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Avila’s Graduate Psychology Degree Programs

Counseling Psychology

The Master of Science in Counseling Psychology (MSCP) program is a 60-credit hour degree program designed to help graduates meet the educational criteria for Kansas and Missouri professional counselor licensure. The Department is committed to the scientist-practitioner model to train master’s level counseling psychologists and licensed professional counselors for the delivery of mental health services in a variety of settings such as private practice, mental health clinics, counseling centers and human service agencies.

As part of the program, students may choose to select a concentration in couples and family counseling or child and adolescent counseling. Each concentration consists of 9 credit hours of course work intended to provide additional focus on those populations. Students in the program are not required to select a concentration.

Psychology

The Master of Science in Psychology is a 36-credit hour degree program that provides students with a solid foundation in many fields of psychology. The program offers students an in-depth survey of the diverse research, theory and practices of psychology’s many subdisciplines. The (MSP) program is designed for students interested in studying non-clinical applications in the field and who want to pursue careers in non-clinical settings as well as those who desire greater preparation for doctoral programs.

As a part of the program, students may choose to select a concentration in Research or Mental Health. The research concentration is intended for those students who intend to pursue a doctoral degree after completing the master’s. This concentration does require a thesis. The mental health concentration is for those students who hope to work in a mental health field, but do not intend to pursue counseling as a profession.

Where to Find Information

Information about Avila University, the Department of Psychology, the graduate psychology programs, and your personal academic information can be found in the locations listed below. If you have a question about your program or your status and cannot find the answer from one of these sources, the Director of Graduate Psychology Enrollment Management (referred to as “Director” in this Handbook), as well as the rest of the psychology faculty and staff, and the Avila administrators in Blasco (e.g., Registrar’s office, Financial Aid) can assist you.

- This Handbook contains information about graduate program policies and procedures and should be used to supplement additional policy manuals including the Graduate Academic Catalog, Internship Handbook, and Practicum Handbook.

- The Graduate Academic Catalog contains information related to all aspects of your Avila experience, including enrollment, financial aid, and course descriptions. The catalog is available on the Avila website.
- Avila University Email: The University and Department expect you to check your Avila email regularly, as you are responsible for any information sent via this email account. This includes during semesters and breaks.

- The Avila University website (www.avila.edu) contains information about the entire university, including urgent announcements on the home page.
  - The Graduate Psychology website and blogs can be accessed through the Avila home page (Academics), or directly at www.avila.edu/gradpsych. “Like” us on Facebook to receive updated information, participate in contests and have an opportunity to communicate with fellow students.
  - MyAU which is the primary source for personal, financial, and academic information such as class schedule, course history/unofficial transcript, degree audit and tuition balance. Additional resources may also be linked through MyAU: career services, disability services, health and counseling services, and learning services.

- Graduate Psychology Student Resource Center in Canvas
  The GPSRC is the primary way the department provides information to students and the primary resource for department documentation on a variety of process.
  - Announcements: The department posts messages in announcements that cover a variety of topics including: research opportunities, job/internship opportunities, departmental updates, important registration information, etc. Students should set up their Canvas alerts to notify them by email or text if Canvas isn’t regularly checked. These alerts can occur at preset times. Critical information from the department will be posted in Announcements and emailed to all students directly.
  - Files: Students have access to numerous materials needed throughout the programs at Avila. In Files, students have access to guides on how to be successful in Psychology courses that use Canvas. All documentation provided during initial course sequencing can be found here, in addition to information on: Master’s Project/Research Experience, Counseling Internship, Counseling Practicum, and the background check.
Educational Outcomes

Upon graduation, an Avila University student in the psychology program will have demonstrated competence in each of the following areas:

1. **Scholarship**

   This outcome includes development of a thorough grounding in theoretical/conceptual foundations of psychology, the ability to apply knowledge (theory to practice), the ability to describe relevant biological/physiological and social psychological information that would be helpful in understanding individuals, and the ability to understand and use statistics and research design to aid in understanding individuals. This outcome also includes the ability to write in a clear, well-organized manner and to speak and present material in an audience-appropriate manner.

2. **Individual Differences**

   This outcome includes the understanding and application of theoretical and practical knowledge about individual differences, the integration of cultural, national, ethnic, socioeconomic, religious, sexual orientation, and similarly diverse backgrounds and characteristics, and the tolerance of diversity.

3. **Professional Behavior**

   This outcome includes the ability to comport oneself professionally at all times, to include the ability to maintain appropriate boundaries, to give and accept feedback, and the ability to analyze personal thought processes such as personal needs, values, strengths, weaknesses, feelings and motivations. It also involves behaving in accordance with professional ethical standards.

4. **Professional Practice (Counseling Psychology)**

   This outcome includes the use of appropriate receptive counseling skills, to include, but not necessarily limited to: establishing rapport and communicating empathy; attending to the client; adapting terminology to the language level of the client; appropriately paraphrasing client messages; verbally and nonverbally demonstrating genuine concern for others; and, reflecting feelings expressed verbally and nonverbally by the client. Use of appropriate expressive counseling skills includes, but is not limited to: asking open-ended questions when possible and closed-ended questions when necessary; communicating in specific and concrete, rather than in general and abstract terms; using constructive confrontational skills when appropriate; communicating information about individuals and families in ways that would be most useful to entities such as a vocational counselor, a psychiatrist, a court judge, or a family member; and, engaging in genuine self-disclosure of personal thoughts and feelings when appropriate and the appropriate use of group process skills.
Advising, Course Enrollment and Grading

Advising

Academic advising in the department is designed to service two purposes: guidance on the progression of your education while at Avila and support with your professional growth and goals. To accomplish these purposes, the Psychology Department utilizes a dual advising model.

Advisor 1: Faculty Advisor
The faculty advisor will be here to assist with items pertaining to your career path and education goals. This is the person who will assist with questions regarding:

• Elective selection
• Active research opportunities
• Post-graduation opportunities
• Doctoral prep
• Career development
• Ethics
• Professional standards

Advisor 2: Administrative Advisor
The administrative advisor is available to help assist you with institutional items that may come up during your time in the program. This is the person who will assist with questions regarding:

• Course sequencing
• Registration/Withdraws
• Departmental policy: Graduate Psychology Student Handbook
• University policy: Graduate Catalog
• Academic exceptions
• Transfer coursework/Concurrent enrollment
• Degree program changes

Your advisors can be found in MyAU, but the new breakdown is:
Faculty Advisor
MS – General Psychology and Psychology
   All: Dr. Jordan Wagge
MS – Counseling Psychology (by last name):
   A-J: Dr. Dominick Scalise
   K-Z: Dr. Gina Staves

Administrative Advisor
   All: Director of Grad Psych Enrollment Management – Aaron Coffey

Advising is a process intended to assist students in their progression through a degree program. It is not meant as a substitute to student’s understanding of, and adherence to, the policies and requirements necessary to graduate from Avila University. Students must take ownership of their education by understanding the degree requirements as listed in their graduate catalog.
Registration
Each student is responsible for meeting the graduate requirements listed in the graduate academic catalog. Academic advisors should be utilized for assistance in course sequencing. Registration should be completed early to ensure course availability.

- Courses will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.
- You are not assured of placement in a specific course or section. The sooner you register, the more likely you will be to get your preferred schedule. The department may change your registered course section to help ensure balanced enrollment.
- Enrichment students will be allowed access to graduate courses two weeks prior to the first class meeting.
- After the successful completion of the first semester, students in good standing will be able to register for classes online.

You are strongly encouraged to register during open enrollment. Graduate psychology enrollment dates will be posted on MyAU early in the prior semester. Late registration (extra fee assessed) or class section changes may be permitted, when space is available:
- During the first week of a 16-week course, including arranged classes
- Up to one week prior to the beginning of a weekend intensive course
- On the first day of class for summer classes

Course Sequencing
At the initial advising appointment, students may be provided with a course sequence. The sequences are designed to allow students to complete program requirements in a specific timeframe. In addition, the sequences place courses in the order the Department prefers they be completed. The department makes every effort to ensure students may complete courses in the correct order. Deviating from these sequences without consulting with the academic or administrative advisor may result in an inability to complete the program in the predetermined timeframe. Course sequences may be referenced in the Files section of the GPSRC.

Course Grades / Retaking Courses
A grade of “B” or better expected in all classes in the programs. Students may only receive 6 hours of “C” grades. Students may only repeat each course one time. Only two courses may be repeated during the program. If a course is repeated, the most recent grade is calculated into the cumulative GPA. However, all course entries remain a part of the permanent record and credit is forfeited for all previous attempts.

Students should refer to their graduate catalog for the complete policy on course repeats, GPA requirements, and course grades.

Incomplete Grades
Students are responsible for initiating all requests for incomplete grades. Incomplete grades are allowed only in exceptional circumstances and are solely at the discretion of the instructor. The request must be made in writing. To be considered, students should have a strong attendance record and the absence of a history of late submissions on assigned papers, projects, or other assignments. Students must provide instructors (and possibly their advisor or the program Director) with evidence for the need for an incomplete.
If a student does not follow the incomplete plan, the student may receive a grade for the course that could include failure of the course. The typical timeframe for an incomplete is six weeks following the last day of the class or end of semester; however, if there are extenuating circumstances, one additional extension (up to six weeks) may be granted.

Incomplete grades are offered solely at the discretion of the instructor. Some instructors may choose not to allow incomplete grades.

Weekend Intensive Courses
The Department of Psychology currently offers four different course titles that are held in a weekend-intensive format. These courses are offered as 1-credit hour electives. Weekend intensive courses are one weekend each and are generally held from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday and from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

Please note that if you enroll in a weekend intensive course you may receive syllabi, required readings, and course assignments on Canvas in advance of the designated weekend, with most readings required prior to the course start date. Students should also check with the Avila Bookstore (either on the Avila website or by phone at 816.501.3630) to determine if a textbook has been assigned for the course.

The Child and Adolescent Counseling certificate is the only program in the department that requires the completion weekend intensive courses. All students may utilize these courses to meet elective requirements.

Withdrawal
Students who need to withdraw from a course during the academic semester may do so following the policies and guidelines outlined by the University. Excessive withdraws from any student in the program may lead to disciplinary actions including, but not limited to, course enrollment restrictions.

Transfer Coursework
Prior Coursework: If transferring in coursework from another program, students should make the request for transfer credit prior to completion of the first semester of coursework. Many times, this process is completed at the point of admission before the initial course sequencing. Transfer credit must be awarded before the completion of the first semester of enrollment, including summer.

Concurrent enrollment: For students currently in the program who wish to complete coursework at another institution to meet graduation requirements at Avila, prior approval from the Director is required. Concurrent enrollment transfer work will be allowed only on an extremely limited basis. The permission must be granted by the Director prior to enrollment at another institution. Courses completed through concurrent enrollment cannot be transferred into Avila if the credit will count toward the final 25% of completed coursework required for the degree (Counseling Psychology – the final 15 hours, General Psychology – the final 9 hours).

Transfer coursework is not permitted in meeting completion requirements for graduate certificates.
Program Requirements and Academic Standards

Graduate Academic Catalog
The catalog year is determined at the time of first enrollment in graduate coursework at Avila University. Students are required to follow their catalog in order to fulfill graduation requirements. Degree requirements may be met under a subsequent catalog during attendance at Avila University. Once changed, the student may not revert to the earlier catalog. The Graduate School Change of Program, Catalog, or Advisor form is available in the Psychology Department Student Resource Center located in Canvas.

If a student has not attended Avila University for four consecutive semesters (excluding summer sessions), the student must fulfill the requirements of the catalog in existence at the date of re-enrollment.

Professional Conduct
All students are expected to comply with the code of ethics that pertains to their respective discipline. The department will address all personal and/or professional behaviors that fall below the standards considered “appropriate,” and will bring inappropriate behavior to the attention of the Director. The Director and/or other faculty including the Clinical Director may be contacted and may deliver feedback.

Problematic behavior in the classroom may be immediately addressed by, for example: addressing the concern in class, asking you to leave the class for the remainder of the class period; or other ways, at the discretion of the instructor.

Attendance
The Department of Psychology places a high value on the quality of learning that takes place in an active and interactive classroom. As such, attendance at class sessions is extremely important. Students should plan to attend all sessions to ensure progress and understanding of course material. Two or more absences may result in a reduction of the class grade – up to failure of the course. The decision about grade reduction or failure is at the professor’s discretion and may be included in the course syllabi.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty
You must complete your own work and cite appropriate sources when using others’ work. Any failure to follow the University’s academic code of conduct may result in a number of consequences, which could include: automatic failure from the course in which the plagiarism has occurred, academic probation or, for a serious breach, immediate dismissal from the university. Please see the Avila University catalog for details about university procedure. You will be required to take a short online plagiarism awareness tutorial during your first semester of coursework. Failure to complete this tutorial will result in a hold on your account that will prohibit registration for the upcoming semester until tutorial is completed.

Informed Consent
As noted on our graduate admission application, students may be required to reveal personal information in some classes as part of the educational process. Unless this personal information reveals a violation of the law that mandates reporting (e.g., danger to self or others), the information will be treated with strict confidentiality.
Leave of Absence
A student may request a leave of absence from the program, but must notify the Director in writing or email to initiate the official leave of absence. Student may only request a leave of absence for the following semester. A student must enroll in at least one course in the program within two years of the leave date or will be required to complete the formal process of admission again upon return to the program. All leave of absence requests must be made prior to or at the end of a semester.

Application for Degree
Graduation applications for psychology degree programs are available online through MyAU and must be completed online. All applications submitted after the deadline will incur an additional fee that is assessed to your financial account.

Disciplinary Policies

Probation
Probation is an initial disciplinary action. The Department of Psychology takes seriously the decision to place a student on probation. Students may be placed on probation for a variety of reasons which are not limited to academic probation. Student placed on probation will typically receive a remediation plan indicating to the student may be removed from probation. Some items will result in immediate probation, regardless of the events leading up to the infraction. A student will be automatically placed on probation if:

1. cumulative GPA falls below a 3.0
2. earn a grade of “D” or “F” in any three hour course
3. if placed on a remediation plan

Any student in the program may only be placed in the probation student status twice during the length of the program. Any additional cause for probation status after the second occurrence will result in suspension or dismissal. Probation status may also prevent students from proceeding to certain courses in the program, as determined by the Department. Students admitted in the MSP – Research concentration will be removed from the research concentration if placed on academic probation. Requests for reinstatement into the concentration may be made through the Academic Advisor.

Remediation Plans
Remediation plans can be for academic, behavioral or policy concerns or violations. A remediation plan will allow for the possibility of successful completion of the program. Noncompliance with the remediation plan and/or failure to maintain fitness following the remediation plan may result in dismissal from the graduate psychology program.

Suspension Policy
Suspension is a severe disciplinary action that typically results from failing to meet the terms of a previous remediation plan. Suspension may be issued for any length of time the Department deems appropriate. Students who display grossly inappropriate and/or problematic behavior may receive an emergency suspension from the program. These inappropriate and/or problematic behaviors would be defined as those that disrupt the mission of the Department of Psychology, the educational process of other students, and/or the wellbeing of other instructors, staff, students, community members, or clients. All suspensions will remain in effect until the student complies with a
remediation plan developed by department administration and reinstatement is requested and approved by the Department. Students have the right to appeal the decision regarding suspension.

Dismissal Policy
Dismissal is the most severe disciplinary action that may be applied to a student. Dismissal is a permanent removal of the student from all graduate and certificate programs in the Department. While the department prefers to take stepped approach in applying disciplinary policies, any student may be dismissed from the program for severe infractions of departmental or university policy. A student may be dismissed from the program for reasons including, but not limited to:

1. Failure to maintain minimum academic standards, to include:
   - Falling below minimum GPA requirements
   - MSCP students (60 hour program): receiving more than 6 hours with a “C” or below during the program, regardless of whether the courses are retaken
   - MSP students (36 hour program): receiving more than 6 hours with a “C” or below during the program, regardless of whether the courses are retaken

2. Academic misconduct or dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, etc.)

3. Violating any of the standards related to Avila University’s Student Code of Conduct. A complete explanation of the Student Code of Conduct is available online in the Avila University Student Handbook, at http://www.avila.edu/handbook/ or by contacting the Enrollment and Student Development Office at 816.501.3627.

4. Violating any academic or professional conduct standards as described in this handbook.

5. Violating the standards of the appropriate professional organization’s Code of Ethics such as the American Counseling Association Code of Ethics or the American Psychological Association Code of Ethics.

6. Failing to meet requirements of a remediation plan

7. Revealing any protected information during program.

All information regarding disciplinary actions will be provided to the Office of Student Records. Every student has the right to appeal any disciplinary decision issued by the department. Students may submit a written appeal to the Director within 14 days of the date indicated on the disciplinary letter.

Student Concerns and Appeals

Student Concerns about Courses
If you have a concern about a specific course, you should first address the issue with your course instructor, and then, if necessary, approach your academic advisor. The academic advisor may alert the Director and the Department Chairperson. Please note that the Director and/or Chairperson may intervene with the instructor without your direct knowledge and/or involvement.

Student Concerns about Policy or Program Decisions
If you have a complaint about a policy or program decision, you should address the issue with the Director.

Grade Appeals
The Department of Psychology follows the same guidelines for grade appeals as the School of Graduate Studies. Please refer to the grade appeal policy in your graduate academic catalog.
There are two reasons a grade appeal will be upheld: (1) when there is evidence that determination of the grade was in variance with requirements stated in the course syllabus and/or (2) when there is documentation that an inaccurate evaluation was used in the determining the course grade.

Appeals Regarding Program Status

Appeals regarding professional program status (e.g., probation, candidacy, impairment, suspension, dismissal) will be submitted to the Director. Students wishing to file an appeal must submit a request in writing or via email to the Director within 14 days of the student’s notification of department’s decision. The Director will convene an Appeals Committee to review materials submitted by both the faculty and the student and make a final determination regarding professional status. Decisions of the Appeals Committee are final.

Additional Requirements: Counseling Psychology

Candidacy – applying for candidate status

After completing a minimum of 15 hours in the program and while maintaining a minimum GPA of 3.0, counseling psychology students may apply for candidate status by submitting the Candidacy Application, found in the Files section of the GPSRC in Canvas, to the Director.

In addition to the candidacy application, addition information is collected through the following:

- **Family Care Safety Registry.** Counseling students must sign up on the Family Care Safety Registry (FCSR) prior to practicum. Registration for the FCSR online should be completed online. Note: Registration on the FCSR occurs only once for each individual. If registration was previously completed, additional actions may not be required.

- **Faculty Evaluations:** The department collects evaluations from faculty every semester prior to candidacy in courses designated by the director.

Students are responsible for initiating the Candidacy procedure. Candidacy must be applied for by the deadline identified for each semester or the application will not be considered until the following semester.

*Deadline dates for candidacy applications are set by the director each semester.*

Candidacy determination notifications will be provided after the candidacy decision is made by the Department. All candidacy decisions are approved pending final grades in the current semester. Candidacy must be awarded before students complete PY 694 Helping Relationship II, the prerequisite for PY 695 Internship.

Key issues for candidate status are:
- a demonstration of professional and ethical conduct both inside and outside the classroom
- good academic performance
- high degree of interpersonal maturity.

No student will be accepted for candidate status who is on probation for poor academic performance or who has not met the department’s expectations for professional and ethical conduct. If you do not make Candidate status, additional disciplinary actions may be levied.

Candidate status is not guaranteed and the decision to move students into candidate status made lightly by the Department. Students may be denied candidate status for any reason the department
deems to be valid. The goal of this candidacy review is to determine that students are at a point where direct interaction with practice clients is appropriate.

**Campus Resources**

Note: Most information about Avila campus/online resources can be found in the *Graduate Academic Catalog*.

**Library**
The Hooley-Bundschu Library, located in Whitfield Center, is the information resource center for the Avila campus. In addition to its collection of books, videos, and software applications, the library provides access to online databases through Avila’s computer network, both on- and off-campus through the Avila Proxy Server, and allows online access to book collections from many academic libraries in Missouri. You may reach a librarian by phone at 816.501.3621 or visit the Library website at [http://www.avila.edu/hbl/](http://www.avila.edu/hbl/).

**IT Services**
If you have trouble with your username or password, you may contact the Information Technology Services Helpdesk at 816.501.2900 or helpdesk@avila.edu. The IT Services office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is located in O’Rielly Hall, Room 112.

**Campus Safety**
Avila complies with the provisions of the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (20 USC § 1092(f)). Campus Safety is committed to assisting all members of the Avila community in providing for their own safety and security. The annual security compliance document is available on the Avila University website at [http://www.avila.edu/campuslife/crimestats.asp](http://www.avila.edu/campuslife/crimestats.asp).

If you would like to receive a written copy of the security compliance document called “Crime Awareness and Campus Security Policies,” which contains this information, you may visit the Campus Safety office or call (816) 501-2425. The S.A.F.E. web site ([http://www.avila.edu/safe](http://www.avila.edu/safe)) contains information on campus security and personal safety, including crime prevention, crime reporting policies, and other important matters about security on campus.

**Impairments – Physical and Psychological**
Students with physical and/or psychological impairments will be treated with dignity and respect. Please contact our Disability Services Department at 816-501-3666 or stop by the Hodes Center to set up accommodations.

**Department of Psychology**
The Department of Psychology is housed in Foyle Hall. You can contact Psychology faculty and staff via telephone or Avila/Canvas email accounts to discuss issues of concern as well as to make an appointment. All full-time faculty members have regular office hours, which are posted on their office doors, written in course syllabi, and kept by the Psychology Office Manager, who is available on most days 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Administration

Charlene Gould, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
Contact: charlene.gould@avila.edu; (816) 501-3689

Marcia Pasqualini, Ph.D.
Chairperson, Department of Psychology
Contact: marcia.pasqualini@avila.edu; (816) 501-3661

Dominick Scalise, Ph.D.
Program Director, Assistant Professor
Contact: dominick.scalise@avila.edu; (816) 501-2447

Aaron Coffey, M.B.A.
Director of Graduate Psychology Enrollment Management
Contact: aaron.coffey@avila.edu; (816) 501-3661

Office Personnel

Metra Augustin, M.S.
Graduate Admissions Advisor
Contact: metra.augustin@avila.edu; (816) 501-2968

Leslie Washington
Graduate Office Coordinator
Contact: leslie.washington@avila.edu; (816) 501-3661

Cindy Bratcher, MA
Office Manager
Contact: cindy.bratcher@avila.edu; (816) 501-3661

Full Time Faculty

Amy Bucher, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
B.A., University California Irvine
Ph.D., University of Missouri-Kansas City
Contact: amy.bucher@avila.edu; (816) 501-2468

Dr. Bucher is a licensed psychologist and maintains a small private practice working with individuals and couples. Dr. Bucher is currently researching the relationship between personality and health, and abstinence from problematic behaviors through journaling.
Shanda Curiel, PsyD
Clinical Director
Assistant Professor of Psychology
B.A., University of Texas at San Antonio
M.A., Psy.D., The School of Professional Psychology at Forest Institute
shanda.curiel@avila.edu; 816-501-3662

Dr. Curiel is a licensed clinical psychologist who specializes in the treatment of Obsessive-Compulsive and Related Disorders in her private practice. As the Clinical Director at Avila, she oversees the clinical training and supervision of counseling psychology graduate students and teaches clinically oriented courses for graduate and undergraduate students including counseling practicum, internship, and advanced abnormal psychology. Dr. Curiel's areas of interest include evidence-based treatments for psychiatric disorders, cognitive-behavioral therapies for anxiety disorders, supervision and training, and factors that influence the therapeutic relationship.

Leah K. Gensheimer, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Contact: leah.gensheimer@avila.edu; 816-501-3698

B.S. University of New Haven
M.A. Adelphi University
Ph.D. Michigan State University

Dr. Gensheimer is a Community Psychologist who emphasizes an integrated systems-level, strengths-competencies approach to psychology. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in developmental psychology, writing in psychology, and practicum. Her current interests include enhancement and assessment of student learning, children and youth development, professional development, and academic service learning.

Marcia Pasqualini, Ph.D.
Chairperson, Professor
B.S., Tulane University
Ph.D., University of Missouri-Columbia
Contact: marcia.pasqualini@avila.edu; (816) 501-3664

Dr. Pasqualini is Chair of the Department of Psychology. She is a licensed psychologist with a specialty in clinical neuropsychology. Her research interests include biofeedback/neurofeedback, facial expressions, and emotions. She is currently studying cognitive and emotional factors related to public speaking anxiety.

Regina Staves, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
B.A., University of Kansas
M.S., Avila University
Ph.D., Capella University
Contact: regina.staves@avila.edu; (816) 501-0491

Dr. Staves is active in the community as an advocate to prevent child abuse and neglect and also to support restorative justice throughout the justice system. She currently serves on the board of the
Missouri Children’s Trust Fund, where she is former chair. She is also a therapist specializing in psychological trauma, attachment in children and adults, family systems and developmental issues. Her interests include child development, specifically emotional and brain development, and social issues impacting children and society. Dr. Staves also mentors adults re-entering society after being incarcerated and facilitates workshops in her areas of expertise and experience.

Jordan Wagge, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
B.S., Northern Kentucky University
M.A., Ph.D., Miami University
Contact: jordan.wagge@avila.edu; (816) 501-2964

Dr. Wagge advises graduate level students in the general psychology program. Her research interests include visual perception, psychophysical methods, and pedagogy. She is excited about working with students in a research setting and would like to hear from motivated students who are interested in assisting with research related to cognitive processes, particularly visual perception, language, memory, and culture.

Adjunct Faculty

As a department, we understand the value of knowing other professionals related to our field. Adjunct faculty members are chosen to teach our classes based on their high level of expertise in their field and in course content areas as well as for their community involvement.

Barry Berglund, M.S.
barry.berglund@avila.edu
B.S. University of Missouri-Columbia
M.S. Avila University
Mr. Berglund is a detective for the Kansas City Missouri police department, a member of the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force, and a former Special Agent for US Army Criminal Investigations. His specialties include criminal investigation and international terrorism investigations. Mr. Berglund began teaching at Avila in 2006.

Nekita Fuller, Ed.D.
B.S., Park University
M.A., University of Missouri-Kansas City
Ed.D., Nova Southeastern University
Dr. Fuller began teaching at Avila in 2009.

Heather Noble, Ph.D.
B.A., Baker University
M.S., Ph.D. University of North Texas
Dr. Noble is a licensed psychologist in the state of Missouri. Since 2002, she has worked full-time at the University of Missouri-Kansas City's Counseling, Health, and Testing Center. There, she provides individual, couple, and group therapy, along with assessment services and supervision to graduate student trainees. Dr. Noble was an adjunct instructor at Avila from 2004-2009. She resumed this position in 2011.
Dean Skadeland, Psy.D.
dean.skadeland@avila.edu
B.A., University of Nebraska-Lincoln
M.A., Abilene Christian University
Psy.D., Florida Institute of Technology

Dr. Skadeland is the Chief Psychologist and Director of a Neuropsychology Clinic at the VA medical center. His specialties include neuropsychological and personality assessment, psychodiagnosis, and personality theory. In addition to being a licensed psychologist, he is also an ordained minister and is interested in spiritual factors associated with mental health. Dr. Skadeland began teaching at Avila in 2005.

Timothy Streitwieser, Psy.D.
timothy.streitwieser@avila.edu
B.A., Hastings College
M.A., Psy.D., Spalding University

Dr. Streitwieser is a licensed psychologist and works on an interdisciplinary primary care team at the Kansas City VAMC. His areas of interest have a holistic/behavioral medicine approach, such as intervening with chronic pain, insomnia, lifestyle health behaviors, and acceptance of chronic pain and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy. Dr. Streitwieser began teaching at Avila in 2009.

John Wade, Ph.D.
B.A., University of Dallas
M.A., University of North Texas
Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University

Dr. Wade began teaching at Avila in 2005. His focus is on Positive Psychology.

Bart Whaley, Ed.S., NCSP
bart.whaley@avila.edu
B.A., M.A., EdS., University of Missouri
Ed.S., University of Central Missouri

Mr. Whaley has been on the adjunct faculty since 2004. He is a Nationally Certified School Psychologist teaching as an adjunct in both the Education and Psychology programs at the undergraduate and graduate level, as well as in the Advantage Program. He practices as a school psychologist in a large suburban school district in the Kansas City area. Mr. Whaley is a Due Process Hearing Officer and Mediator for the Missouri Department of Education. He is also a Missouri Autism Consultant and scholarship recipient through the Missouri department of education allowing him to consult with school districts in the area of Applied Behavior Analysis. He complete an additional Educational Specialist degree from the University of Central Missouri in Educational Leadership with an emphasis in Special Education Administration.
Avila University
Department of Psychology

Receipt for Graduate Psychology Student Handbook 2015-2016

I acknowledge my receipt of a copy of the Avila University Graduate Psychology Student Handbook. I understand that I am responsible for following the policies described herein, as well as the policies described in the Avila University Graduate Course Catalog. As a graduate student attending Avila University, I accept responsibility for keeping informed of changes in University and Psychology Department policies and procedures. I further acknowledge that I have had the opportunity to ask questions regarding any provisions, policies, and/or procedures contained in the aforementioned Handbook.

__________________________________  __________________________________
Print your name                                             Student ID

__________________________________  __________________________________
Signature                                               Date

In order for counseling students to be admitted to candidacy, the department collects evaluation of readiness forms from instructors as part of the determination process. You have the option to waive your right to review these documents. Note: by not waiving your right to view documents, the instructor may partially complete or not complete the evaluation.

_____ I waive my right to review candidacy evaluations

_____ I do not waive my right to review candidacy evaluation

__________________________________  __________________________________
Signature                                               Date