

MASTER OF ARTS HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY



California State University, Dominguez Hills

Department of Psychology

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Master of Arts in Psychology

Admission Application Deadline is **March 1st** at 5:00PM PST. Any application after this deadline will not be considered.

Prospective students should use The Cal State Apply Application to apply to either the Clinical or Health Psychology option. Students must apply on or before March 1st to be considered for admission. Due to processing times, we strongly recommend that you complete your Cal State Apply application and submit official transcripts at least four weeks in advance of the department's March 1st application deadline.

Health Psychology Option (MAHP)

The Master of Arts in Psychology (Health Psychology Option) will provide students with a solid academic background in health psychology. This specialized track is designed to meet the professional needs of college graduates who plan careers in community mental health and other health care settings such as rehabilitation centers, primary care centers and hospices. In addition, students enrolled in the Health Psychology Option will learn how to promote wellness in individuals and within organizations, and how to evaluate the effectiveness of prevention and treatment programs. The goal of concentrated study in health psychology is to provide the student with an understanding of the relationships among relationships among biological, psychological, and social factors as they interact to influence mental and physical health. This goal is accomplished through an integrated program of coursework and research training.

In the Psychology M.A. (Health Psychology track) the student is required to complete 36 units of credit, including three hours of practicum course work. In addition, the student must successfully complete a thesis.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

1. Bachelor's degree from a fully accredited institution of higher education
2. At least a 3.0 GPA or "B" average in the last 60-90 semester units attempted
3. Successful completion of the following undergraduate courses or their equivalent, with at least a "B" average:
 - PSY 230 Elementary Statistical Analysis in Psychology (3)
 - PSY 235 Introduction to Research Methods (3)
 - PSY 330 Behavioral Statistics and Research Design (3) *or*
PSY 331 *Measurement in Psychology* (3)
 - PSY 363 The Abnormal Personality (3)
 - PSY 370 Health Psychology (3) *or coursework in biological psychology*
4. Unofficial Copy of Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) Scores General Test (*Not Required but Optional for Fall 2021 Admission Only*)
5. Special consideration concerning the waiving of some of the above requirements is possible (e.g., if the student has had extensive previous experience in the community or clinical area)

ADMISSION PROCEDURES

Students will apply to and submit all materials via Cal State Apply:

<https://www2.calstate.edu/apply/graduate>

How to search for the MA in Psychology program on Cal State Apply

Type of Degree: Master's Degree or Higher

- Campus: CSU Dominguez Hills
- Start Term: Fall
- Source: Campus
- Program Name:
 - Psychology - Health Psychology

Required Materials

All materials must be submitted via Cal State Apply by March 1st

- **Personal Statement, include the following information:**
 1. Present area(s) of interest in Psychology
 2. Past research and/or other relevant experience
 3. Strengths and weaknesses in your preparation for graduate-level work
 4. Career and Educational goals
 5. Optional discussion points: Include why you want to become a clinician and whether you have any special skills for working with specific populations.
 - For Clinical psychology or Health psychology applicants who plan to pursue a thesis as the culminating project for the degree, please also identify CSUDH faculty whom you are interested in working with. Copy or click on the link below:
 - <https://www.csudh.edu/Assets/csudh-sites/psychology/docs/pdf/Research-Opportunities-Updated-082120.pdf>
- **CV/Resume**
- **Unofficial Transcripts of all institutions previously attend**
 - Please submit one PDF file containing ALL unofficial transcripts from all institutions attended. This PDF file can include more than one institution.
- **Unofficial Copy or Graduate Record Examinations Scores (Not Required but Optional for Fall 2021 Admission Only)**
 - Due to the Covid-19, students submitting applications to our MA Psychology Graduate Program for the Fall 2021 will not be required to take GRE or submit a score report. Students who would like to submit GRE test scores may do so, and these will be reviewed as part of their application package. However, it should be noted that applications including GRE scores will not be weighted more heavily than applications that did not include a GRE report.
 - Students may voluntarily upload an unofficial photocopy of their GRE report for verbal, quantitative and analytical writing portions.
- **1 Writing Sample**
 - Upload a document that reflects your best work in terms of written communication and ability for critical thinking. This written sample does not need to be in psychology and should range approximately between 3-10 pages in length.

- **3 Letters of Recommendations (submitted online through Cal State Apply)**
 - Master's degree candidates are required to submit a minimum of 3 letters of recommendation with at least two from academic experts (professors) who can speak to the candidate's academic preparation for graduate school and/or aptitude for work or research in clinical or health psychology. Additional letters may be included but are not required. All letter must be submitted online via the Cal State Apply Recommendation portal.

Official Transcripts

All official transcripts must be submitted to The Office of Admissions.

Official transcripts from all previously attended institutions must be received at Office of Admissions and posted by the Document Deadline of March 1ST in order for your application to be reviewed. Please note that official transcripts submitted must reflect courses completed and grades earned through the Fall 2020 term and any courses "In Progress" in Spring 2021. **Electronic official transcripts from domestic institutions are encouraged and preferred.**

Please send **official transcripts** to mailing address below:

CSU Dominguez Hills
Office of Admissions
1000 E. Victoria Street, WH-290
Carson, CA 90747

Classified Standing and Conditionally Classified Standing

Only students who have met all requirements as noted under *Admission Procedures - M.A. Programs* for the Psychology Department will be considered for admission into the M.A. in Psychology Program with Classified Standing.

Students who lack some of the admission requirements *may* be considered for admission into the program with Conditionally Classified Standing. This would allow them to enroll in the University to correct their deficiencies, and also permit them to take up to nine semester units of graduate coursework which could apply toward their degree if and when Classified Standing has been established. Please note that admission to Conditionally Classified Standing does not assure that a student will achieve Classified Standing in the program.

Advancement to Candidacy

A student must be advanced to candidacy before enrolling in PSY 599 Thesis (1-3). The requirements for advancement to candidacy are as follows:

1. Classified Standing in the Psychology M.A.
2. Completion of a minimum of 24 semester units of required courses.
3. Completion of the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement.
4. Approved Program of Study.
5. A cumulative GPA of 3.0 in all courses taken as a graduate student.
6. No grade lower than a "C" in the degree program.

Degree Requirements (36 Units)**A. Required Courses (33 units)**

PSY 520	Seminar in Psychopharmacology (3)
PSY 530	Advanced Analysis of Variance and Multivariate Techniques (3)
PSY 535	Advanced Research Methods (3)
PSY 555	Psychology and Aging (3)
PSY 563	Seminar in Psychopathology (3)
PSY 570	Community Psychology (3)
PSY 574	Practicum: Diversity Issues in Clinical and Health Psychology (3)
PSY 575	Theories of Health and Behavior (3)
PSY 576	Seminar in Health Psychology Research (3)
PSY 585	Neuropsychology (3)
PSY 599	Thesis (3)

B. Select one course from the following (3 units)

PSY 550	Seminar in Developmental Psychology (3)
PSY 564	Advanced Psychotherapy Techniques (3)
PSY 565	Psychology of Clinical Groups (3)
PSY 567	Individual Assessment (3)
PSY 595	Selected Topics (3)
PSY 597	Directed Reading (3)
PSY 598	Directed Research (3)

C. Additional program requirements include:

1. Completion of the Graduate Writing Competency requirement within two semesters of admission to the program.
2. Students must write a thesis as the culminating experience for awarding the degree Master of Arts in Psychology (Health Psychology).
3. In addition to the major requirements, students must meet all university requirements for the master's degree indicated in the section of the catalog entitled "Graduate Degrees and Postbaccalaureate Studies."

Pre-Requisites Course Descriptions

PSY 230 Elementary Statistical Analysis in Psychology (3).

The application of descriptive and inferential statistics to the design and analysis of psychological research.

PSY 235 Introduction to Research Methods (3).

Prerequisite: PSY 230 or MAT 131.

Examination of the design, conduct and interpretation of research studies, both experimental and non-experimental, as demonstrated in a wide range of psychological phenomena. Includes a consideration of philosophy of science and preparation of research reports. Two hours of lecture and three hours of laboratory per week.

PSY 330 Intermediate Statistics and Research Design (3).

Prerequisite: PSY 230 or MAT 131.

The applications of statistical techniques to problems in the behavioral sciences. Discussion of problems in hypothesis formulation, sampling techniques, distribution-free statistics, multivariate data analysis, and presentation of results. Two hours of lecture and two hours of laboratory per week.

PSY 331 Measurement in Psychology (3).

Prerequisite: PSY 230 or MAT 131.

Fundamentals of psychological measurement. Reliability, validity, item analysis, norms, and test construction and selection. Experience in administering, scoring, and interpreting tests of intelligence, aptitude, and personality. Two hours of lecture and two hours of laboratory per week.

PSY 363 Abnormal Psychology (3).

The causes and manifestations of abnormal behavior. Field study and case study.

PSY 370 Health Psychology (3).

Prerequisite: PSY 101.

Survey of the major findings and theories from the field of health psychology. Includes consideration of psychological, social, and cultural effects on health.

Biological Psychology or related courses

Introduction to the study of behavior from a biological point of view. Biological systems and processes underlying behavior, with emphasis on brain mechanisms, presented in the context of fundamental concepts and issues in psychology.

Frequently Asked Questions for M.A. in Psychology Program

1. HOW DO I APPLY?

Prospective applicants can complete an application through the Cal State Apply website located at: <https://www2.calstate.edu/apply/graduate>.

2. WHEN IS THE APPLICATION DEADLINE?

Applications are due **March 1st** for entrance into the Fall cohort.

All supporting documents must be submitted and received by this date:

- Personal Statement
- Resume/CV
- Official & unofficial transcripts
- Official & unofficial copy of GRE scores
- 3 Letters of Recommendation
- 1 Writing Sample

3. IS THERE A GPA MINIMUM REQUIREMENT?

Potential applicants must have at least a 3.0 GPA or “B” average in the last 60-90 semester units attempted (excluding lower division and extension units). Also, applicants must have at least a “B” average in all lower and upper division pre-requisites.

4. DO I NEED TO TAKE THE GRE? WHAT ARE THE SCORE REQUIREMENTS?

- Due to the Covid-19, students submitting applications to our MA Psychology Graduate Program for the Fall 2021 will not be required to take GRE or submit a score report. Students who would like to submit GRE test scores may do so, and these will be reviewed as part of their application package. However, it should be noted that applications including GRE scores will not be weighted more heavily than applications that did not include a GRE report.
- Students may voluntarily upload an unofficial photocopy of their GRE report for verbal, quantitative and analytical writing portions.
- There are no minimum score cut-offs for the GRE.

5. WHAT ARE THE UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENT CODES FOR THE GRE?

The code for CSUDH is 4098. The department code for clinical psychology is 2001.

6. HOW MANY LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION ARE REQUIRED?

Master’s degree candidates are required to submit a minimum of 3 letters of recommendation with at least two from academic experts (professors) who can speak to the candidate’s academic preparation for graduate school and/or aptitude for work or research in clinical or health psychology. Additional letters may be included but are not required.

7. DOES THE PSYCHOLOGY OFFICE ACCEPT LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION?

No, the Psychology Department does not accept letters of recommendation. All letters must be submitted via the Cal State Apply recommendation portal.

8. WHEN WILL I BE NOTIFIED IF I HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED INTO THE PROGRAM?

The Department of Psychology will notify applicants recommended for acceptance to Admissions Office the beginning of April.

9. IF ACCEPTED INTO THE PROGRAM, CAN I ATTEND PART-TIME?

Yes, it is possible to attend part-time.

10. WHERE DO I SEND MY OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS?

All official transcripts must be submitted to the Office of Admissions

Please send **official transcripts** to mailing address below:

CSU Dominguez Hills
Office of Admissions
1000 E. Victoria Street, WH-290
Carson, CA 90747

11. WHAT ARE THE PRE-REQUISITIES FOR THE [CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY \(MACP\)](#) OPTION?

Successful completion of the following undergraduate course or their equivalent with at least a "B" average.

- PSY 230 Elementary Statistics (3)
- PSY 235 Research Methods (3)
- PSY 330 Behavioral Statistics and Research Design (3)
and/or PSY 331 Measurement in Psychology (3)
- PSY 360 Theories of Personality (3)
- PSY 363 The Abnormal Personality (3)
- PSY 464 Introduction to Clinical Psychology (3)

12. WHAT ARE THE PRE-REQUISITES FOR THE [HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY \(MAHP\)](#) OPTION?

Successful completion of the following undergraduate course or their equivalent with at least a "B" average.

- PSY 230 Elementary Statistics (3)
- PSY 235 Research Methods (3)
- PSY 330 Behavioral Statistics and Research Design (3)
and/or PSY 331 Measurement in Psychology (3)
- PSY 363 The Abnormal Personality (3)
- PSY 370 Health Psychology (3) or biological psychology coursework

13. WILL I BE ELIGIBLE FOR A LICENSE AFTER EARNING A DEGREE FROM THE PROGRAM?

- The MA in Clinical Psychology is currently in the process of modifying its program to be able to offer all of the courses required for the LPCC. This approval processes does take time, however, the goal is that students entering Fall, 2021 will have the option of pursuing the LPCC licensure option and students entering Fall, 2020 will be notified with enough time to have the option to complete those additional courses needed for the LPCC licensure. **Unfortunately, at this time we cannot guarantee this will happen prior to the completion of the MA PSY program.**

14. WHAT IS THE LENGTH OF THE PROGRAM?

- For Clinical Psychology: The program is designed to take 2 years to complete. Students must complete 30 units of coursework and 550 supervised clinical hours.
- For Health Psychology: The program is designed to take 2 to 2 ½ years to complete, pending completion of approved thesis.

15. HOW MUCH DOES THE PROGRAM TUITION AND HOUSING COST?

- 2020-2021 Academic Year tuition and other mandatory fees:
<https://www.csudh.edu/accounting-services/student-financial-services/term-fees-information>
- Housing Costs: <https://www.csudh.edu/housing/rental-fees/>