Counseling Psychology Program
Auburn University

Departmental Telephone Number: 334-844-7676

Frequently Asked Questions

Revised
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Be sure to read our other program documents on the Program’s webpage:
http://www.education.auburn.edu/graduate-degree-cert/counseling-psychology-ph-d/

NOTE: Our next admissions will be in the Fall of 2016. For entry in the fall of 2016, the application deadline is December 11, 2015. For entry 2016, do not submit an application form without "2016" at the top.

1. Q: When should I submit my application for graduate study?
A: First, make sure that the application form you are filling out has the year you hope to enter the program listed at the top. Do not use old application forms (this year, the application form has important revisions and use of an old form will result in an incomplete application). For the materials which must be submitted to the Graduate School (see our program description), you should submit these materials prior to the deadline date of December 11, 2015, because the Graduate School may take several weeks to process transcripts or GRE scores. We only guarantee full consideration to applicants whose materials (both those materials sent directly to us by you as well as those forwarded to us by the Graduate School) are in our departmental files on the deadline date. To ensure that this happens, you must submit the materials to the Graduate School well in advance of the deadline.

2. Q. When will Auburn be interviewing for Fall, 2016 admission?
A. We will conduct on-campus interviews on February 29 and March 7, 2016. We will have student socials (attended by our current students and interviewees - faculty members do not attend these socials) the evenings prior to the interviews. Attendance at the social is not mandatory, but is strongly encouraged because many applicants have found it very helpful. We typically offer interviews to approximately 20-25 people to fill a class of 5-7 students. If we do not fill our openings from among the initial group of interviewees, we may later offer an interview to one or more individuals whose application was initially placed in the “hold” category (see below).

3.  Q: If I have applied, when will I know whether I am being offered an interview or not?
A: We anticipate notifying applicants in late January or early February, 2016.

4.  Q: I live a long way from Auburn. If I am offered an interview, is it possible to arrange a telephone interview?
A: Yes, you may choose to interview by telephone, although we strongly prefer that individuals come for a personal interview. Our interviews last the better part of a day. They involve individual conversations with multiple faculty and interactions with current students. A social event on the evening prior to interview day allows even more interaction with our current students. Your choice of a doctoral program will affect the next several years of your life (indeed, the rest of your life). The selections made by the program also involve years of investment in our students, and we believe that such an important decision, focusing on a good match between student and program, is best made based on in-person interactions. Although we do not technically require an in-person interview, the truth is that your chances of being admitted are probably reduced somewhat if you do not come for an interview.

5.  Q: How will you contact me to offer me an interview?
A: Email is an official medium of communication for Auburn University. We typically use email to communicate with applicants. It is very important that you check your email regularly, that you contact us if you change your email address after submitting your application, and that you not allow your email account to exceed storage limits (thereby having messages from us rejected). If you do not have access to email, you should be sure to inform us of this in writing at the time of your application. If you do not respond to our invitation for an interview within a few days, we reserve the right to withdraw the offer in order to offer an interview slot to someone else.

6.  Q: May I drop by your department and talk with some professors before the application deadline?
A: Yes, although when you come to campus without an appointment, you run the risk of not catching professors in their office.
The Director of Counseling Psychology Training will be available to meet with you if you call or email and make an appointment.

7. **Q:** Your program materials say that you admit students at both the post-Master’s and post-Bachelor’s level. If I don’t have a Master’s degree and am admitted to your program, do I get a Master’s degree en route to my Ph.D.?  
**A:** No, we do not offer the opportunity to get a Master’s degree as a part of our Ph.D. program. (Also see Question #8 below.)

8. **Q:** May I apply to your program with the goal of earning a Master’s degree in Counseling Psychology?  
**A:** No, we do not currently offer a Master’s degree in Counseling Psychology (also see Question #7 above), although it is possible we might in the future. Should we offer such a degree in the future, it would be a non-terminal master’s degree such that we would only admit students planning to complete their doctorate and the master’s degree may not meet requirements for licensure as a master’s level provider.

9. **Q:** If I am offered admission to your program, can you tell me before I accept your offer whether I will receive an assistantship?  
**A:** Generally speaking, we cannot guarantee at the time of offering you admission that you will receive an assistantship because the university budget is typically not finalized until later. However, we can tell you that over many years, all entering counseling psychology students have received some form of assistantship (these include teaching assistantships, research assistantships, and related job placements on campus such as working with student affairs or housing). Students in their second and third year (and later years) may also receive assistance, but they receive lower priority than entering students. We prioritize placement of our newest students first, whenever possible, such that the more advanced students receive lower priority. In general, more advanced students are able to find other opportunities outside of the departmental assistantship placements and for the past several years all advanced students in good standing that wanted an assistantship received one. We do our best to inform all students of relevant and appropriate opportunities for assistantships. Information about Graduate Assistantships may be found at [http://www.grad.auburn.edu/cs/grad_assist_guide.html](http://www.grad.auburn.edu/cs/grad_assist_guide.html) (Graduate Assistant Handbook published by the Graduate School).

In addition, the university requires anyone holding a graduate assistantship to pass a background check. Individuals wishing to apply for an assistantship should start the process of the background check as soon as they accept our offer of admission. The background check requires a $35 non-refundable fee.

10. **Q:** If I have an assistantship, do I have to pay tuition?  
**A:** It is expected that entering students who have between a .25 and .32 time assistantship will have out-of-state tuition waived, leaving them only to pay in-state tuition (at a reduced rate) and fees. Students with an assistantship that is between .33 and .5 receive their full tuition waived (whether in-state or out-of-state), although these students will still pay student fees. In addition, on a limited basis, some individuals in the department with a .25 assistantship may receive the full tuition waiver (they still must pay the fees). These .25 assistantships with full tuition waiver are part of a university policy that credits departments for grant-funded and non-funded students and is subject to change so we cannot guarantee that a student with a .25 time assistantship will receive the full waiver. The most common assistantship available is a .25 time assistantship and the program is committed to prioritizing that students have an assistantship that would at least qualify them for in-state tuition. Students who entered prior to the fall term of 2013 are subjected to different policies than these policies. Applicants should be aware that there are certain conditions and limits to these tuition reductions and waivers. Guidelines for graduate assistantships may be found at: [http://www.grad.auburn.edu/ps/aid.html](http://www.grad.auburn.edu/ps/aid.html)

Auburn University refers to the program that pays tuition that is waived/reduced for graduate students as the “Graduate Tuition Fellowship System” (GTUFS). To receive this fellowship, you have to simultaneously hold a qualifying assistantship. The Guidelines for this program are found at: [http://www.grad.auburn.edu/ps/presgradfellows.html#GTUFS](http://www.grad.auburn.edu/ps/presgradfellows.html#GTUFS); and the FAQs about the program are found at: [http://www.grad.auburn.edu/ps/fellowship_faqs.htm#8](http://www.grad.auburn.edu/ps/fellowship_faqs.htm#8) You do not need to “apply” for the fellowship. If you hold a qualifying assistantship, you are awarded it automatically. For students beginning in the fall of 2013, he Graduate Tuition Fellowships will be limited to 110% of the required hours for completion of the program.

If you are an in-state student, you will begin to pay in-state tuition rates after you exceed 110% of the required hours of credit for the program. If you are an out-of-state student, you will also begin to pay in-state rates following the same rule if you are employed in an assistantship. If you are an out-of-state student, have exceeded the 110% of the required hours of credit for the program, and are no longer in a qualifying assistantship, you may have to pay tuition at the out-of-state rate.

Out-of-state students (whether they have or have not exceeded the 110% of required hours of credit) who have a qualifying assistantship of at least .25 time during the regular academic year, but who do not have an assistantship in the summer may apply for remission of the out-of-state portion of their summer tuition. Any student with a .33 time assistantship for the fall and spring term receives a tuition waiver for the summer (under current graduate school policies, which can be subject to change). This remission is not automatic (that is, it must be requested from the Bursar), and, as indicated, depends on having held an assistantship during the previous fall and spring semesters.

In summary, students with a .25 time assistantship, whether in-state or out-of-state, who are not on assistantship in the
summer will have to pay in-state tuition, even if they held an assistantship that waived tuition during the previous academic year. Students with a .33 time or greater assistantship during the fall and spring term will not have to pay tuition during the summer (if they were admitted for Fall of 2013 or later).

Students should approach financial planning with the assumption that they will at least be paying in-state tuition each term and that they may not have a summer assistantship because there are not enough assistantships in the summer to support all students. Even when tuition (whether in-state or out-of-state) is waived, there is still a GRA/GTA enrollment fee which was $563 in the fall of 2015.

Moreover, there is an additional parking fee (if you want to park on campus—this may actually be required for some GTA positions), and a mandatory practicum fee (approximately $15). If you do not have personal health insurance, you will be required to purchase the university health insurance ($976/semester).

If you do not have an assistantship during the academic year (and thus do not have a tuition waiver), you will have to pay tuition (currently $489/credit hour (instate) and $1467/credit hour (out-of-state), in addition to an enrollment fee (approximately $800). As described above, parking and practicum fees also apply. However, under this situation, the university does not mandate that you carry health insurance (note, such individuals should consult federal regulations regarding insurance).

Students wishing to hold an assistantship must complete an assistantship application form with the department, may be required to pay a fee to cover the cost of a background check (all students must have a background check and be approved to work at the university), and must start the assistantship by the start of the term.

Please note that we cannot guarantee the fellowships and waivers described above (also see Question #11).

11. Q: Is the 110% -hour rule likely to have an impact on the tuition that I will actually be paying?
A: If you come with a master’s degree in a related field and you have not done graduate work at Auburn, it is unlikely to affect you, as long as you have an assistantship. That is because these students do not typically exceed the number of required hours of credit, and so all of your tuition charges are likely to be covered by a fellowship. However, it is important to remember that if you do not have an assistantship, you will have to pay tuition (whatever rate—in-state or out-of-state) that applies to you. Thus, if you do not have an assistantship, and you are out-of-state, you will be paying out-of-state tuition any semester that you do not have an assistantship (except for the first semester of enrollment which followed two semesters of holding an assistantship). If you come with a bachelor’s degree only (whether you are in-state or out-of-state), it could affect you if you take several optional courses. If you have done graduate work at Auburn and had your tuition waived for some or all of this work, the rule may affect you because courses taken for other graduate degrees may count against the number of hours covered. Individuals in this position should contact the graduate school and secure a statement in writing specifying how previous tuition assistance will affect their eligibility and the available number of credit hours when enrolled in our doctoral program. If you are offered admission and the question of whether you will receive full remission of tuition is critical to your decision about whether to attend Auburn or not, you should discuss this issue with the Director of Counseling Psychology Training and/or the Department Head. However, we emphasize that we cannot guarantee that you will receive an assistantship and we cannot guarantee that the assistantship will include tuition fellowships and out-of-state tuition waivers or that these benefits will continue. In addition, all students should be aware that they will have to pay tuition for dissertation hours taken while on internship because no student may hold an assistantship while on internship.

12. Q: I have good grades and good GRE scores, but no clinical experience. Am I a good candidate for admission?
A: We prefer that applicants have some clinical experience, but we will consider you even if you do not. We have admitted some students who have very little or no such experience.

13. Q: Is your program more practice oriented or more research oriented?
A: We offer an opportunity for students to select courses to help them focus on practice or academic/research training in our curriculum (see the required courses or options students might take, depending on the focus they would like, while completing their degree on our webpage). These areas that students can obtain additional training opportunities are covered through selecting electives that best match the student's goals. You do not have to declare whether you wish to focus more research or practice at any particular time (because these are not formal degrees; rather, we offer the opportunity for students to take some courses that reflect their career goals and actively admit both students interested in practice careers and those interested in research careers). There is no paperwork associated with choosing a focus, etc. In some sense these options are more a matter of “flavor.” That being said, a significant majority of our applicants are very interested in practice and the great majority of our students take initial jobs that are in the practice arena. Our program uses a scientist-practitioner training model, so the integration of science and practice is emphasized. To learn more about the scientist-practitioner training model (this is the training model used by many counseling psychology programs and is often referred to as the “Boulder Model”), a good place to start is the February, 2000, issue of the American Psychologist, which includes several relevant articles.

14. Q: Would having a Master’s degree increase my chances of being accepted into your program?
A: There is likely some increase in the probability of your being accepted if you have a Master’s degree, but it is not typically a significant increase. Obviously, if you have done very well in your master’s program, that would be an advantage. Among students entering in 2015, two (of seven) hold a master’s degree in a related area and this same pattern was seen in 2014. In
2013, all seven held master's degrees (however, this is an anomaly); and in 2012, two of seven students held master's degrees in counseling or psychology. There tends to be significant variation from year to year in terms of whether entering students do or do not have a master's degree, but looking across many years, approximately 50% of applicants have had a master's degree and 50% have not.

15. Q: My undergraduate degree is not in psychology. Is that a problem?  
A: Typically, this is not a significant problem if you have a master’s degree in psychology or counseling. If you have not done graduate work in psychology or counseling, and you did not major in psychology as an undergraduate, you will be at some disadvantage if you have not completed several psychology courses and have some research and applied experience. Experience in applied settings (such as volunteer work in a community mental health center) is particularly helpful in such circumstances. At Auburn, we do not have a policy about a minimum number of hours that you must have in psychology to apply to our program, but, as just indicated, we do want applicants to have completed several psychology courses. If you completed few psychology courses as an undergraduate and you don’t have a master’s degree in psychology, counseling, or a closely related field, then you may need to get a master’s degree first (many Counseling Psychology Programs, although not Auburn, require a Master's degree prior to application).

16. Q: I can’t decide whether to apply for your Master’s program in Clinical Mental Health Counseling or to apply for your Doctoral program in Counseling Psychology. (Or, I can’t decide whether to apply to your Counselor Education Doctoral program, or to your Counseling Psychology Doctoral Program.) Should I apply to more than one program?  
A: This is a difficult question to answer. In fact, different faculty members on the Counseling Psychology Admissions Committe may give different answers to this question. Some members of the Admissions Committee believe that applicants should be clear about what they want and that multiple admissions suggests that the applicant is not clear on his or her professional goals. For these members of the Admissions Committee, the applicant who submits multiple applications may be at a disadvantage. Other faculty members may not see a problem with multiple applications. Certainly, if you are unclear about your goals, you should do all you can to settle that issue, including contacting the Directors of the programs in which you think you might be interested. If you do decide to apply to multiple programs within the Department, you will need to pay a separate Graduate School application fee for each submission and you will need to file separate paperwork for each application. Note that each program has a separate Program Application Form that you will need to complete, and each program would expect to receive letters of reference for you for that particular program application.

17. Q: I can’t decide whether to apply to the Auburn Counseling Psychology Program or to the Auburn Clinical Psychology Program. May I apply to both of these programs?  
A: These programs are in separate departments and separate colleges. The Counseling Psychology Program is in the Department of Special Education, Rehabilitation, & Counseling, located in the College of Education. The Clinical Psychology Program is in the Department of Psychology, located in the College of Liberal Arts. Nothing prevents you from applying to both programs, although you would have to pay two application fees to the Graduate School (unless you are already a student enrolled in Graduate School at Auburn). As noted in the answer to Question #16, there may be differences on the Admissions Committee about whether it is a good idea to apply to both programs. Also consistent with comments above, it would be a good idea to talk with the Directors of the two programs before making multiple submissions.

18. Q: I read about Counseling Psychology and Clinical Psychology and I don’t really understand the difference. Can you describe the differences?  
A: The first thing you should know is that different people give different answers to this question. So it is important not to rely on just one source of information. If you have this question, you should talk to several counseling psychologists and several clinical psychologists. You might also check the webpage of the American Psychological Association. It is important to realize that there are large differences within each of these subspecialties. For example, there may be significant differences in curriculum, values, and focus, between any two counseling psychology programs (or between any two clinical psychology programs). Some counseling psychology programs look a lot like many clinical psychology programs and some clinical psychology programs look a lot like many counseling psychology programs. The implication of this fact is that an analysis of an individual program is perhaps more important than making a decision based on some “norm” or perceived norm.

Over the years, there have been numerous answers to the question concerning differences between counseling and clinical psychology. If you are looking for generalities (and keeping in mind what we just said about differences within subspecialties), clinical psychology has historically been more concerned with serious psychopathology, while counseling psychology has often attracted students who are more interested in assisting “normal” populations. As a group, counseling psychologists have been more concerned with vocational/career issues than have clinical psychologists. Our informal impressions include: clinical psychologists as a group appear to be somewhat more interested in diagnostic categories and the use of diagnosis in general; counseling psychologists tend to be more skeptical of manualized treatments for psychotherapy and more concerned about the limits of current research to deal adequately with complex processes and outcomes, as well as client diversity. Counseling psychology students are more apt to come from diverse academic backgrounds and life experiences and counseling psychologists have been especially active in the diversity movement. If you are interested in reading an article
that addresses the question of the values of counseling psychologists, here is one to read: Howard, G. S. (1992). Behold our creation! What counseling psychology has become and might yet become. *Journal of Counseling Psychology, 39*, 419-442. Although it has been a number of years since the article was published, we believe that it nonetheless lays out a philosophy which echoes the values held by many counseling psychologists. Another good resource is the Homepage of the Society of Counseling Psychology, which is Division 17 of the American Psychological Association.

19. Q: I applied to the Auburn Counseling Psychology Program and your office has my Program Application Supplement, my letters of reference, my unofficial transcripts, etc., but you are telling me that you don’t have the official transcripts from your Graduate School. What might be wrong?
A: One possibility is that you sent us your unofficial transcripts but forget to ask your university to send the official ones to our Graduate School. Another possibility is that you asked your university to send the transcripts, but your university takes several weeks to process a request like that. A third possibility is that our Graduate School has not yet been able to confirm your transcripts (or, e.g., your GRE scores) and has thus not entered your information into the electronic database so that we can see it. When you apply on-line to the Graduate School and pay your fee, we are automatically (and electronically) notified immediately. However, when it comes to the official transcripts, some “hand labor” must be done at the Graduate School and this can take a while if you send in your application close to the year-end holidays. A fourth possibility is that you mistakenly put on your Graduate School application form that you were interested in “psychology.” If you did this, it is possible that some of your Graduate School documents have been filed in the database for the Department of Psychology and are not available to us. If this might be the case, you should call the Graduate School and tell them that you intended to apply for the Counseling Psychology program in the Department of Special Education, Rehabilitation, and Counseling. They will then place your documents into our Departmental database. If you will ensure that documents are sent to our Graduate School several weeks before the deadline, you will have left ample time to clear up any possible mistakes and problems so that you are not anxiously and frantically trying to fix problems at the last moment. This is why we recommend that you submit materials prior to the deadline.

20. Q: Your department tells me that you don’t have my departmental (program) application supplement. I filled it out and sent it in. What might be wrong?
A: Obviously, it might have been lost in cyberspace (or by the mail service you used if you sent it via hard copy), or we might have made a mistake. Another possibility is that you filled out the wrong form. Perhaps you mistakenly filled out the application form for the doctoral program in Counselor Education. If you forwarded such a document, your file might be in the Counselor Education application files. If you think this might have happened, ask our administrative support person to check to see if your name is listed in one of our databases other than Counseling Psychology. Another possibility is that you sent your application to the Department of Psychology by mistake. Again, sending in your application early can help you avoid a great deal anxiety should a problem arise in your application.

21. Q: Your department tells me that you don’t have some of my reference letters. My professors sent them in. What might be wrong?
A: One possibility is that your professor wrote a letter and said that you were applying for the Master’s program (or for another doctoral program within our department). When we accessed the letter we might have read that part and placed it in a file in the wrong application section. If you think this might have happened, ask our administrative support person to check to see if your name is listed in one of our databases other than Counseling Psychology. Another possibility is that you gave the forms to your professors, but they failed to fill them out and email/mail them in on time. It is very important that you check with your references to ensure that they have in fact emailed/mailed the forms. We are emphasizing that we prefer that you submit the program’s reference form to your letter-writers in hard copy and ask them to submit it electronically by scanning and emailing the reference. We have found that with holiday mail, letters often get delayed in the mail and may not arrive until January (keep in mind the university is closed for Thanksgiving and again in late December). Having the references email the form (and letter if the write one) can ensure that the recommendation reaches us quickly. In addition, giving the form to your references well ahead of the deadline can provide them with ample time to complete and submit the reference form.

22. Q: I am in a Master’s program and I have a choice of writing a thesis. Would that help me get into your program?
A: That depends on a number of variables, including the topic of your thesis and whether you have done other research. Generally, having written a thesis does somewhat increase your chances of admission, but probably not significantly so.

23. Q: I have a low GRE. Should I bother applying to your program?
A: We consider all factors when looking at applications. A low GRE will not automatically eliminate you from consideration. We like to see a GRE total score (verbal plus quantitative) of 1100/312 or above (first number represents the old scoring system and the second number represents the new scoring system), but we have admitted students with GRE scores lower than this.

24. Q: What can I do to increase my chances of being accepted into your program?
A: In short, have a high GPA, do volunteer work in the field, have high GRE scores, do research, and work with faculty members and/or supervisors enough so they are willing to “go out on a limb” for you in their letters of reference. When someone says, for example, "This is one of the two or three best students I've had in 10 years," we take such comments very seriously. We place a fairly high value on letters of reference. The references should be from people who know your work. Letters from people who “know of you” but who have not directly supervised you or taught you count for somewhat less. Grades in undergraduate psychology courses are considered more closely than are other grades. Similarly, we look at grades
from master's coursework in counseling or psychology when applicable and in general expect strong grades at that level of study given that such curriculum is closely related to the curriculum in our program. We consider personal attributes to be very important. These include traits such as behaving ethically, always doing significantly more than the minimum, being responsive to feedback, being respectful of diversity, not being a complainer, having intellectual curiosity, being self-reflective, being supportive of others, being easy to talk to, and being non-defensive.

25. Q: I don’t own a computer. Do I have to have one if I am accepted into your program?
A: The short answer is “no,” you are not required to have one. There are computers located in Haley Center (where the department is located) which you can use free of charge to search the internet, check your email, and write papers. However, your life will be much easier if you own a computer. Not merely will that enable you to work on papers at home, but you will be able to check your email at home and search the internet at home, (assuming you have an internet connection—which of course is a monthly service you will need to purchase from a commercial vendor). As noted above, it is University policy that email is an official form of communication.

26. Q: Do I have to have some sort of parking permit to visit campus?
A: Yes, if you wish to park on campus while on a visit you need a temporary permit. Call the Auburn University Parking office (334-844-4144) and ask for directions to their office. Their office is currently located in the parking deck located on Lem Morrison. Alternatively, you may use the Stadium Deck and proceed to the top floor. There, you should check with your attendant to see if you need a permit to park as a visitor. If you are invited for an interview, we will help you obtain a visitor’s parking pass (unless you are already a student at Auburn).

27. Q: I have a “gmail” (or similar) account. May I keep this if I enroll in your program?
A: You may keep other email accounts, but upon registration, all Auburn students receive an official Auburn University email account. This is where your email from the university will be sent. You are responsible for all messages sent to your Auburn University email address. Sometimes commercial email accounts have limits in terms of the number of messages that can be stored. This can cause significant problems (e.g., failure to receive important communication from the Department) if you fail to check your email frequently. Some students choose to have their Auburn email account forward messages to another account. There is no problem with this, assuming that the forwarding works reliably.

28. Q: I really want to be in your Ph.D. program eventually, but I want to get my Master’s degree first. Would it increase my chances of ultimately being accepted into your program to come and get a Master’s degree in, for example, Clinical Mental Health Counseling at Auburn, or should I go to another university for my Master’s degree?
A: This is a difficult question to answer. We neither give preference to, nor have a bias against, students who come here for their Master’s degree work. If you come here and do average work, it may slightly decrease your chances of being admitted. If you come here and impress all your professors and do truly outstanding work, it would likely work to your advantage in the admissions process. That being said, even if you are an excellent student while getting your master’s degree here, there is no presumption, let alone guarantee, that you would be admitted to the Ph.D. program in Counseling Psychology. Historically, only a few students from departmental masters’ programs have applied to the Ph.D. program in Counseling Psychology, and very few have been accepted. However, there have been exceptions... In 2013, two of seven admitted students were graduates of the Clinical Mental Health master’s program. In the last two years, we have not admitted anyone from a master's degree program in the department (although, as noted above, the number of applicants has been very low.)

29. Q: I would like to be in your program, but I have a full-time job which I need to keep. Is it possible to attend classes part-time?
A: All students enrolled in the Counseling Psychology Program must be full-time. During each of several semesters, students take three or four courses which may begin as early as 8 a.m. and end as late as 10 p.m. (although classes ending at 10 p.m. are rare).

30. Q: I don’t really want to go to school in the summer. Will that work in your program?
A: Although we do not in principle oppose students taking the summers off, some required courses are taught only in the summer. The practical effect of this fact is that you must be enrolled during some of the summers.

31. Q: I have a Master’s (or Ed.S.) degree. Is there a limit on the number of hours I can transfer to your program?
A: We do not currently have a policy on this. The question really boils down to whether you can exempt some of our required courses based on previous coursework. Typically students with a master’s degree transfer (exempt) approximately 4–7 courses. Our emphasis is not on some maximum (or minimum) number of transfer hours, but rather, on discerning whether you have performed well in a graduate course which provides you with a solid background in the area under consideration. Practicum requirements may not be exempted, although when you apply for internship, clinical experiences prior to enrolling
in our program can be counted in one of the categories on the internship application form. The process to determine whether you have graduate coursework allowing you to exempt one or more of our required courses is not carried out until you enroll. Students can typically make an “educated guess” about this by comparing our list of required courses with those graduate courses they have already successfully completed. However, note that just because courses have the same title does not mean that you can substitute that requirement in our curriculum. For a more complete discussion of this issue, see our program policies (posted to the web).

32. **Q: Where do your students obtain internships?**

   For internships beginning Fall, 2015, our students were matched to the following (all APA-accredited) sites: Northwestern University, University of Utah, Federal Medical Center-Rochester, University of Miami, University of South Carolina, University of Missouri.

   Over the years, our students have completed their internships at a number of different types of sites, but the majority have completed their internships at college counseling centers and VA Medical Health Centers. College counseling centers where students have completed internship include Appalachian State University, Ball State University, Clemson University, Colorado State University, Florida State University, Georgia Tech University, Texas A & M University, Texas Tech University, the University of California-Davis, the University of California at Riverside, the University of Florida Counseling Center, the University of Hawaii, the University of Maine, the University of Memphis, Michigan State University, the University of Missouri-Columbia, the University of Oregon, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of South Carolina, the University of Southern Illinois-Carbondale, the University of St. Thomas, and the University of Wisconsin (Madison).

   VA Medical Centers where students have interned include the Central Alabama VA Medical System (Tuskegee, AL), Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care Center, Southeast Louisiana Veterans HCS in New Orleans, the VA Medical Center in Atlanta, the VA Medical Center–Durham, the VA Medical Center–Salem, and the VA Medical Center of White River Jct, VT. We also have students attend other types of internship placements including military, consortium, and community mental health. Internship placements of students for these types of settings include the National Naval Medical Center (Bethesda, MD), Medical College of Georgia/VAMC Augusta, Vanderbilt University/VAMC Nashville, Advocate Family Care Network (near Chicago), and Penn-Ohio Psychology Internship in Hermitage, PA.

   Information about the accreditation status of students’ internships is available on the “Student Admissions, Outcomes, and Other Data” page.

33. **Q: Can you tell me what airport I should fly into if/when I visit Auburn?**

   A: There are four airports serving Auburn: Atlanta, GA; Montgomery, AL; Birmingham, AL; and Columbus, GA. Although there is an airport in Auburn, there is no scheduled service into or out of it. Atlanta is by far the largest and has the most scheduled flights. It's about 90 minutes away--all by interstate. Montgomery, AL is a much smaller airport than Atlanta. It's a little over an hour from Auburn, almost all by interstate. This is a chance that a flight into this airport might have the schedule and fare fit what you are looking for, but many times it is somewhat difficult to find a good flight schedule. Birmingham is the second largest airport. It is about 2.5 hours away. Very little of the driving is interstate (unless you take a longer route). Unless the fare is substantially cheaper (which it can be on occasion), or you are visiting someone there, we don't recommend Birmingham. Columbus, GA is about 45 minutes away. Very little of the driving is interstate. Many of the in-bound flights to Columbus go through Atlanta first and many flights departing Columbus go through Atlanta after departing. Though flight prices vary, flights into Columbus, GA may be more expensive than those into Atlanta, GA. Generally we recommend that you not fly into and out of Columbus unless you are visiting someone there or happen to find an unexpected bargain fare.

   Shuttle service is available between the Atlanta airport and Auburn. Go to [http://www.yellowpages.com/auburn-al/mip/express-85-airport-shuttle-21832953](http://www.yellowpages.com/auburn-al/mip/express-85-airport-shuttle-21832953) or to [www.groometransportation.com](http://www.groometransportation.com) where you can find information on reservations and current rates, etc. We are not familiar with any shuttle service between the other airports and Auburn.

34. **Q: Where can I stay if/when I visit your program?**

   A: Check the internet for hotels, motels, and bed and breakfast inns. There are more than a dozen such places in Auburn and additional ones in the contiguous town of Opelika. A number of the Auburn motels are located on South College Street, which you access by taking Exit #51 off I-85. Several of them are approximately 3 miles from campus. There are also a few hotels/motels within walking distance of the campus. Ask for student/university specials–some motels/hotels have them; others may not.

35. **Q: Do you offer on-line courses?**

   A: The program does not offer on-line courses; however, some other programs in our Department do offer such courses.

36. **Q: Where can I get more information?**

   A: Check our website: [http://education.auburn.edu/academic_departments/serc/academicprograms/counpsych.html](http://education.auburn.edu/academic_departments/serc/academicprograms/counpsych.html) and in particular read our Program Description, which contains further information, including data about the program. You may also contact the Director of Training, Dr. Annette Kluck ([ask0002@auburn.edu](mailto:ask0002@auburn.edu))