Master of Arts in Psychology

Clinical Psychology Option

The Master of Arts in Psychology (Clinical Psychology track) is designed to meet the professional needs of college graduates who plan careers in community mental health or who are already employed as paraprofessionals and desire to further their education and opportunities for advancement. The student is offered a unique opportunity to obtain solid academic knowledge of clinical psychology coupled with extensive research and supervised experience in the application of such knowledge. The Psychology M.A. (Clinical Psychology track), with the addition of courses in marriage, family and child counseling, can be preparation for the MFT license.

In the Psychology M.A. (clinical) the student is required to complete 33 units of credit, plus 550 hours of supervised practicum in a clinical setting within the community. In addition, the student must successfully complete a written comprehensive examination or a thesis.

Admission Procedures

A. Mail the following documents directly to:

   Attention: Karen I. Wilson, Ph.D.
   Master of Arts in Psychology Program
   Psychology Department
   California State University, Dominguez Hills
   1000 E. Victoria Street
   Carson, California  90747

1. Departmental application for admission to the Master of Arts in Psychology program. Obtain application from the Psychology Department Office (SBS A336) or online (http://www.nbs.csudh.edu/psychology).

2. One official transcript from each college attended.

3. Official score report of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test. Students can call the Testing Office (243-3909) to obtain a schedule for the GRE.

4. Personal statement

5. Three letters of recommendation

B. Submission of a university application and supporting documents.

C. All documents listed under item “A” must be on file in the Department of Psychology in order for your application to be considered for entrance to the program. The deadline for applications is March 1 for entrance to the program in the fall semester.
D. You may be asked to attend a personal interview as part of the selection procedure.

**Admission Requirements**

A. Bachelor’s degree from a fully accredited institution of higher education.

B. Completion of Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test

C. At least a “B” average in the last 60 semester units attempted.

D. 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 360. Theories of Personality (3)
   - PSY 363. The Abnormal Personality (3)
   - PSY 464. Introduction to Clinical Psychology (3)

E. 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).

**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 taking the comprehensive examination or 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 (33 units)**

A. Required Courses (30 units)

- PSY 535. Advanced Research Methods (3)
- PSY 550. Seminar in Developmental Psychology (3)
- PSY 563. Seminar in Psychopathology (3)
- PSY 564. Advanced Psychotherapy Techniques (3)
- PSY 565. Psychology of Clinical Groups (3)
- PSY 567. Individual Assessment (3)
- PSY 570. Community Psychology (3)
- PSY 571. Practicum in Clinical-Community Psychology (3)
- PSY 574. Practicum: Diversity Issues in Clinical and Health Psychology (3)
- PSY 597. Directed Reading or PSY 599 Thesis (3)
B. Select one course from the following (3 units):

- PSY 520 Seminar in Psychopharmacology (3)
- PSY 530 Advanced Analysis of Variance and Multivariate Techniques (3)
- PSY 555 Psychology and Aging (3)
- PSY 566 Individual Intellectual Assessment (3)
- PSY 575 Theories of Health and Behavior (3)
- PSY 576 Seminar in Health Psychology Research (3)
- PSY 585 Neuropsychology (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. Comprehensive written examination with a passing grade or completion of a thesis. Students should register for PSY 597 (3 units) during the semester they plan to take the comprehensive examination. Students who choose to complete a thesis should register for PSY 599 in the semester they plan to defend.

3. A minimum of 550 hours of supervised practicum experience.

4. 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.”