

REQUIRED COURSES

Ethics and Professional Issues

Ethical principles and professional guidelines are thoroughly examined and reviewed with a particular focus on the APA Ethics Code. Students practice the application of ethical decision-making models to case studies and professional practice.

Foundational Clinical Skills

Training in basic clinical skills and techniques for clinical interviewing and individual therapy. Specifically, students develop skills in intake interviewing, treatment planning, clinical writing, and providing feedback. The focus of this course is on evidence-based practices and utilizes role-plays and other experiential learning activities to prepare students for practicum work.

History and Systems of Psychology

This course engages students in a historical review of the origins of and cultural influences on the modern field of psychology. The historical development of major theories, research, and practice of psychology are examined.

Theories of Measurement

Topics covered include theories, techniques, and statistics of psychological measurement. Students examine classical test theory, reliability, validity, and test construction in addition to test and item analysis, scaling procedures, and item response theory.

Psychological Assessment I: Intellectual

This course covers the administration, scoring, and interpretation of major intelligence and achievement assessments. Emphasis is placed on administration and report writing skill development. Factors such as individual and cultural diversity issues impacting assessment are also covered.

Psychological Assessment II: Personality

This course covers the administration, scoring, and interpretation of major objective and projective assessment techniques. Emphasis is placed on administration and report writing skill development. Factors such as individual and cultural diversity issues impacting assessment are also covered.

Integrative Psychological Assessment

This course serves as the culmination of assessment theory and practice in training students to integrate assessment findings from multiple sources, including clinical interviews and intellectual and personality assessment. Students will focus on advanced skills in integrated report writing and providing feedback on assessment results.

Adult Psychopathology

This course presents a broad overview of adult psychopathology, including, but not limited to, psychosis, mood, anxiety, and personality disorders. Course participants will examine and review critically the major historical and current perspectives regarding the etiology, diagnosis, and treatment of adult psychiatric disorders and will apply these to evidence-based clinical practice. Students will learn about the DSM and ICD classification systems, their controversies, and how to use these systems in clinical practice to use a common diagnostic language to facilitate assessment and treatment. The course will also examine the impact of sociocultural variables on the development, personal experience, and meaning of psychiatric illness.

Child and Adolescent Psychopathology

This course provides an overall introduction to psychopathology and diagnostic clinical work with children and adolescents. It includes an overview of classification, the context of normal development, diagnostic procedures and techniques, issues of culture and diversity regarding assessment and diagnosis, and some of the biological underpinnings of psychological development (genetics, temperament, etc.).

Cognitive/Affective Bases of Behavior

This course will review core theories examining how humans process information and organize their knowledge and emotional experiences. Core theories of cognition and affect will be evaluated based on research relevant to various aspects of thinking and feeling and how they influence behavior. Students will be able to see how cognition and affect are multidimensional in nature and address specific topics ranging from memory, categorization, language, reasoning, and problem solving.

REQUIRED COURSES *(continued)*

Developmental Psychology

This course will provide an overview of developmental theory and research relevant for clinical work with individuals through the life span. Developmental processes of the prenatal period, infancy, toddlerhood, early and middle childhood, adolescence, emerging adulthood, and middle and late adulthood will be examined along with ways to apply developmental knowledge to clinical assessment, intervention, and analyzing ourselves as developing individuals.

Biological Bases of Behavior

A study of the biological foundations of behavior. Topics include anatomy and physiology of the mammalian nervous system; sensory, motor, and neural mechanisms; and the techniques of studying brain structure and function. Where possible, application made to content and practice of clinical psychology.

Social Aspects of Behavior

This course explores the social behavior of individuals and groups. Social psychology theories and empirical research will provide a foundation and framework for examining and studying social phenomena scientifically. How individuals think about the world, how they understand themselves and others, how they formulate perspectives on the world, and the development of prejudice and stereotypes are addressed. Specifically, social psychological research on social perception and social cognition, attitude formation, persuasion, obedience and compliance, prosocial behavior, and fairness in social relationships will be examined to provide a deeper understanding of contemporary clinical and social psychological issues related to class, culture, sexuality, and race.

Diversity and Individual Differences

This course examines the impact of diversity, power, and privilege on human behavior. Diversity is broadly defined to include all aspects of individual and group identity such as gender, age, ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, culture, ability status, religion, and socioeconomic status.

Research Design and Methods

Quantitative and qualitative research designs (randomized groups, correlated groups, mixed, single subject, quasi-experimental, ethnography, case study) are examined in detail through written critiques of published research studies. Types of research (ex post facto, laboratory experiments, field experiments and studies, surveys, ethnography, and case studies) and methods of observation and data collection (interview and interview schedules, objective tests and scales, projective methods and content analysis, observation of behavior, semantic differential and Q methodology, and psychophysiological methods) are reviewed in detail. Consideration is also given to sex and gender issues and legal and ethical issues in clinical research.

Psychological Statistics I

This course deals with the principles and techniques of descriptive and inferential statistical methods applied to psychological research and program evaluation. Students learn when and how to apply simple parametric tests and some nonparametric statistical methods. The course places a major emphasis on the interpretation of results and their implications for practice and/or policy.

Psychological Statistics II

This course is designed to increase students' understanding of advanced analytical techniques in statistics, particularly as they pertain to psychology. The course material will emphasize the feasibility, application, and utilization of these analyses and their application to psychological and psycho-legal issues. Students will develop computer analytic skills to assist in answering professionally relevant questions.

Prerequisites: Research Design and Methods; Psychological Statistics I

Group Psychotherapy

This course is designed to provide basic understanding of groups through didactic and experimental learning by providing an overview of the history, principles, theories, and dynamics of group psychotherapy.

Psychopharmacology

This is an introductory course designed to acquaint students with the fundamentals of psychotropic drugs. Basic topics in neurophysiology and psychopharmacology will be covered. The material will be presented with a clinical life span orientation.

Prerequisite: Biological Bases of Behavior

REQUIRED COURSES *(continued)*

Family Systems

This course offers an integrated psychotherapy framework by examining various modalities of treatment based on a family systems conceptualization. The cultural, class, and spiritual context of family life will be emphasized throughout the semester with critical reflection on how socially embedded factors including race, class, gender, and sexual orientation impact family functioning, resilience, and development.

Assessment and Treatment of Severe and Persistent Mental Illness

This course will provide an overview of the etiology and symptomatology of thought disorders such as schizophrenia, mood disorders such as bipolar disorder, and severe personality disorders such as borderline and antisocial personality disorders. Special focus will be placed on varied approaches to the treatment of severe psychopathology.

Business of Behavioral Health

An introduction to the business aspects of working in the behavioral health field. This course will focus on necessary skills to function effectively in various settings, including large institutions, large- and intermediate-sized group practices, and individual practice. Basic approaches to marketing, budget management, employment law, and other aspects of behavioral health practice will be covered.

Consultation and Supervision

Supervision is a distinct professional practice employing a collaborative relationship that has both facilitative and evaluative components that extend over time, which has the goals of enhancing the professional competence and science-informed practice of the supervisee. We address the following domains of supervision: supervisor competence, diversity, supervisory relationship, professionalism, assessment/evaluation/feedback, problems of professional competence, and ethical, legal, and regulatory considerations. Students will have the opportunity to discuss and integrate the subject matter of this course with their practicum experiences.

CLINICAL TRAINING

Assessment Practicum and Seminar

Students gain supervised assessment experience in an approved clinical setting for 15-20 hours per week over 10-12 months of the academic year. Concurrent participation in the assessment practicum seminar course is required. The seminar focuses on psychological report writing, assessment, and diagnostic skills.

Prerequisites: Ethics and Professional Issues; Psychological Assessment I and II

Intervention Practicum and Seminar

Students gain supervised intervention experience in an approved clinical setting for 15-20 hours per week over 10-12 months of the academic year. Concurrent participation in the intervention practicum seminar course is required. Case conceptualization, treatment plans, and intervention skills are the focus of this seminar.

Prerequisites: Ethics and Professional Issues; Assessment Practicum and Seminar; Intervention Elective

Advanced Practicum and Seminar

Students gain supervised clinical experience in an approved clinical setting for 15-20 hours per week over 10-12 months of the academic year. The focus of this practicum experience may be in assessment, evidenced-based treatments, consultation, and/or supervision. Participation in the advanced practicum seminar is required and will focus on developing and refining advanced assessment, intervention, and clinical skills.

Prerequisites: Ethics and Professional Issues; Assessment Practicum and Seminar; Intervention Practicum and Seminar

Internship

Students must participate in a one-year, full-time 2,000-hour internship. The internship is the capstone clinical experience of the doctoral program and must be completed at an APA-Accredited or APPIC Member site.

Prerequisite: Program Director Approval

RESEARCH

Doctoral Research Project: Proposal

Students will develop their Doctoral Research Project proposal under the supervision of their project advisor and present it to the graduate committee for approval to begin their project.

Prerequisites: Ethics and Professional Issues; Research Design and Methods; Psychological Statistics I and II

Doctoral Research Project

Students design and implement their Doctoral Research Project under the supervision of their project advisor. The student must participate in an oral defense of their project in front of their selected doctoral research project committee.

Prerequisite: Doctoral Research Project: Proposal

INTERVENTION ELECTIVES

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

Foundations in cognitive behavioral therapy are taught in this course with a focus on basic concepts of cognitive, behavioral, and cognitive-behavioral theories. Students are introduced to evidenced-based applications and techniques of various models.

Advanced Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

This course is an in-depth examination of cognitive behavioral therapy skill application in a variety of settings with a variety of psychological disorders. Practice-oriented clinical skills, as well as background research, will be covered as regards mood disorders, anxiety disorders, trauma-related disorders, disruptive behavior disorders, substance use disorders, and ADHD, among others. Students will learn essential techniques and how to use them individually and in combination, and they will learn how to proceed when the techniques do not work. Consideration will also be given to forging a therapeutic alliance, cognitive-behavioral assessment, work with parents, and the integration of cognitive-behavioral treatment with other methods.

Psychodynamic Approaches to Therapy

An overview of the theories and practice of psychodynamic approaches to therapy. The course topics include contemporary psychodynamic approaches such as object relations, ego psychology, and self-psychology.

Couples and Family Therapy

This course works with the couple's dynamics and history and with the therapist's technical and affective experience in addressing the need of couples and families. The course is designed to evolve clear strategies for intervention in couples and families work. Particular attention will be paid to the couple's session as a microcosm of the relationship and to the therapist's interventions in the session.

Trauma Focused Interventions

This course addresses the history, etiology, symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment of trauma-related diagnoses, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), acute stress disorder (ASD), and common comorbid conditions. Students will be exposed to major research-supported treatment modalities to address trauma-related symptoms.

Dialectical Behavior Therapy

This course provides an in-depth exploration of the theory, application, and practice of DBT. Students will gain an understanding of the four primary modules of DBT: mindfulness, distress tolerance, emotion regulation, and interpersonal effectiveness. The course will delve into the integrative nature of these modules and their application in diverse clinical settings.

Acceptance and Commitment Therapy

This course delves deeply into the theoretical foundations, practical applications, and clinical interventions of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT). Students will explore the fundamental principles of ACT, including defusion, acceptance, self-as-context, contact with the present moment, values, and committed action. The course will address the historical and theoretical underpinnings of ACT, drawing connections to its empirical support and theoretical integration within the broader spectrum of clinical psychology.

CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHOLOGY CONCENTRATION

Pediatric Psychology

This course provides a conceptual overview of the field of pediatric psychology. Students will learn about the roles of pediatric psychologists in medical settings and the connections between psychological and medical services. The course will also look at the assessment and treatment of children who experience adjustment difficulties due to a medical diagnosis.

Child and Adolescent Assessment

This course focuses on assessment of cognitive, emotional, and social functioning of children and adolescents. Issues related to assessment of children and adolescents such as clinical interviewing and impact of environment experience will be explored.

Prerequisite: Child and Adolescent Psychopathology

Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy

This course provides a foundation in psychotherapy techniques for interventions with children and adolescents. The course will focus on the development of intervention skills specific to children and adolescents such as cognitive-behavioral, psychodynamic, and family systems interventions.

Prerequisite: Child and Adolescent Psychopathology

Advanced Child and Adolescent Psychopathology

An in-depth exploration of the major psychological disorders of childhood and adolescence. The course will look at the biological, psychological, and social underpinnings of child and adolescent psychopathology and discuss differential diagnoses.

Prerequisite: Child and Adolescent Psychopathology

HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY CONCENTRATION

Health Psychology

This course explores the theory base of clinical health psychology. The seminar begins with a stress and health exploration of the biological bases of health and disease and includes an overview of psycho-neuroimmunology stress and health. The course emphasizes the biopsychological model in understanding health and disease.

Assessment in Health Psychology

Students develop skills in assessments specific to medical settings. These include focused clinical interviews, mental status examinations, and brief measures. The course emphasizes providing feedback in medical settings to multidisciplinary teams.

Prerequisite: Health Psychology

Interventions in Medical Settings

This course is designed to prepare students to provide interventions to patients in medical settings based on major scientific theories and models of health behavior. The course emphasizes primary and secondary prevention as well as training in intervention strategies that target specific behavior change and lifestyle.

Prerequisite: Health Psychology

Chronic Pain/Illness Management

Conceptual models and psychological assessment and intervention techniques that have been effective in working with those experiencing chronic pain and/or illness will be reviewed. Particular attention will be spent on supporting individuals with chronic pain/illness to decrease the impact it has on their mood, social functioning, lifestyle, and productivity.

Prerequisite: Health Psychology