**Clinical/Counseling Degree Options**

**PhD in Clinical Psychology**

Only 7 Clinical PhD programs in MI– MSU, U of M, Wayne State, WMU, CMU, UDM, EMU

* Each accepts between 4-8 students/year; approximately 40/year with about 1500 applicants across the universities.
* Big focus on academics (GPA and GRE), but also research experience!
* Not many applicants have publications, but they do have significant research experience.
* Preference for diverse (not just ethnically diverse) and out of state candidates.

**Alternative to PhD**

**PsyD**

* More expensive, practitioner focus.
* Michigan School of Psychology in Farmington (newly accredited; only one in MI) – free entity (not University affiliated)
* Recommend finding a university affiliated PsyD program– there are around 70-75 around the nation

**Counseling Psychology in Education (PhD)**

* Similar to a psychology program but in the Department of Education.
* Adult patient focus, typically
* MSU and WSU have a PhD in Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology.
* There’s an Andrews University in MI that has a Graduate Psychology and Counseling program in MI (according to APA site).

**For students with weaker academic profiles**

**Masters in Counseling Psychology**

* Based on working with healthy populations who may have life difficulties rather than those with severe mental illness.
* Considered to be an academic degree. For students who hope to go on to get their PhD, this degree often makes them a stronger candidate due to its stronger background in academia.
* In order to become licensed through this program, you will need to go through the [American Psychological Association](http://www.apa.org/gradpsych/2004/01/get-licensed.aspx). Licensing requirements will vary by state

**Master’s in Counseling**

* Focused primarily on overall health and well-being of the client. Do not work with people who have severe mental illnesses.
* Considered to be a professional degree, meaning it is primarily focused on the professional aspects of the job rather than theory.
* Licensure from this program will come through the [National Board of Certified Counselors](http://www.nbcc.org/nce)

**Master’s in Social Work – MSW**

* Master’s degree in psychology may be more advantageous if transferring to a PhD program is the goal. MSW students may have a greater desire to become clinicians and have less interest in research/theory, which is the focus of most PhD programs.

**(Contribution: Mark Lumley, Director of Clinical Psychology, Wayne State University)**