

Curriculum for Clinical Psychology Program

Breadth of Scientific Psychology. Consistent with the program goals and objectives, it is the intent of the Department that graduates be well-rounded and informed psychologists. Students' training in the *breadth of scientific psychology* is achieved through a combination of coursework, Clinical Qualifying Exams, and students' teaching-requirement, as explained below. In addition, these experiences contribute to the training of the program's goals and competencies.

In the first semester students begin the 3-semester research design and statistic course sequence (see list below); the first two courses are completed during the first year, with the third course taken in the second or third year. The first two courses in the sequence cover fundamental statistical concepts, use of statistical packages for data analyses, research methods and designs, methods for testing internal and external validity, analyses of variance, and multiple regression, among other topics. Students also begin taking the 7 required foundation courses in their first year, including PSY 600, with additional foundation courses completed during second year. Prior to the award of a master's degree, students must complete at least 4 of the 7 foundation courses and 2 of the 3 methodology/statistics courses. As indicated below, required courses cover the *biological, cognitive/affective, and social aspects of behavior, as well as research methods and data analysis.*

Foundation Courses (7 required)

Cognitive/Affective Aspects of Behavior	PSY 604: <i>Cognitive-Affective Basis of Behavior</i>
Biological Aspects of Behavior	PSY 605: <i>Cognitive Neuroscience</i>
Human Development	PSY 620: <i>Developmental Psychology</i>
Social Aspects of Behavior	PSY 625: <i>Social Psychology</i>
Dysfunctional Behavior	PSY 640: <i>Adult Psychopathology or</i> PSY 641: <i>Child and Adolescent Psychopathology</i>
Cultural Diversity/Individual Differences	PSY 683: <i>Diversity Issues in Psychology</i>
Professional Issues	PSY 600: <i>Issues in Professional Development and Research</i>

Research Methodology, Statistics, and Data Analyses (3 required)

PSY 631 - *Psychological Statistics, Research Methods & Design*

PSY 632 - *Multiple Regression & Statistics*

PSY 698 - *Seminar in Quantitative Psychology* (Structural Equation Modeling or Linear Hierarchical Models)

The clinical program uses an infusion model to address the topics of history and systems of psychology and psychological measurement. Specifically, course content for *history and systems* is integrated into several required foundation courses, including PSY 604, 605, 620, and 625. In addition, readings pertinent to history and systems may be included on Day 1 of the Clinical Qualifying Exams (explained below). Course content for *psychological measurement* is covered in all introductory and track-specific required courses in assessment (PSY645, 646, 647, 648); measurement issues are also discussed in the context of required statistics courses (PSY 631, 632). In addition, required readings on Day 2 of the Clinical Qualifying Exam addresses issues pertinent to psychological measurement.

In addition to the above experiences, students gain further breadth in psychology by teaching an undergraduate course during their third or fourth year. Teaching is required of all students. Students typically teach a basic foundation course in psychology, often compatible with their track-specific area of focus. The most common teaching assignments include: introductory psychology, statistics, psychobiology, developmental psychology, social psychology, personality psychology, and abnormal psychology.

The *Scientific, Methodological, and Theoretical Foundations* of practice are initially acquired through a systematic series of courses and are concurrently reinforced in practica and research settings; the foundations of practice are also emphasized on the Clinical Qualifying Exams. Specifically, all students are **required to take courses** in *human development* (PSY 620; see above list), and *psychopathology* (PSY 640 or 641, plus a second psychopathology course). *Individual differences in behavior* is covered throughout multiple required and elective courses, including but not limited to: PSY 683 (Diversity Issues In Psychology Research and Practice), PSY 641 and 642 (advanced psychopathology courses), PSY 692 (Seminar in Personality), and PSY 646, 647, 648, 649 (advanced assessment courses). Students take two courses pertinent to *professional standards and ethics* (PSY 600, listed above, and PSY 657, listed below). In particular, PSY 657 precedes students' practicum placements and covers the APA Ethical Principles and other professional and legal issues, including confidentiality, conflicts of interest, and state laws for reporting abuse. Moreover, at the time of entry into the graduate program, all students participate in a formal orientation week that includes: a) an ethics seminar conducted by Kenneth Goodman, Ph.D. of the School of Medicine's Forum for Bioethics and Philosophy, b) completion of a CITI certification course required by the IRB prior to involvement in research on human subjects, and c) a discussion of ethical issues and professional standards and their implications for clinical training with the Director of the Clinical Program.

In addition to the above experiences, all students are required to take three, full-day **Clinical Qualifying Exams** (to qualify for Ph.D. candidacy). Preparation for and sitting for the qualifying examination provides an additional opportunity to evaluate clinical students' understanding in the areas of pathology, intervention, assessment, ethics, diversity, professional standards, and methodology, among others. These exams occur in the summer following the defense of the master's thesis, and include: Day 1 – Basic Science and Psychopathology; Day 2 – Methodology and Assessment; and Day 3 – Ethics and Intervention. Students are provided with required reading lists that incorporate material on the scientific, methodological, and theoretical foundations of practice – both for the general field of Clinical Psychology (i.e., Core), but also for their track-specific area of focus (adult, child, pediatric, and health psychology). When taking each exam, students are required to answer questions from the general Core section as well as from their track-specific area of focus.

In addition to the above foundation courses, all clinical students are required to complete general clinical and track-specific coursework in *assessment and intervention*, as listed below. Material covered in coursework is reinforced in required practica and in the Clinical Qualifying Exams. With respect to **coursework**, *theories and methods of assessment and diagnosis* are covered in the two-course assessment sequence. All entering students complete PSY 645 during their first semester. This course is comprised of didactic and laboratory components and covers measurement theory, the administration and interpretation of evidence-based measures such as intelligence and

personality tests, diagnosis of psychological problems, history and systems, and ethical/legal/cultural considerations. Depending upon students' area of focus, the second required assessment course is either PSY 646 (adults), 647 (child and pediatric), or 647 (health). Many students also take elective coursework in assessment.

Similarly, students have a 2-course intervention requirement (although students typically take additional electives, and pediatric track students are required to take a third course) that covers *effective intervention, consultation and supervision, and evaluating the efficacy of interventions*. The first intervention course, PSY 656 (see list below), is completed by all clinical students, and taken concurrently with the beginning of practicum training. This class serves as a foundation and prerequisite for the advanced intervention courses. It teaches students how to use research on psychopathology, principles of therapeutic change, and empirically-supported treatment procedures in their clinical work; it also covers issues pertinent to clinical trials, consultation and supervision, and ethical/cultural considerations. These themes and content are also covered in the additional, required, track-specific intervention courses: PSY 660 (child and pediatric), 661 (pediatric), 662 (health), or 665 (adult –Family Therapy), or 686 (Couples/Marital Therapy). In addition, all students take PSY 657 their first year, which also covers issues of consultation and supervision.

Introductory Clinical Courses (3 - required of all clinical students)

PSY 645 - *Introduction to Psychological Evaluation*

PSY 656 - *Introduction to Evidence-Based Psychological Treatments*

PSY 657 - *Introduction to Clinical Methods, Ethics, & Professional Issues*

Additional Track Specific Requirements (3 – 5 additional courses, depending on area of focus)

Adult Clinical (3 required)

PSY 642 - *Advanced Adult Psychopathology*

PSY 646 - *Psychological Evaluation of Adults*

Intervention: One of the following: PSY 660, 662, 663, 665 (*Family Therapy*), 686 (*Couples/Marital Therapy*), or other approved course.

Clinical Child (3 required)

Additional course in Psychopathology (e.g., PSY 640 or 642, in addition to 641) or Development

PSY 647 - *Psychological Evaluation of Children & Families*

PSY 660 - *Evidence-Based Psychological Intervention with Child & Families*

Pediatric Health Clinical (5 required)

Additional course in Psychopathology (e.g., PSY 640 or 642, in addition to 641) or Development

PSY 647 - *Psychological Evaluation of Children & Families*

PSY 660 - *Evidence-Based Psychological Intervention with Child & Families*

PSY 661 - *Intervention in Pediatric Psychology*

PSY 6xx - One additional course in Child or Health

Health Clinical (5 required)

PSY 610 - *Behavioral Medicine*

PSY 694 - *Foundations in Behavioral Medicine*

PSY 648 - *Psychological Evaluation in Physical Disorders*

PSY 662 - *Health Psychology Interventions*

One course from the following: PSY609 – *Psychopharmacology*; PSY 613 – *Psychoneuroimmunology*; PSY 693/694 - *Seminar in Behavioral Medicine*; PSY 693 – *Seminar (Foundations in Neuropsychology)*; PSY 697 - *Neuroanatomy*

For more details pertaining to the philosophy, objectives and curriculum plan for the Clinical Program, go to the departmental website (www.psy.miami.edu).