

PsyD in Clinical Psychology

Program Requirements

Curriculum

The PsyD curriculum is designed to meet the requirements of the APA for health service psychology. Courses stress the importance of critical thinking in the discipline of psychology, and the curriculum provides a breadth of knowledge regarding scientific psychology. Since this is a professional degree, clinical education and application of scientific knowledge to clinical domains are stressed throughout the curriculum, as well as in the clinical practicum experience. Cultural and individual diversity perspectives are woven into courses across the curriculum. In addition, all of the courses incorporate a systemic perspective on psychology. The coursework also includes interdisciplinary courses that integrate ethics, theology, and psychology—issues relevant to Christian faith—where appropriate.

The PsyD curriculum is composed of 125 units of required courses plus 8 units of elective courses for a total of 133 units. PsyD students may apply for a Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology en route to the PsyD, after completing 57 units in the PsyD and attendance at a child abuse workshop. Note: The Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology is a nonlicensable degree.

Certain courses or mandatory seminars may be scheduled for Saturdays. Attendance at these courses or seminars is required to fulfill degree requirements.

Code	Title	Units
YEAR 1		
Fall		15
PPSY 700C	Psychopathology	
PPSY 700D	Introduction to Clinical Practice: Basic Skills	
PPSY 702	Legal and Ethical Competence for Psychologists	
PPSY 722	Research Design I	
PPSY 739	Psychobiology	
Spring		17
PPSY 700E	Advanced Developmental Psychology I: Infancy through Adolescence	
PPSY 730A	Cognitive and Affective Bases of Behavior	
PPSY 723	Research Design II	
PPSY 700J	Introduction to Clinical Skills: Advanced Skills	
PPSY 700F	Diversity I: Multiculturally Responsive Attitudes and Knowledge	
PPSY 711	Psychology and Systems Theory	
Summer		8
PPSY 731	Dissertation Development	
PPSY 779	Advanced Developmental Psychology II: Early Adulthood through Late Adulthood	
PPSY 719	Social Psychology	
PPSY 718	History and Systems of Psychology	
YEAR II		
Fall		14
PPSY 789	Integration I: Traditioning and Contextualizing the Self	
PPSY 700H	Assessment I	
PPSY 732	Child and Adolescent Psychology	
PPSY 701	Introduction to Clinical Practicum and Professional Practice	
PPSY 703	Psychological Theories: Psychoanalytic/Psychodynamic	
PPSY 745	Dissertation I	
Spring		15
PPSY 790	Integration II: Christian Spiritual Formation and Psychotherapy	
PPSY 701A	Clinical Practicum and Professional Practice	
PPSY 774	Assessment II: Personality	
PPSY 742	Diversity II: Historical and Current Causes of Systemic Differences and Oppression	
PPSY 700I	Systems II: Family Therapy	

PPSY 746	Dissertation II	
Summer		9
PPSY 791	Integration III: World Religions/Spirituality and Psychotherapy	
PPSY 714A	Cognitive Assessment Lab	
PPSY 704	Psychological Theories: Cognitive and Behavioral	
PPSY 757	Psychopharmacology	
PPSY 747	Dissertation III	
YEAR III		
Fall		13-15
PPSY 705	Psychological Theories: Group	
PPSY 714	Assessment III: Cognitive Assessment	
PPSY 743	Diversity III: Responsiveness in Clinical Practice	
PPSY 740	Consultation in Clinical Psychology	
PPSY 720	Clinical and Professional Consultation	
PPSY 748	Dissertation IV	
Elective, if needed (see below)		
Spring		13-17
PPSY 716	Family Psychology	
PPSY 792	Integration IV: Vocation and Social Action as a Psychologist	
PPSY 720	Clinical and Professional Consultation	
PPSY 755	Dissertation V	
PPSY 775	Assessment IV: Integrated Report Writing	
Must complete 2 of the 4 Clinical Interventions courses:		
PPSY 707	Clinical Interventions: Psychodynamic	
PPSY 708	Clinical Interventions: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy	
PPSY 709	Clinical Interventions: Group	
Elective (if needed)		
Summer		4-6
PPSY 706	Psychological Theories: Postmodern	
PPSY 756	Dissertation VI	
PPSY 720	Clinical and Professional Consultation	
Elective (if needed)		
YEAR IV		
Fall		10-12
PPSY 734	Gerontology	
PPSY 749	Diversity IV: Global Psychology	
PPSY 788	Integrated Health Psychology	
PPSY 720	Clinical and Professional Consultation	
PPSY 710	Clinical Interventions: Postmodern (Must complete 2 of the 4 Clinical Interventions courses)	
PPSY 787	Dissertation Continuation ¹	
Spring		8-10
PPSY 724	Systems IV: Couples Theory and Therapy	
PPSY 744	Supervision in Clinical Psychology	
PPSY 720	Clinical and Professional Consultation	
PPSY 787	Dissertation Continuation ¹	
Must complete 2 of the 4 Clinical Interventions courses		
PPSY 707	Clinical Interventions: Psychodynamic	
PPSY 708	Clinical Interventions: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy	
PPSY 709	Clinical Interventions: Group	
Summer		1-3
PPSY 787	Dissertation Continuation ¹	
PPSY 720	Clinical and Professional Consultation	

Elective (if needed)		
YEAR V		
Fall		0
PPSY 752	Predoctoral Internship (required to take 3 times)	
PPSY 787	Dissertation Continuation ¹	
Spring		0
PPSY 752	Predoctoral Internship	
PPSY 787	Dissertation Continuation ¹	
Summer		
PPSY 752	Predoctoral Internship	
PPSY 787	Dissertation Continuation ¹	
TOTAL UNITS		133

Code	Title	Units
Elective Courses ²		
Choose 8 units from the following:		
Forensic Psychology Concentration		
PPSY 770	Introduction to Forensic Psychology	
PPSY 771	Forensic Assessment	
PPSY 772	Family Forensic Psychology I	
PPSY 773	Family Forensic Psychology II	
Psychodynamic Systems Concentration		
PPSY 763	Psychodynamic Systems of Psychotherapy I	
PPSY 764	Psychodynamic Systems of Psychotherapy II	
PPSY 765	Psychodynamic Systems of Psychotherapy III	
Other Elective Courses		
PPSY 735	Adolescent Psychology	
PPSY 781	Interpersonal Theory and Psychotherapy	
PPSY 786	Global Psychology	
PPSY 798	Special Topics	

¹ PPSY 787 is required if a student has not successfully defended their dissertation by the beginning of their fourth year in the program (and after having enrolled in Dissertation I-VI during their first three years in the program). Continuous enrollment is required from that point until the student has successfully defended their dissertation.

² All students must take 8 units of electives. Students may choose to take electives grouped in the listed concentrations; students need to complete only 4 units within a concentration to complete it, but may choose to take more if desired.

See below for more information regarding the five-year academic plan versus the six-year academic plan.

Academic Probation and Disqualification

Students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 throughout the period of their enrollment. Students will be placed on academic probation if a cumulative 3.0 GPA is not maintained, or when they receive a *NC* (No Credit) or a grade below a *B-* in their coursework. Students may be disqualified from further graduate work if a cumulative 3.0 GPA is not maintained or if they obtain a total of two grades below a *B-* or *NC* (No Credit) in their coursework.

Electives

Students are required to take 8 units of elective courses. Students may take miscellaneous electives in psychotherapy, assessment, or other courses related to clinical psychology; or they may complete one of the elective concentrations described below.

Psychodynamic Systems of Psychotherapy Concentration

The psychodynamic systems of psychotherapy elective concentration provides an opportunity for students to learn a comprehensive model of personality, psychopathology, and psychotherapy that reflects the systemic epistemology of the doctoral program. This course sequence provides a historical overview of major psychodynamic systems of theory and therapy (from origins to the present). Each course focuses on key theorists, theoretical constructs, conceptualization and treatment planning, supporting research, and clinical demonstration and application. Students seeking a Certificate of Completion in the Psychodynamic Systems of Psychotherapy elective concentration must complete three semesters of PPSY 720 Clinical

and Professional Consultation, with Theresa Clement Tisdale, PhD, PsyD, as the instructor, alongside a yearlong clinical practicum placement (in which students are permitted to provide psychodynamic psychotherapy to clients) and the following two-course sequence of electives:

Code	Title	Units
PPSY 763	Psychodynamic Systems of Psychotherapy I	2
PPSY 764	Psychodynamic Systems of Psychotherapy II	2

For more information, contact Tisdale at tctisdale@apu.edu.

Forensic Psychology Concentration

The forensic psychology elective concentration provides an opportunity for students to pursue more focused training in the specialty area of forensic psychology. This concentration prepares PsyD students for competitive forensic psychology internships and postdoctoral training experiences.

While completion of the certificate program does not guarantee placement in supervised training sites, it enhances the student's educational foundation in preparation for advanced training in forensic psychology. Students seeking the Certificate of Completion in Forensic Psychology must complete a forensic psychology practicum, participate in forensic psychology research, and complete the following two-course sequence of electives:

Code	Title	Units
PPSY 771	Forensic Assessment	2
PPSY 773	Family Forensic Psychology II	2

For more information, contact Tonneka Caddell, PsyD, at tcaddell@apu.edu.