

The early entry program, an option available only to undergraduate psychology majors at Valparaiso University, allows qualified students to apply for early entry into the MA Clinical Mental Health Counseling program and complete up to 9 credits of graduate coursework toward the degree during their senior year.

Prior to March 1st of their junior year, psychology majors with a 3.3 grade point average or higher may apply for early admission to the MA Clinical Mental Health Counseling program. Only students who have completed general psychology, statistics, research methods, abnormal psychology, and one experimental psychology course by the end of their junior year are eligible to apply. In addition to evidence of strong academic performance, applicants must submit a detailed essay and present two strong letters of recommendation.

Students accepted into the program may take up to nine credits during their senior year that may apply to both their undergraduate educational requirements and their graduate counseling degree. These credits are beyond the minimum 27 required for the BA degree, and include three courses selected from COUN 532, COUN 535, COUN 545, COUN 570, and COUN 590.

Commitment to pursuing a graduate counseling degree at Valparaiso University must be made prior to January 1st of the student's senior year, and by this date the student must have completed 100 credits. Furthermore, all requirements for entry into the program, including a final transcript and evidence of continuing strong academic performance (3.3 grade point average), must be met before final admission is granted.