University of Missouri
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES
Doctoral Program with Emphasis in
Clinical Psychology

OVERVIEW OF THE PHD PROGRAM

The Department of Psychological Sciences offers a doctoral degree in Psychology with an emphasis in Clinical Psychology, Cognition and Neuroscience, Developmental Psychology, Quantitative Psychology, or Social/Personality Psychology. Once accepted and enrolled, students may apply for the dual emphasis in Clinical and Developmental Psychology or Clinical and Quantitative Psychology.

Students enter the program only in the Fall semester. The program requires all admitted applicants to be full-time students. Students earn their MA degree as their first step on the way to the PhD. A terminal MA degree program is not offered.

After admission to the program, students who have completed a master's degree (with thesis) from another university may request review of their thesis and coursework for possible waiver of the MA requirement.

The PhD in Psychology with emphasis in Clinical Psychology is accredited by the American Psychological Association and is a member of the Academy of Psychological Clinical Science. The program prepares students for careers in clinical science, in research, teaching, and service at universities, medical centers, clinics, hospitals, and similar agencies.

The program follows a clinical science training model. Clinical science is a psychological science directed at the promotion of adaptive functioning; at the assessment, understanding, amelioration, and prevention of human problems in behavior, affect, cognition, or health; and at the application of knowledge in ways consistent with scientific evidence.

Clinical faculty and students are active in research and scholarship that advances the understanding of the symptoms, causes, course, treatment, and prevention of many of our nation’s most distressing and impairing mental/behavioral health issues (e.g., addictions, anxiety, developmental disorders, juvenile delinquency, mood instability and disorders, schizophrenia). Students work primarily with core clinical faculty, but may also collaborate with researchers throughout the department and in other campus and community units.

Applicants should have a strong interest in research. With an emphasis on the development of research skills, students receive training in the major substantive areas and methodology of the science of psychology, empirically supported assessment and intervention approaches, research competence and background in theoretical and applied areas, and a clinical scientist orientation.
Statistics Minor
In conjunction with the Statistics Department, the Department of Psychological Sciences offers a diploma-designated minor in psychological statistics and methods. Students will receive thorough training in advanced quantitative methodologies such as meta-analysis, structural and latent variable modeling, hierarchical linear modeling, and mathematical modeling in psychology.

Course of Study
Students in the clinical training program must meet curriculum requirements of the program and the department. These include distribution requirements in subject areas (abnormal, biological, cognition/learning, developmental, motivation/personality, and social), statistics and quantitative methods, general clinical requirements and electives and adult or child focus area requirements.

The program curriculum specifies a sequence of both substantive and technique courses during the first three years of study. These include courses in psychopathology, assessment, psychotherapy and clinical practice. In addition, all students take other course from among a pool of clinical courses such as Health Psychology and Family and Group Process.

The program is designed so that, by pursuing a full-time course load throughout, the above requirements for the PhD degree can be completed in five or six calendar years beyond the bachelor’s degree. Students are expected to work on some aspect of their programs during the summer session (e.g., research, class work).

Practicum
As part of a practicum team-approach, including four to five students and a faculty supervisor, students begin direct clinical training early in their program. Starting in their second semester, students participate in the teams’ practicum activities; they begin seeing clients in their second year.

The Psychological Services Clinic
The Psychological Services Clinic, located in the Psychology Building, is a community-based outpatient facility that serves as the primary clinical practicum training site for the clinical program.

Clinical Internship
A one-year full-time clinical internship must be completed at an agency approved for internship training by the Clinical Psychology training committee or by the American Psychological Association.

Careers
Graduates are employed in positions that involve research, teaching and service in universities, medical centers, clinics, hospitals and similar agencies.
Faculty and Research Interests

Debora Bell, professor, PhD West Virginia University 1989. Associate Chair for Clinical Sciences and Director of Clinical Training. Youth anxiety and depression, especially social, social-cognitive, and emotion regulation aspects of youth internalizing problems.


Ian Gizer, assistant professor, PhD Emory University 2008. Genetic influences on externalizing disorders such as alcohol and other substance dependence, conduct disorder, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.


Denis McCarthy, associate professor, PhD University of Kentucky 1999. Cognitive motivations for alcohol use and drinking and driving behavior. Genetic, personality, and environmental factors that influence alcohol-related learning.

Thomas M. Piasecki, associate professor, PhD University of Wisconsin–Madison 1999. Individual differences in drug motivation, negative reinforcement such as alcohol hangover and tobacco withdrawal symptoms.


Wendy Slutske, professor, PhD University of Minnesota 1993. Classification and etiology of externalizing psychopathology (alcoholism and substance abuse, conduct disorder, antisocial personality disorder); behavior genetic studies.

Tim Trull, professor, PhD University of Kentucky 1988. Diagnosis and classification of psychopathology, particularly personality disorders; personality assessment; borderline personality disorder; psychometrics; ambulatory assessment; personality and addictions; dialectical behavior therapy.
Admissions
Although there are no specific requirements for acceptance into the PhD program in Psychology with emphasis in Clinical Psychology, a broad grounding in major substantive areas of psychology, other sciences, and statistics/mathematics is recommended.

The clinical program adheres to a mentorship model; students are admitted who have research interests that are similar to the research interest of one or more of the clinical faculty. Therefore, applicants will be asked to provide detailed information regarding research background and interests on their applications.

A formal interview is required for finalists.

Applicants must provide both a department and graduate school application, three letters of reference, a personal statement, transcripts from all previous degree programs, and official GRE scores. A sample of work that demonstrates writing and research capabilities is also strongly recommended.

The Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
The Department requires GRE scores in Verbal, Quantitative and Analytical Writing. The subject test in Psychology is strongly recommended, but not required. Official test scores are required and must be sent directly from the testing center to the Department.

Admissions Statistics
The department receives about 140 applicants to the clinical psychology emphasis area every year. Of these, about 11 to 15 receive offers and the incoming class is usually from five to seven.

For more information, contact:

Graduate Student Services
Psychological Sciences
210 McAlester Hall
University of Missouri
Columbia, MO 65211

Phone: (573) 882-0838
Fax: (573) 882-7710
Email: gradpsych@missouri.edu

http://psychology.missouri.edu

At MU, graduate diversity matters. The University of Missouri System is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action institution and is nondiscriminatory relative to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability or status as a Vietnam-era veteran.