Application Directions
Master of Arts in Counseling

1. **Application Form and Application Fee** ($45 application fee)
2. **Reference:** Someone who knows you in a professional or educational capacity (an employer, supervisor, or professor)
3. **Application Essay:** A typed essay (2,000 word limit) in response to the following items that explore your Christian experience and reasons for applying to the clinical counseling program:
    1. Describe your spiritual journey including:
        a. what does it mean for you to be a follower of Jesus Christ,
        b. what experiences, trials, and/or people have shaped your development,
        c. how has your faith informed your worldview,
        d. what has been your involvement in Christian service, and
        e. how do you connect with other believers?
    2. Explain how attending the College of Counseling at CIU will help you achieve your professional goals in the context of God's purpose for your life.
    3. Self-examination is an important part of the preparation for mental health counselors. Describe your willingness to engage in this process and offer an example to support your readiness.
4. **Resume:** A chronological, formal resume outlining all professional, pre-professional, vocational, ministry, and relevant volunteer experiences.
5. **Academic Transcripts:** Applicants must have completed a Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university with a minimum overall 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale *OR* 3.0 GPA in their major field of study OR a minimum 3.0 GPA for the last 60 credits in their undergraduate degree. Students with a lower GPA may document their ability to succeed in a graduate program by one of the following:
    a. Score above the 50th percentile on the GRE (verbal reasoning, quantitative reason, and analytic writing), *OR*
    b. Complete a minimum of 9 graduate-level credit hours from a regionally accredited college or university with a minimum B-grade in each course.

    You must request official transcripts from all colleges and/or universities you have attended to be sent directly to Graduate and Seminary Admissions. **Note:** Students who have attended a school outside of the United States must have transcripts validated through World Education Services.
6. **Official Test Scores:** You must submit scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test that includes all three sections (verbal reasoning, quantitative reason, and analytic writing). Go to **www.ets.org** for GRE information. The CIU school code is 5116.
7. **Prerequisites:** Applicants must have a minimal understanding of the language and concepts of psychology to be successful in the program. Therefore, the following undergraduate courses with a minimum 2.7 (B-) grade (or a score of 50 on the CLEP or 55 on the DANTES examination) are prerequisites for full admission:
    a. Introduction to Psychology *OR* General Psychology.
    b. Developmental, Lifespan Developmental, *OR* Human Growth and Developmental Psychology within a social science or educational program.

    Applicants without these courses can be conditionally accepted pending successful completion of the courses. However, applicants are strongly encouraged to complete these courses as soon as possible, as they will not be allowed to take counseling courses that have these undergraduate courses for prerequisites.

Once the completed application requirements, including test scores and transcripts, are received and reviewed, the applicant will be notified of acceptance or denial to a group interview day. Admission will not be granted to those who do not participate in the group interview. Special arrangements may be made for international applicants.

- The group interview day is an intensive time for both the admissions committee and applicants to learn about each other and make decisions with regard to the fit between the prospective student and the program.
- The group interview day consists of (a) orientation information about the biblical values, professional and Christian mission, and academic and clinical design of the program; (b) basic information about curricular requirements including candidacy and internship requirements, the informed consent for participation in the program, and the experiential component of the program; and (c) specific group and other activities throughout the day to help understand the fit of each applicant's interpersonal skills, cognitive abilities, and ethical reasoning with the program.

Final admission decisions are based on both the application and group interview admission process.

		Deadline:	**Interview:**
Fall	**Early**	Two weeks prior to interview	Final Monday in March
	Final	Two weeks prior to interview	Monday closest to July 15
Spring		Two weeks prior to interview	Monday after first weekend in December