
COUN 620	Human Development: Biological & Learned Bases of Behavior	3 cr
COUN 625	Social & Cultural Bases of Behavior	3 cr
COUN 635	Introduction to Psychopathology	3 cr
COUN 642	Advanced Psychopathology	3 cr
COUN 660	Helping Relationships: Counseling Theories	3 cr
COUN 662	Helping Relationships: Counseling Processes	3 cr
COUN 664	Career Counseling: Appraisal & Intervention	3 cr
COUN 668	Group Counseling	3 cr
COUN 693	Foundations of Professional & Ethical Issues in Counseling	3 cr
COUN 694	Counseling Proseminar (4 semesters)	0 cr
PSY 602	Research Methods in Psychology	3 cr
PSY 700	Law & Psychology: Integrative Project	3 cr
Experiential Training		12 credits
One practicum, one internship, and one advanced internship must be completed. Select law clinics and externships may substitute for the counseling practicum with the approval of the Psychology Department.		
Electives		9 credits
Law: select six credits from the following:		
LAW 245	Pretrial Law	3 cr
LAW 485	Family Law	2 cr
LAW 486	Law & Health Care Process	3 cr

LAW 487	Elder Law	3 cr
LAW 488	Select Topics in Elder Law	2 cr
LAW 495 B	Children & the Law	3 cr
LAW 495K	Alternative Dispute	3 cr
LAW 662	Legal Clinic	2-3 cr
Psychology/Counseling: 3 credits from the list of approved courses (see electives for the MA Clinical Mental Health Counseling curriculum)		

Criteria for Admission Applicants must be admitted to both The Graduate School and the School of Law. Admission to each program is separate. For a graduate application, click [here](#). For a VU School of Law application, click [here](#). Applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate Division, which include:

- Undergraduate degree from an accredited University;
- TOEFL of 575 or 230 computer version or higher for non-native English speakers;
- An overall grade point average of 3.0;
- Applicants to the JD/MA Psychology program must have at least 9 credits of prior coursework in psychology in order to enter the program;
- Applicants to the JD/MA CMHC program must have at least 15 credits of graduate or undergraduate study (equivalent of a minor) with a minimum 3.0 grade point average in the social and behavioral sciences (psychology, sociology, social work, human development, or other closely related fields). Prior coursework must include introductory psychology and statistics.

As part of the application process, students must provide:

- [Valparaiso University Graduate Application](#);
- Official transcripts of all prior undergraduate and graduate coursework. If you have received an undergraduate or graduate degree from Valparaiso University, you are not required to submit an official transcript from Valparaiso University;
- Two letters of recommendation (Letters may be forwarded from the VU School of Law);
- A reflective essay relating your professional goals to law and psychology;
- Application Fee: \$20.

Because the number of positions in both JD/MA programs is limited, applications received by March 1 will be given priority for fall semester admission. Furthermore, presenting the minimum credentials as listed above does not guarantee admission into the program. Applications received after March 1 will be considered on a space-available basis. Financial Considerations Full time students enrolled in the VU School of Law may take a maximum of 6 credits in The Graduate School without paying additional tuition, as long as these credits are taken during the fall and spring semesters. Because dual and joint degree programs provide significant savings in both tuition, time, and credit hours through mutual exchange of credit, law students in such programs are not extended the courtesy of 6 credits in the

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graduate or undergraduate division during either fall or spring semester at no additional charge. The savings afforded by combining degrees enables a law student to add on a Master of Arts in Psychology degree for about \$10,800 and the Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling degree for about \$14,850.

Students are strongly encouraged to begin their study during either the summer or fall semesters. Students may be surprised to discover the affordable tuition rate at Valparaiso University. Tuition for the 2008-2009 academic year is \$450 per credit hour, highly competitive for a private institution of recognized national quality. Students enrolled in graduate courses pay a \$80 general fee each semester.

[Financial aid](#) is available through direct and indirect student loans for students taking 6 credits or more during fall and spring semesters. Students may transfer up to 6 credits of approved graduate coursework into the program.

For more information about the School of Law programs To learn more about the School of Law, visit their website at <http://www.valpo.edu/law/>.

Interested students should [request an application packet](#) from the Office of Graduate Studies through our website or by e-mailing Graduate.School@valpo.edu.

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