

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY: PSYCHOLOGY - CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY OPTION

Student Learning Outcomes

Students graduating from this program will:

- Critically evaluate literature relevant to the science and practice of health service psychology.
- Conduct empirically sound research, including research design, implementation, and statistical analysis.
- Select, administer, and interpret assessment and diagnostic tools in the context of health service psychology.
- Select, administer, and evaluate evidence-based psychological health interventions.
- Identify and appropriately respond to ethical issues in professional contexts.
- Effectively work with diverse groups of individuals in the delivery of psychological health services.
- Identify the nature and impact of individual and cultural diversity in the conduct and dissemination of research.

The PhD in Clinical Psychology is a full-time program of graduate study designed to train health service psychologists who are competent scientist-practitioners, with a life-long commitment to multiculturalism and individual and cultural diversity and to the ethical practice of health service psychology. The program Faculty are committed to preparing health service psychologists to improve the welfare of individuals and communities, broadly defined, through: incorporating respect for equity, human diversity, and the cultural and environmental contexts that contribute to human diversity in all our activities (human mission), rigorous training in the science and applied practice of clinical psychology (education mission); engaging in our communities through advocacy, prevention and the provision of health services (service mission); developing knowledge and enhancing human health, development, resilience, and functioning through contributions to empirical literature on practice and theory (research and evaluation mission). Based on a scientist-practitioner model, the program's training and services are grounded in a commitment to the integration of science and practice and the conduct of evidence-based practice, defined as the integration of scientific evidence and clinical judgement within the context of culture and values. Students and graduates are bound to the APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct (<https://www.apa.org/practice/guidelines/>), as well as the APA Professional Practice Guidelines addressing multiple aspects of human diversity. Graduates of the program are anticipated to enter employment in a variety of settings including but not limited to: VA or other medical centers, counseling and community centers, private practice, and academic settings. Consistent with the mission of our University to lead in the life and health sciences and to engage our community, our program faculty and students are actively involved in research, communities, and health service systems to promote a high quality of life for all.

Admission Criteria

Our doctorate is designed for applicants with a prior bachelor's or master's level degree. New students are admitted in the fall semester only. Because we receive applications from many more qualified individuals than can be admitted, admission is highly competitive. A disclosure of relevant data for students recently admitted (<https://umkc.app.box.com/file/1027594680172/?s=8ifblj315lhwldm6c8ej5tl29ztiq3>) is available on our web page. Our program follows the Council of University Directors of Clinical Psychology's Guidelines for Graduate School Offers and Acceptances ([https://cudcp.org/Resources/Documents/CUDCP%20Policy%20on%20Graduate%20Program%20Offers%20and%20Acceptances%20\(FULL%20version\).pdf](https://cudcp.org/Resources/Documents/CUDCP%20Policy%20on%20Graduate%20Program%20Offers%20and%20Acceptances%20(FULL%20version).pdf)).

The following are minimum criteria recommended for admission:

1. A bachelor's degree in Psychology, Counseling, or related disciplines, or satisfactory completion of prior coursework in Introductory/General Psychology, Experimental Methods/Research Design, and Statistics/Quantitative Methods. Satisfactory completion of prior coursework in at least two of the following areas is also strongly recommended: Psychological Disorders, Personality, Biopsychology, Sensation and Perception, Cognitive Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Motivation, and Social Psychology.
2. Undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or graduate GPA of 3.5. Alternative criteria may be accepted at the discretion of the admissions committee if there is good reason to believe the regular criteria do not adequately portray the student's potential to do quality work in the doctoral degree. Applicants may provide explanations for circumstances of not meeting the GPA criteria in the online application system.
3. Demonstrated evidence of interest in psychology research. Our training follows a mentorship model. Therefore, applicants whose research interests are similar to those of our faculty will be given higher consideration. Faculty interests can be accessed through the Department of Psychology and Counseling (<https://seswps.umkc.edu/academics/psychology-and-counseling/>) web page.
4. History of personal conduct consistent with the ability to adhere to high standards of student conduct, as outlined in the UMKC Standard for Student Conduct (<https://catalog.umkc.edu/special-notice/academic-honesty/>), and professional conduct as outlined by the American Psychological Association's Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct (<https://www.apa.org/ethics/code/>) and state licensure boards.

Because clinical psychology is an empirically-based discipline, our training emphasizes continuous involvement in research and practice. For this reason, students primarily interested in psychotherapy and clinical or counseling practice without a strong interest in the scientific aspect of the scientist/practitioner model would be better served by other programs.

Typically, six students are accepted each year. Applicants are evaluated based on the following dimensions:

1. Academic potential
2. Research potential
3. Interpersonal skills and other indications of potential for clinical work
4. Professional identity and involvement
5. Appreciation for individual and cultural diversity
6. Fit with the program and designated lab

Program Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Clinical Emphasis		28
CPCE 5503	Psychopathology: Diagnoses And Classification	
PSYCH 5509	Assessment 1: Intellectual And Cognitive Assessment	
PSYCH 5510	Assessment Methods In Professional Counseling	
PSYCH 5580	Special Topics (Evidence-Based Clinical Practice)	
PSYCH 5580	Special Topics (Clinical Interventions)	
PSYCH 5538	Development And Evaluation Of Assessment Tools	
PSYCH 5586	Theory, Research And Practice Of Consultation	
CPCE 5551	Counseling in a Pluralistic Society	
PSYCH 5580	Special Topics (First Year Seminar)	
One approved 3 hour elective		
Psychology Core		15
PSYCH 5521	Advanced Social Psychology	
PSYCH 5507	Cognitive Psychology	
PSYCH 5518	Advanced Biopsychology	
PSYCH 5515	Advanced Systems And History Of Psychology	
PSYCH 5522	Advanced Developmental Science Across the Lifespan	
Research/Statistics Coursework		12
PSYCH 5516	Quant Analysis 1: Regression And Analysis Of Variance	
PSYCH 5517	Quantitative Analysis II: Advanced Topics In Regression And Mda	
PSYCH 5601	Experimental Methods In Design And Analysis I	
PSYCH 5610	Structural Equation Modeling	
or PSYCH 5620	Hierarchical Linear Models	
or EDUC-R&P 5615	Qualitative Research Theory & Design Educational Setting. Part 1	
Practicum/Internship		12
PSYCH 5650	Clinical Practicum ¹	
PSYCH 5660	Clinical Health Psychology Internship ²	
Supervised Research		16
PSYCH 5590	Directed Research ³	
or PSYCH 5599	Research And Thesis	
PSYCH 5696	Pre-Dissertation ⁴	
PSYCH 5699	Research And Dissertation ⁵	
Total Credits		83

¹ The program requires that students enroll in practicum each regular Fall and Spring semester of the second, third, and fourth years. Students may complete additional clinical hours in summer practicum to improve their competitiveness for internships. Official enrollment is optional, although documentation of supervised hours is required for those to be included.

² Due to variable internship start and end dates you may only officially complete your internship after the end of the Spring semester. In these cases an incomplete grade will be given until official completion of the internship. Note that the university generally requires students to be enrolled in the semester that they graduate. However, providing all other program requirements have been completed by the end of the spring semester (such as the dissertation) the DCT will request that summer enrollment be waived for students graduating in the summer. If all other requirements are not completed you will be required to enroll in at least one credit (for example, if you dissertation is not yet defended you will enroll in 1 credit of research for the summer semester).

- 3 Students are required to officially enroll and accumulate 6 hours of research credit over their first 2 years in the program (6 credit hours of graduate level research credit are required to receive the M.A.). If the master's thesis project has been waived or completed, **formal enrollment in directed research is still required**. It is expected that all students will be actively involved in research and evaluated on their research performance every fall and winter semesters. Students who have had the M.A. requirement waived need only take 1 credit hour of research in each semester of the second year. However, students will still need to accumulate the additional 8 research credit hours required over and above the master's thesis requirement to reach the graduate school minimum of 12 research credit hours for the Ph.D.
- 4 The graduate school requires at least 12 hours of graduate research credit to graduate with a Ph.D. Our program requires a total of 8 research credit hours (pre-dissertation and dissertation) beyond the 6 required for the master's thesis for graduation. You may accumulate these hours in any way you wish as long as you complete the additional 8 hours prior to graduation. However you must first pass comps before enrolling in dissertation units.
- 5 Students who defend their dissertations prior to the 5th year do not register for continuing dissertation hours. Students, fifth year or beyond, who have not successfully defended the dissertation are required to enroll in 1 credit hour of Dissertation each semester until it is completed.