

PsyD in Clinical Psychology

Program Learning Outcomes

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Students who successfully complete this program shall be able to:

1. In the profession-wide competency of Research, students will: •Demonstrate the substantially independent ability to formulate research or other scholarly activities (e.g., critical literature reviews, dissertation, efficacy studies, clinical case studies, theoretical papers, program evaluation projects, program development projects) that are of sufficient quality and rigor to have the potential to contribute to the scientific, psychological, or professional knowledge base. •Conduct research or other scholarly activities. •Critically evaluate and disseminate research or other scholarly activity via professional publication and presentation at the local (including the host institution), regional, or national level.
2. In the profession-wide competency of Ethical and Legal Standards, students will: •Be knowledgeable of and act in accordance with each of the following: 1. the current version of the APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct; 2. Relevant laws, regulations, rules, and policies governing health service psychology at the organizational, local, state, regional, and federal levels; and 3. Relevant professional standards and guidelines. •Recognize ethical dilemmas as they arise, and apply ethical decision-making processes in order to resolve the dilemmas. •Conduct self in an ethical manner in all professional activities.
3. In the profession-wide competency of Individual and Cultural Diversity*, students will: •An understanding of how their own personal/cultural history, attitudes, and biases may affect how they understand and interact with people different from themselves. •Knowledge of the current theoretical and empirical knowledge base as it relates to addressing diversity in all professional activities including research, training, supervision/consultation, and service. •The ability to integrate awareness and knowledge of individual and cultural differences in the conduct of professional roles (e.g., research, services, and other professional activities). This includes the ability apply a framework for working effectively with areas of individual and cultural diversity not previously encountered over the course of their careers. Also included is the ability to work effectively with individuals whose group membership, demographic characteristics, or worldviews create conflict with their own. •Demonstrate the requisite knowledge base, ability to articulate an approach to working effectively with diverse individuals and groups, and apply this approach effectively in their professional work. *In addition to being a profession-wide competency, Diversity/Justice is a Special Emphasis in the APU PsyD program.
4. In the profession-wide competency of Professional Values and Attitudes, students will: •Behave in ways that reflect the values and attitudes of psychology, including integrity, department, professional identity, accountability, lifelong learning, and concern for the welfare of others. •Engage in self-reflection regarding one's personal and professional functioning; engage in activities to maintain and improve performance, well-being, and professional effectiveness. •Actively seek and demonstrate openness and responsiveness to feedback and supervision. •Respond professionally in increasingly complex situations with a greater degree of independence as they progress across levels of training.
5. In the profession-wide competency of Communication and Interpersonal Skills, students will: •Develop and maintain effective relationships with a wide range of individuals, including colleagues, communities, organizations, supervisors, supervisees, and those receiving professional services. •Produce and comprehend oral, nonverbal, and written communications that are informative and well-integrated; demonstrate a thorough grasp of professional language and concepts. •Demonstrate effective interpersonal skills and the ability to manage difficult communication well.
6. In the profession-wide competency of Assessment, students will: •Select and apply assessment methods that draw from the best available empirical literature and that reflect the science of measurement and psychometrics; collect relevant data using multiple sources and methods appropriate to the identified goals and questions of the assessment as well as relevant diversity characteristics of the service recipient. •Interpret assessment results, following current research and professional standards and guidelines, to inform case conceptualization, classification, and recommendations, while guarding against decision-making biases, distinguishing the aspects of assessment that are subjective from those that are objective. •Communicate orally and in written documents the findings and implications of the assessment in an accurate and effective manner sensitive to a range of audiences.
7. In the profession-wide competency of Intervention, students will: •Establish and maintain effective relationships with the recipients of psychological services. •Develop evidence-based intervention plans specific to the service delivery goals. •Implement interventions informed by the current scientific literature, assessment findings, diversity characteristics, and contextual variables. •Demonstrate the ability to apply the relevant research literature to clinical decision making. •Modify and adapt evidence-based approaches effectively when a clear evidence-base is lacking. •Evaluate intervention effectiveness, and adapt intervention goals and methods consistent with ongoing evaluation.
8. In the profession-wide competency of Supervision, students will: •Demonstrate knowledge of supervision models and practices.
9. In the profession-wide competency of Consultation and Interprofessional/Interdisciplinary Skills, students will: •Demonstrate knowledge and respect for the roles and perspectives of other professions. •Demonstrates knowledge of consultation models and practices.
10. Students will demonstrate the ability to apply systems thinking to professional work (APU PsyD Special Emphasis in Systems / Family Psychology).
11. Students will demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to integrate faith and spirituality into clinical practice (APU PsyD Special Emphasis in Integration of Faith/Spirituality into Clinical Practice).

Adapted from APA (Am. Psychol. Assoc.). 2015. *Standards of Accreditation for Health Service Psychology*. Washington, DC: APA