Early Admit Program in Mental Health and School Counseling
for Boston College juniors

Similar to the Fifth Year Program, the Early Admit Program offers a limited number of academically outstanding Boston College Juniors a unique opportunity to begin graduate study during their undergraduate senior year. Click Here for information on the Mental Health or School Counseling Early Admit Program.

All Boston College undergraduate juniors are eligible to apply and will be considered for admission to the Early Admit Program in Mental Health and School Counseling. Students who have completed some psychology-related coursework, have at least a 3.5 GPA, and have completed some type of practical, field-based or “helping” experience, either volunteer, or paid, are strong candidates for this program. While there are a range of practical, field-based or “helping” experiences (e.g., Residential Advisor, Camp Counselor, Hotline, Youth Worker, etc) that fulfill this latter expectation, this experience should provide an opportunity for students to engage in some sort of “helping” services to individuals or groups (children, adolescents or adults). Students are responsible for finding their own relevant field experience at some point prior to applying to the Early Admit Program. If admitted to the program, the student will be assigned a faculty advisor and will add a graduate level course each semester of their senior year.

None of the 38 courses required for the bachelor's degree may be counted toward the Early Admit Program. As part of the program, students take two graduate courses above and beyond the 38 three-credit courses that must be completed in order to fulfill the bachelor's degree requirements.

Application Process

• Students must apply by March 1 of their junior year.

• Applicants must meet all graduate admission requirements. Download the Fifth Year Application Checklist and the application form.

• The application fee is waived for applicants to the Early Admit Program.

• Notification of approval to begin the program is usually made in May by the Office of Graduate Admission.

• If students are in a study-abroad program during their junior year but are still interested in the Early Admit Program, they should contact the Office of Graduate Admission (gsoe@bc.edu or 617-552-4214).

• If students apply for the Early Admit Program and are not admitted they are welcome to reapply to one of these two MA programs in Counseling Psychology at the regular application time.
Advancing from “Provisional” to “Full” Graduate Student Status

Upon successful graduation from the undergraduate program, Early Admit students will be advanced to full graduate student status if they have maintained good academic standing (including a 3.5 or higher in their two graduate courses) and engaged in field experience as described above. Students should submit their transcripts and documentation of any additional service work if it was not previously documented in their application for the Early Admit program. Upon final admission, the student is sent an official letter of acceptance into the full master's program by the Office of Graduate Admission (gsoe@bc.edu or 617-552-4214).

Rationale for Early Admit Program:

Given the number of credits required for licensing, both Early Admit Program and students admitted directly into the MA programs typically need 6 years to complete their BA and license-eligible MA Mental Health degree (60 credits) or School Counseling (48 credits). The main advantages of the Early Admit program are that it allows: 1) BC juniors early provisional admittance into these MA programs, and 2) for completion of 2 Masters-level courses during senior year.

Masters Courses for Early Admit Program:

Early Admit Program students in Mental Health Counseling can select from PY 549 (Psychopathology), PY 518 (Life Span Development), or PY 441 (Counseling Theories I) in the Fall semester, and from PY446 (Counseling Theories II), or PY 740 (Topics: Psychology of Women) in the Spring semester. PY 418 (Applied Child Development) and PY 448 offered in Spring (Applied Adolescent Development) or PY 465 (Psychological Testing) are also available in both the Fall and Spring semesters. These courses address content areas that will be very useful for an undergraduate student who is considering making a commitment to becoming a mental health counselor. Therefore, Early Admit Program students will be eligible to take one course per semester based on the availability of space in the course.

Early Admit Program students in School Counseling can select from PY 540 (Issues in School Counseling), PY 528 (Multicultural Issues), PY 445 (Child Psychopathology) in the Fall semester, and from PY 743 (Counseling Families), PY 448 (Career Development) or PY 465 (Psychological Testing) in the Spring Semester. PY 418 (Applied Child Development) and PY 447 (Applied Adolescent Development) are also available in both the Fall and Spring semesters. These courses address content areas that will be very useful for an undergraduate student who is considering making a commitment to becoming a school counselor. Therefore, Early Admit Program students will be eligible to take one course per semester based on the availability of space in the course.

Note that there are different sections of PY 465 Psychological Testing) for school counseling and mental health counseling.

General Program of Study:  http://www.bc.edu/schools/lsoe/academics/pos.html