

Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) in Clinical Psychology

Degree Requirements

The Doctor of Psychology Degree Program in Clinical Psychology consists of 122 credit hours of course work and a non-credit course in library and information use and research. This course work consists of 98 credit hours in psychology, eighteen (18) credit hours of integrative studies in philosophy and theology, and six (6) credit hours of dissertation research. Students must also complete 1,000 hours of clinical externship, pass a series of comprehensive exams, author and defend a doctoral dissertation, and complete a pre-doctoral internship. Typically students will also complete additional clinical placements in other sites outside of the Institute.

Given the overlap in curricula of the M.S. and Psy.D. degree programs, students admitted to the Psy.D. program who did not complete the M.S. Degree Program in Clinical Psychology at the IPS prior to admission may earn this degree in the process of obtaining the Psy.D. degree by meeting the remaining graduation requirements for M.S. program.

Doctoral students must be continuously enrolled until they have completed all program requirements, including the dissertation and internship.

Clinical Externship

In order to ensure that students are adequately formed in their clinical skills, in addition to clinical coursework, students are required to complete a total of 1,000 hours of supervised clinical service practice at an Institute designated facility. Supervision will be provided by onsite supervisors. Supervisors will provide regular feedback to the student regarding their progress. After the first semester, if the supervisors determine that the student is in need of remediation, the supervisors will convene a meeting with the student and a faculty committee by the fourth week of the Spring semester to discuss the parameters of the remediation plan.

Doctoral Comprehensive Exam

The evaluation of a student's clinical competency is an ongoing process, which begins during the first two years of training in courses with volunteers, continues during the third and fourth year practicum courses and externships, and extends through the internship year. In addition to the regular rating of clinical skills and feedback obtained during the initial skills training courses, advanced clinical courses, and practicum/externship evaluation, it is required that the student demonstrates basic clinical and diagnostic skills by successfully completing the Psy.D. Clinical Comprehensive Exam Process prior to applying for a pre-doctoral internship placement.

The Psy.D. Clinical Comprehensive Exam Process includes three components: Advanced Clinical Competency Probes (Psy-I); Attendance at a Professional Roles and Issues Seminar Series (Psy-II); and Completion of a Formal Case Presentation (Psy-III). Component Psy-I and Psy-II must be completed prior to a student's application for the pre-doctoral internship. Component Psy-III must be completed before a student can attend their pre-doctoral internship. Advanced Clinical Competency Probes (Psy-I) are ratings that are given based on performance in various courses in which students are expected to demonstrate a specifically defined area of expertise (e.g., Advanced Therapy skills, Advanced Assessment skills). Professional Roles and Issues (Psy-II) (PSY 760) covers areas such as academic careers, clinical practice in a variety of settings, business aspects of psychology practice, professional publishing and presentations, and involvement in professional organizations. The Formal Case Presentation (Psy-III) requires the student to demonstrate the ability to integrate knowledge through presenting a case before a committee of faculty. The purpose of this component is to ensure that the student has adequately integrated their knowledge of psychology in order to competently provide services to the public, as well as to ensure that the student has the working ability to integrate the Catholic view of the person into their clinical work. The Committee will review the written material prior to the presentation, and the student will orally defend their work during this meeting. Students will be rated by the Committee on several parameters including diagnostic ability and clinical judgment, treatment planning and execution, presentation skills, ethical considerations, and integration of the Catholic view of the human person.

Doctoral Dissertation

A doctoral dissertation (for which a minimum of six (6) credit hours are required) must be completed and successfully defended. The doctoral dissertation can take the form of a critical review and analysis of a topic or area in the field of psychology, or it may take the form of original research which can be either theoretical or empirical. The dissertation topic must be defined in close consultation with the student's advisor and a dissertation committee. Students must have their dissertation proposal approved by the committee prior to applying for a pre-doctoral internship. The dissertation is expected to meet scholarly standards and be of publishable quality. It must be defended orally before the committee. Once students have their dissertation chair appointed, they must be continuously enrolled and registered for PSY 899 until all graduation requirements are completed, or will be considered withdrawn from the program.

Pre-Doctoral Internship

Students in the Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) degree program must obtain and successfully complete a year-long pre-doctoral internship following the completion of all coursework as a requirement for graduation. All students who are required to complete clinical skills remediation plans (see section entitled "Clinical At Risk/Due Process Policy") must successfully complete the plans prior to applying for the pre-doctoral internship. In the case that the clinical skill remediation plans are developed following application of the pre-doctoral internship, all such plans must be successfully completed prior to beginning the internship.

Curriculum

The Psy.D. program requirements may be completed in five (5) years for those able to commit themselves to full-time study and work at the Institute. Individuals with significant outside obligations are nonetheless encouraged to apply, and are expected to take additional years to complete the program. Regardless of other obligations or enrollment status, all students are required to satisfy the residency requirement of full-time enrollment in the Psy.D. program for at least one academic year prior to beginning the pre-doctoral internship.

A typical pathway for the completion of the program by students enrolled on a full-time basis is as follows:

ACADEMIC YEAR 1

LIB 500 Library and Information Use and Research
PHT 502 Philosophical and Theological Anthropology
PHT 614 Practical Reasoning and Moral Character
PSY 500 Psychology: History and Systems
PSY 504 Psychological Measurement
PSY 507 Psychopathology
PSY 512 Law, Ethics, and Psychology
PSY 516 Basic Interviewing and Clinical Skills
PSY 535 Integration of Psychology and Spirituality

ACADEMIC YEAR 2

PHT 633 Major World Philosophies and Religions
PHT 635 Theology of Marriage and Family
PSY 503 Personality Theories
PSY 608 Cognitive/Behavioral Assessment
PSY 609 Adult Psychotherapy
PSY 610 Child Psychotherapy
PSY 611 Marital Therapy
PSY 613 Personality Assessment

ACADEMIC YEAR 3

PSY 701 Foundational Clinical Practicum/Externship I
PSY 702 Foundational Clinical Practicum/Externship II
PSY 718 Research Design for the Psychological Sciences
PSY 724 Advanced Adult Psychotherapy
PSY 727 Advanced Marital Therapy I
PSY 728 Advanced Marital Therapy II
PSY 729 Advanced Statistical Methods
PSY 760 Professional Roles and Issues Seminar
PSY 827 Cultural, Religious, and Individual Diversity in Clinical Practice
PSY 832 Integrative Dissertation Seminar
PSY 836 Advanced Personality Assessment
PSY 899 Dissertation

ACADEMIC YEAR 4

PSY 605 Developmental Psychology
PSY 737 Advanced Child Therapy I
PSY 738 Advanced Child Therapy II
PSY 721 Cognitive Psychology
PSY 801 Advanced Clinical Practicum/Externship I
PSY 802 Advanced Clinical Practicum/Externship II
PSY 820 Group Psychotherapy
PSY 822 Biological Bases of Behavior
PSY 825 Social Psychology
PSY 830 The Psychologist as Consultant, Supervisor, and Educator
PSY 899 Dissertation
Electives (8 hours)¹

ACADEMIC YEAR 5

PSY 899 Dissertation
Pre-Doctoral Internship (off campus)

Oxford Seminar and General Science Requirements:

Students may elect to take PSY-PHL 690 The Oxford Seminar (summer intensive course in Oxford, U.K.) in the place of 6 of the 8 credit hours of basic science electives, which are otherwise selected from among the following courses: PSY 605, PSY 721, PSY 825, and PSY 828.

¹ Formerly PSY 897 Psychology Seminar/Electives