

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.

Students enrolling in the M.S. in Clinical Psychology “Plus” Option must complete sixty (60) credit hours of courses which includes all forty-eight (48) credit hours of courses included in the curriculum for the Master of Science in Clinical degree program, as well as 12 additional hours of coursework and a nine (9) month long 600-hour supervised externship/practicum. Please note that the “Plus Option” is not a separate degree program but an option existing with the M.S. in Clinical Psychology degree program. Therefore students enrolled in the “Plus” Option must also maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 and complete the M.S. Comprehensive Examination.

Full-time students can complete all sixteen courses (48 credit hours) in two academic years. Students enrolled in the “Plus” Option can complete all twenty courses (60 credit hours) and their 9-month long supervised clinical externship/practicum in three academic years. All students admitted to the Master of Science in Clinical Psychology degree program - including those students who are admitted to the “Plus” Option - must complete all degree requirements within five academic years (with an academic year comprising a Fall semester and a Spring semester) whether or not they choose to enroll on a part-time or full-time basis.

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 Skill Probes and the Written Comprehensive Exam.

Clinical Skill Probes. 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, and PSY 611.

Written Comprehensive Exam. This examination 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 section "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
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 516	Basic Interviewing and Clinical Skills
PSY 535	Integration of Psychology and Spiritual
PSY 610	Child Psychotherapy
PSY 597	Psychology Overview Seminar
PSY 611	Marital Therapy
PSY 598	Psychology Overview Seminar (if required)]

ACADEMIC YEAR 2

PSY 512	Law, Ethics and Psychology
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 827	Cultural, Religious, and Individual Diversity in Clinical Practice