

PSYCHOLOGY M.A. - CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

Degree: Master of Arts

<https://www.towson.edu/cla/departments/psychology/grad/psychology/clinical/>

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The clinical psychology concentration of the Master of Arts in Psychology is ideally suited to meet the needs of individuals who want to provide clinical services at the master's level as a licensed clinical professional counselor (LCPC), want to work as master's-level psychometricians or behavioral specialists, want to work as research or clinical staff on applied research studies, or are considering pursuing doctoral (Ph.D. or Psy.D.) training in clinical psychology.

The program curriculum provides comprehensive and hands-on training in assessment, diagnosis, state-of-the-art and evidence-based treatments, as well as research methods and statistics. Courses in psychotherapy and behavior change prepare students to conduct intake interviews, develop case conceptualizations, and to provide evidence-based psychotherapy. Advanced seminars in legal, ethical, and professional issues in psychology, as well as diagnosis and assessment are offered regularly and prepare students for the required nine-month field placement.

Opportunities are available for students to work on research projects under the direct supervision of a faculty member. In addition to completing a research thesis, students may also have the opportunity, depending on the faculty member, to assist in developing research conference presentations and manuscripts for publication.

A unique feature of the clinical psychology concentration is a required half-time, nine-month internship. Students may elect to complete a clinical or research internship depending upon their personal and professional goals. Students on clinical internships provide supervised psychological services to clients in an off-campus mental health setting. Students on research internships will assist an experienced scientist in their scholarship endeavors (e.g., reviewing literature, coordinating studies, recruiting participants, collecting & analyzing data, disseminating findings in the form of conference posters or manuscripts).

Clinical psychology students are encouraged to attend full time so as to complete all program requirements within four terms. Students may, however, under certain circumstances attend part time for some or all of their degree work, though requires advanced approval of the Program Director.

Requirements

Admission Requirements

Application deadlines and a full listing of materials required for admission can be found on the website.

Prerequisites for Admission

Students must have taken the following prerequisites (all of which must be completed with a "B" or better in all prerequisites, except general psychology): **

- General Psychology (3)
- Psychopathology or Abnormal Psychology (3)
- Behavioral Statistics (3) or Research Methods (3)
- Personality, social, cognitive or developmental psychology (3)

**** NOTE:** These courses cannot be used to meet the formal elective requirements for the degree as defined below.

Degree Requirements

Students may choose between the Researcher and Practitioner options. Students pursuing either option must complete 48 units of required and elective coursework including a capstone project (see below for details) and a two-term, 425–475-hour field placement. Students may need to take summer courses to meet the program requirements.

Researcher vs . Practitioner Options

Students in both options must complete the 36 units of required coursework. Additional requirements for each of the options are noted below.

Researcher Option

Students electing to pursue the **Researcher option** will work with a faculty member to complete an empirical thesis. Students must take a total of 6 units of thesis credits; students may either take PSYC 897 for 6 units in one term or PSYC 898 for 3 units over two terms. Students must also take 6 units of elective credit.

NOTE: Students must remain continuously enrolled in a Thesis course until all thesis requirements have been completed and must be enrolled in thesis credits during the term in which they plan to graduate. Students who have taken all 6 units of thesis credit and who have not completed the thesis requirements must take PSYC 899 (Thesis Continuum) for 1-unit during each subsequent term until the thesis requirements are complete.

Practitioner Option

Students electing to pursue the **Practitioner option** will work with the program director and internship coordinator to complete a capstone clinical presentation integrating theory, evidence based research, and clinical intervention techniques that they have learned and used with one client during their clinical internship year. These presentations will be open to students and faculty within the program and will be evaluated on a pass/fail basis by the program director and internship coordinator. Students will have one opportunity to re-do their presentation if it was not acceptable the first time. Students must take 12 units of elective credit.

Electives

Elective course work is chosen by the student from within or outside the field of psychology. These courses are expected to complement the program of study and require prior written consent of the program director.

Field Placement Requirement

The practicum and internship carry with them a residency requirement of two terms. The student must be available for a 16-20 hour per week

placement in a clinical or research setting. All students must obtain the grade of “B” or better in Practicum in Clinical Psychology (PSYC 697) and Internship in Clinical Psychology (PSYC 797). Students earning a grade lower than “B” in either course may repeat the entire sequence no more than one time. Failure to earn a “B” or higher in both courses will result in dismissal from the program.

Code	Title	Units
Required Courses		
PSYC 612	DIAGNOSTIC INTERVIEWING AND ASSESSMENT	3
PSYC 624	MULTICULTURAL ISSUES IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY	3
PSYC 631	ADVANCED ADULT PSYCHOPATHOLOGY	3
PSYC 632	ADVANCED CHILD PSYCHOPATHOLOGY	3
PSYC 665	PSYCHOTHERAPY AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE I	3
PSYC 666	PSYCHOTHERAPY AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE II	3
PSYC 687	ADVANCED EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN I	3
PSYC 688	ADVANCED EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN II	3
PSYC 697	PRACTICUM IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY	3
PSYC 755	COGNITIVE THERAPY I	3
PSYC 790	ETHICAL, LEGAL AND PROFESSIONAL ISSUES IN PSYCHOLOGY	3
PSYC 797	INTERNSHIP IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY	3
Researcher/Practitioner Options		
Select one of the following options:		12
Researcher Option (Student may choose to take 897 in one term or 898 over two terms for a total of 6 units.)		
PSYC 897	PSYCHOLOGY THESIS	
or PSYC 898	PSYCHOLOGY THESIS	
Electives (6 units)		
Practitioner Option		
Electives (12 units)		
Total Units		48

Learning Outcomes

1. Employ research methods appropriate to the discipline;
2. Demonstrate basic discipline-specific skills and competencies;
3. Demonstrate competency in acquiring and processing information in the search for understanding.