

Master of Science (M.S.) in Clinical Psychology

Degree Requirements

To earn the Master of Science in Clinical Psychology degree, students must complete forty-eight (48) credit hours of courses as outlined in the curriculum for the Master of Science in Clinical Psychology degree program (with a cumulative GPA of 3.0), and complete the M.S. Comprehensive Examination.

While students receive training in clinical skills in the context of their coursework, there is no clinical externship or placements required as part of obtaining the M.S. in Clinical Psychology degree. (Applicants should note that in the profession of psychology, most states require a doctoral degree in order to be eligible for licensure; applicants are encouraged to check with the states in which they might desire to practice about specific requirements for licensure as an independent practitioner).

Full-time students can complete all sixteen courses (48 credit hours) in two academic years. All students admitted (part-time or full-time) must complete the 16-course sequence within five academic years (with an academic year comprising a Fall semester and a Spring semester).

M.S. Comprehensive Examination

The successful completion of the Comprehensive Examination process is required prior to graduation. The M.S. Comprehensive Examination consists of two components: Clinical Comprehensive Probes and the Written Comprehensive Exam.

The Clinical Comprehensive Probes 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., Ethics, Basic Therapy skills, Basic Assessment skills).

Clinical Skill Ratings

For courses that involve learning and demonstration of clinical skills, students will receive ratings on attainment of specific aspects of clinical practice and skills in addition to regular course grades. An example of the rating form is available in the *Clinical Training Handbook*. The clinical courses at the Masters level include PSY 507, PSY 516, PSY 608, PSY 609, PSY 610, PSY 611, and PSY 613. Additional clinical ratings are made for clinical courses in the Psy.D. program.

The Written Comprehensive Exam is given once per semester to students who have completed a minimum of thirty-two (32) hours of coursework, and focuses on the ability to synthesize learning from across the curriculum. These "synthesis" questions are designed to cover either Basic Psychology with implications for integration with the Catholic view of the person, or Clinical Psychology with implications for integration with the Catholic view of the person. The student's responses are independently rated by two faculty members familiar with the content area of the question, and given marks of "Pass with distinction", "Pass", or "Fail" in each of the three areas (General Psychology, Clinical Psychology, Integration) as appropriate to the question. Should the two faculty raters disagree, a third faculty member will independently score the question to determine the final rating. Students are given feedback regarding whether they Pass, or Pass with Distinction, or Fail separately for each area. Failure of any part of the Comprehensive Examination necessitates re-taking of that part of the exam; and the student must retake that part within the next year.

Curriculum

The M.S. in Clinical Psychology degree program requires forty-eight (48) credit hours of course work and a non-credit course in library and information use and research. Students must also complete a Comprehensive Examination prior to graduation. In addition to completion of all coursework and passing the M.S. comprehensive exams students must also successfully complete any clinical skill remediation plans (see petition "Clinical At Risk/Due Process Policy"). There are no electives in the program. A typical schedule for full-time students who plan to complete the program in two years would be as follows:

ACADEMIC YEAR 1

LIB 500 Library and Information Use & Research
PSY 500 Psychology: History and Systems
PHT 502 Philosophical and Theological Anthropology
PSY 503 Personality Theories
PSY 504 Psychological Measurement
PSY 507 Psychopathology
PSY 512 Law, Ethics and Psychology
PSY 516 Basic Interviewing and Clinical Skills
PHT 635 Theology of Marriage and Family

ACADEMIC YEAR 2

PSY 535 Integration of Psychology and Spirituality
PSY 608 Cognitive/Behavioral Assessment
PSY 609 Adult Psychotherapy
PSY 610 Child Psychotherapy
PSY 611 Marital Therapy
PSY 613 Personality Assessment
PHT 614 Practical Reasoning and Moral Character
PHT 633 Major World Philosophies and Religions