

Chapter 5. Program Requirements and Enrollment

The following is from the Graduate Announcements (catalogue) of the University,
<http://announcements.cua.edu/>

The program of studies to be pursued by the candidate for the doctoral degree must include a minimum of fifty-three (53) credit hours of graduate course work, of which at least thirty-five (35) credit hours must be in the major subject. The remainder must be completed in a program that has been approved by the school dean and the department chair (where applicable). Individual schools or departments may prescribe additional requirements, and the student should consult the appropriate school for information on coursework and requirements specific to the degree program of interest. Continuing education courses are not acceptable in meeting the requirements for master's, licentiate, or doctoral degree programs.

Academic Residency

The Graduate Announcements state that the University's "minimum period of residence for the doctorate is three (3) years of full-time enrollment (including time spent on the master's degree and in dissertation guidance) or the equivalent."

In addition to meeting these requirements of the university, the clinical psychology doctoral program requires

- a. A minimum of 4 full-time academic years of graduate study plus an internship prior to receiving the doctoral degree (this totals 5 years);
- b. At least 3 of the 4 academic training years within the clinical psychology doctoral program at The Catholic University of America;
- c. At least 2 years of which must be in full-time residence at the clinical psychology doctoral program at The Catholic University of America.

Note that the end of this chapter describes credit transfers, which are limited. The vast majority of doctoral students are in full-time residence for 4 years before going on internship.

The University's registration policy can be accessed at:
<http://policies.cua.edu/academicgrad/reggradfull.cfm>

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5.1 Program Requirements

A. Specific Required Courses

- a. **PSY 640 (Human Development: Affective, Biological, Cognitive, & Social Domains; 3 credits).** This is generally taught every year, and is taken in either the second or third year of the program.
- b. **Statistics sequence**
 - i. **PSY 705 (Statistical Methods I; 4 credits)**
 - ii. **PSY 706 (Statistical Methods II; 4 credits)**
 - iii. The required statistics sequence is completed in the student's first year.
- c. **PSY 709 (Biological and Cognitive Aspects of Behavior; 3 credits):** This course is generally taken in the student's first year. [Note: Each module within the course must be passed with a B- or higher]
- d. **PSY 710 (Social and Affective Aspects of Behavior; 3 credits):** This course is generally taken in the student's first year. [Note: Each module within the course must be passed with a B- or higher]
- e. **PSY 711 (History & Systems of Psychology; Independent Study):** This independent study is generally completed in the summer before the program or in the fall semester of the student's first year. It includes graded assignments and the grade is documented on the transcript.
- a. **PSY 811 (Research Methods in Psychology; 3 credits):** This course is taken in the student's first Fall semester.
- b. **PSY 813 (Psychopathology; 3 credits):** Completed in the student's first Fall semester.
- c. **PSY 830 (Cultural Issues in Clinical Psychology; 3 credits):** PSY 830 is taught every other year and is taken either in the student's second or third year.
- d. **PSY 840 (Ethics and Professional Issues; 3 credits):** It is offered every other year, and students generally complete this course either in their second or third year in the program.
- h. **Clinical Assessment Courses:**
 - i. **PSY 901 (Assessment I; 3 credits)**
 - ii. **PSY 902 (Assessment II; 3 credits), and PSY 903 (Lab in Assessment II; 1 credit)**
 - iii. The clinical assessment sequence is taken in the first year in the clinical psychology program.
- e. **Practicum in Individual Psychotherapy**
 - i. **PSY 907 (Practicum in Individual Psychotherapy; 3 credits)**
 - ii. **PSY 908 (Practicum in Individual Psychotherapy; 3 credits)**
 - iii. During their second year, clinical students provide psychotherapy in the Counseling Center and engage in individual and group supervision with a faculty member.
- f. **PSY 921 (Psychotherapy: Research and Method; 3 credits):** This course is completed in the spring semester of the clinical student's first year in the program.

g. Three semesters of PSY 793 (Research Apprenticeship for PhD; 3 credits each):

- i. Research training is formally supervised by faculty across the spring semester of the first year and throughout the second year.
- ii. Students register for PSY 793 for all three semesters.

B. Additional Courses in the Basic Content Areas in Scientific Psychology (3 credits each):

Students are required to take courses in each of the five Aspects of Behavior (see key below).

Courses may be counted for more than one area, though students must take at least 3 non-clinical courses from the list below to fulfill this requirement.

- 622 Cognitive Development (C, D)
- 627 Couple and Family Interaction (S)
- 636 Human Computer Interaction (C)
- 645 Social Development (D, S)
- 670 Virtual Reality and Visualization (C)
- 671 Human Factors (C)
- 714 Introduction to Neuropsychology (B)
- 754 Social Neuroscience (A, B, S)
- 755 Affective and Cognitive Neuroscience (A, B, & C)
- 756 Clinical Neuroscience (A, B, & C)
- 777 Psychology of Emotions (A)

Key for Basic Content Areas in Scientific Psychology courses:

- A: Affective Aspects of Behavior
- B: Biological Aspects of Behavior
- C: Cognitive Aspects of Behavior
- D: Developmental Aspects of Behavior
- S: Social Aspects of Behavior

C. One Assessment course from the following (3 credits each):

- 715 Neuropsychological Assessment
- 805 Assessment in Clinical Practice
- 807 Clinical Assessment of Children and Adolescents

D. One Intervention course from the following (3 credits each):

- 618 Family Therapy: Theory and Practice
- 745 Cognitive and Behavior Therapy
- 810 Psychotherapy with Children: Conceptual Approaches & Practical Techniques

E. One clinically-relevant course from the list below, and/or the remaining Assessment and Intervention courses listed above (3 credits each, unless specified):

- 619 Health Psychology
- 714 Introduction to Neuropsychology
- 735 Developmental Psychopathology
- 928 Practicum in Family Therapy I

G. Clinical Externship:

- Students are required to complete at least two externships, each running two semesters (roughly 30 weeks per year) in duration.
- At least one externship must provide supervised experience in administering assessment batteries and writing integrative reports. At least two integrative assessment reports must be completed.
- Students present both a clinical case conference and an assessment case conference and must receive satisfactory faculty ratings on both before becoming eligible for internship.
- Students must receive satisfactory competency evaluations from all on-campus and off-campus practicum and externship supervisors. (see Chapter 7 for more details)
- Students attend the Externship Forum & Professional Development Seminar organized by the DCT and/or ADCT in their 3rd and 4th years (and above if not on internship).
- Students may additionally take the Practicum in Family Therapy. (Note that practica do not count for other elective requirements, such as Treatment or Clinical Electives.)
- See Chapter 9 on On-Campus Practica and Externship, and the Clinical Practicum and Externship Policies and Procedures Guide.
- Registration course numbers:
 - 895 Externship Year 1 (both semesters)
 - 970, 971, 972 Externship Year II (Advanced Clinical Training, both semesters)
 - 928 Practicum in Family Therapy

H. Comprehensive Examination

- The major departmental examination is a written and oral comprehensive examination in clinical psychology that is generally taken during the third year of graduate study and that doctoral students are required to pass. See Chapter 10.
- Students registering for any course work during the semester they take the Comprehensive Examination are assessed no additional fee for the exam (register for PSY 998A, Doctoral Comps with classes).
- However, graduate students who have finished their course work and university residency requirement (3 years of full-time enrollment) and who want only to take the Comprehensive Examination in a particular semester can register for the comprehensive examination only (one credit hour of tuition, zero course credit) during the semester that they take the examination (register for PSY 998B, Doctoral Comps without classes).

I. Dissertation

- Following the passing of comprehensives, the student can begin to register for PSY 996 Doctoral Dissertation Research, which costs 1 credit of tuition and is not graded (often called “Dissertation Guidance”).
- The student must register for at least two semesters of Dissertation Guidance, and these must include the semester in which the dissertation proposal is submitted for university approval, and the semester in which the student takes orals.
- Generally, you should register for PSY 996 every semester beginning the semester following comps through the semester in which you take orals.

- See Chapter 11 (Dissertation) and Chapter 6 (Continuous Enrollment) for a discussion of Dissertation requirements and registration regulations, including registration while on internship.

J. Internship

- As the culmination of clinical training, the clinical psychology program requires:
 - a one-year, full-time clinical internship (or half-time over 2 years).
 - that the internship be either APA- or CPA-accredited. (In extraordinary circumstances, students may petition the core clinical faculty to apply to a non APA- or CPA-accredited program.)
 - Please see Chapter 12 (Internship).

Required Coursework Notes:

1. **Students must receive at least a B- in each course and every course module. This is a “Minimum Level of Achievement.”**
2. A maximum of 15 credit hours are generally allowed each semester.
3. Several courses are listed under two categories. If you elect to take such a course, it can be counted as fulfilling only one category requirement. In addition, not all courses are offered every year.
4. Courses may be added or deleted over time. Since professors need to know what courses students are interested in taking, it would be a good idea to let them know that you are interested in a particular course. This will help the professors plan their teaching schedules and enhance the chances of a given course being offered when you can take it.

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SAMPLE Clinical Doctoral Program Sequence

FIRST YEAR:

Summer before Fall

PSY 711 History & Systems of Psychology

Fall Semester

PSY 705 Statistical Methods I
PSY 709 Biological and Cognitive Aspects of Behavior
PSY 811 Research Methods in Psychology
PSY 813 Psychopathology
PSY 901 Assessment I

Spring Semester

PSY 706 Statistical Methods II
PSY 710 Social and Affective Aspects of Behavior
PSY 793 Research Apprenticeship
PSY 902 Assessment II
PSY 903 Lab in Assessment II
PSY 921 Psychotherapy: Research and Method

SECOND YEAR

Fall Semester

PSY 793 Research Apprenticeship
PSY 907 Practicum in Individual Psychotherapy
• Electives such as Human Development: Affective,
etc., Cultural Issues in Clinical Psychology, and/or Ethics and
Professional Issues

Spring Semester

PSY 793 Research Apprenticeship
PSY 908 Practicum in Individual Psychotherapy
• Electives such as Human Development: Affective,
etc., Cultural Issues in Clinical Psychology, and/or Ethics and
Professional Issues

THIRD YEAR

Fall Semester

- Externship (PSY 895)
- Electives such as Human Development: Affective, etc., Cultural Issues in Clinical Psychology, and/or Ethics and Professional Issues
- Comprehensive Examination
- Externship Forum & Professional Development Seminar, including required quizzes related to Supervision and Consultation

Spring Semester

- Externship (PSY 895)
- Electives such as Human Development: Affective, etc., Cultural Issues in Clinical Psychology, and/or Ethics and Professional Issues
- Dissertation Guidance (if the comprehensive exam was passed)
- Externship Forum & Professional Development Seminar, including required quizzes related to Supervision and Consultation

FOURTH YEAR - BOTH SEMESTERS

- Dissertation Guidance (PSY 996)
- Advanced Clinical Training, PSY 970, 971, 972 (*Note: this is the second year of Externship*)
- Externship Forum & Professional Development Seminar, including required quizzes related to Supervision and Consultation
- Assessment and Clinical Case Presentations (Students are required to receive at least satisfactory ratings from the faculty before being approved to apply for internship.)

FIFTH YEAR

- Complete dissertation and take oral exam (PSY 996)
- Internship (12 months)

Required Sequence Note:

Students must maintain continuous enrollment until they complete degree requirements. See Chapter 6, Continuous Enrollment, for requirements.

Elective Focus in Children, Families, and Cultures (CFC)

In addition to requirements of the clinical program, students who elect CFC fulfill the requirements of that focus. These are summarized below and described on the psychology website.

Knowledge-based competency

Requirement 1: Coursework

- Complete at least 5 courses from the CFC selections with at least one course in child development, one course related to familial processes, and one related to culture. (Refer to listing below).
- One of the five courses must be PSY 735: Developmental Psychopathology.
- Note that CFC courses may also fulfill other requirements of the clinical program. Also, each of the five CFC courses must be 3 credits each, and students must receive at least a B- in each course. (*The current list of CFC courses is listed below.*)

Requirement 2: Comprehensive Exams

- Successfully pass the Doctoral Comprehensive Examination in Clinical Psychology (which includes questions and case examples relevant to the area of Children, Families and Cultures).

Requirement 3: CFC Roundtable Meetings

- Participate and present in biweekly CFC roundtables and attend CFC related colloquia. Although students are expected to participate consistently throughout their time in the program, a minimum of four semesters of participation is required. The group meetings include student- and faculty-led presentations and discussions of relevant issues and readings in the CFC area.

Performance-based competency

Requirement 4: Professional development related to research

- Complete a Dissertation in the area of Children, Families and Cultures*, **and**
- Attend at least one CFC relevant professional conference*

And at least one of the following:

- Write, or assist substantially in the conceptualization and preparation of, a CFC relevant grant*, or
- Present (first author) CFC relevant research at a professional conference*, or
- Produce at least one CFC relevant research article that is accepted for publication in a peer reviewed scientific journal*

Requirement 5: Professional development related to clinical practice

- Satisfactorily complete at least one practicum or externship related to children, families, and/or cultures*, **and**

- Present a Clinical Case Conference related to children, families and cultures in a CFC group meeting.

* CFC relevance must be approved by your academic advisor.

CFC Courses

PSY 618: Family Therapy: Theory and Practice (Families)
PSY 622 Cognitive Development (Children)
PSY 627 Couple and Family Interaction (Families)
PSY 640 Human Development (Children)
PSY 645 Social Development (Children, Families, Cultures)
PSY 735 Developmental Psychopathology (Children)
PSY 807 Clinical Assessment of Children and Adolescents (Children)
PSY 810 Psychotherapy with Children: Conceptual Approaches and Practical Techniques (Children)
PSY 830 Cultural Issues in Clinical Psychology (Culture)
PSY 928 Practicum in Family Therapy I (Families)

Additional Information

Registration and University Resources for Graduate Students (including Forms, etc.)

- Enrollment Services: <http://enrollmentservices.cua.edu/>
- Arts and Sciences Resource Link:
<https://arts-sciences.catholic.edu/academics/graduate-programs/resources/index.html>

Transferring Credits

By university policy, a maximum of 24 semester hours of graduate work earned at another accredited institution at a grade level of B or better may be applied toward course requirements upon recommendation of the student's department and with the approval of the academic dean. For transfer to our program, the course must be a doctoral-level course. However, this process is not encouraged, and only a limited number of credit transfers should be expected by the student. This procedure should be undertaken before the student begins the program.

See <http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad/transferoofcredit.cfm>

Required courses. If a student has previously earned credit for a course that she or he believes is the equivalent of a required course (e.g., Statistics I or II, Research Methods), the student first consults with the advisor. If the advisor agrees that the course would probably be repetitive, the student contacts the instructor of the course from which he or she wishes to be exempted. After reviewing the course content, texts used, and other relevant information, the instructor will evaluate the comparability of the course the student wishes to transfer and, acting as a consultant

to the program, recommend to the DCT whether or not it satisfies the requirement. Note that the evaluation by the instructor of whether to recommend that the course satisfies the requirement is made by the instructor using whatever means he or she wishes to use (e.g., examining the syllabus or work samples from the course, and/or giving the student an exam). The DCT then considers the adequacy of the prior course in terms of program goals and requirements and makes a decision on whether the student may transfer the course and be exempt from taking the comparable course at Catholic University. In the case where the decision is not clear-cut, the DCT discusses it with the clinical faculty at a faculty meeting and the decision is made by the clinical faculty. If the course is deemed to be comparable, the DCT/clinical faculty may require the student to exhibit competency in the subject area. This may be accomplished, for example, by passing the final exam (B or better) for the Catholic University course or by providing work samples. If the DCT/clinical faculty approve of the exemption, the student must fill out the required form and forward it to the DCT for transfer approval. Finally, the transfer of credit must be approved by the academic dean. Students who were previously enrolled in the Psychological Sciences M.A. program at Catholic University and took course(s) that are required for the clinical program and received a B or better are considered to have fulfilled the requirement(s).

Elective courses. Transfer of credit for the fulfillment of elective requirements is handled through the same process described above when Catholic University offers a similar course. When no comparable course is available at Catholic University, the student should present course materials to her or his advisor and fill out the required form (obtainable from the department office). Credit is subject to the approval of the clinical faculty, where the decision is based on the requirements and training goals of the clinical program. A maximum of two course transfers should be expected by the student. The situation is different for students who were previously enrolled in the General M.A. program at Catholic University, because it does not involve transfer of credit from another university, and, depending on which courses the student took as an M.A. student, more courses are likely to be applicable to the student's doctoral requirements.

Consortium. See Chapter 13, Resources. Courses taken through the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area for credit must be approved by the student's advisor, the clinical director, and the dean. If a course is offered at Catholic University, the student must take it at Catholic University; that is, only courses not offered at Catholic University will be approved. Further, Consortium courses will be approved only if the course is important for the particular student's professional goals. Forms for consortium course approval are obtainable from Catholic University's Enrollment Services office.

APA and State Licensing Requirements

Because our program is APA-accredited (Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation, American Psychological Association, 750 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20002; <http://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation> ; 202-336-5978), all APA requirements are fulfilled by program requirements. However, each state has its own set of requirements for licensure, and it is the student's responsibility to plan a curriculum to satisfy requirements for the state to which

he or she wants to apply for licensing. For example, some jurisdictions require an APA-accredited internship; in other jurisdictions, as long as the student has attended an APA-accredited program, the licensing board accepts whatever internship has been approved for the student by the program.

Usually students do not have difficulty getting licensed in the jurisdictions in which they want to practice, but it is wise to plan ahead in case you want to be licensed in a jurisdiction in which it is not sufficient to have graduated from an accredited program. Below is a useful website for planning for licensing in different jurisdictions:

<http://www.asppb.org> (general information on licensing requirements and specific licensing requirements of every jurisdiction in the US and Canada)

In addition, the program developed a **state licensure disclosure and consumer guide**. Please see the link on our webpage.

We strongly recommend that you keep your course syllabi as professors may move or otherwise become unavailable. You may need them to demonstrate that you have covered topics required by the jurisdiction.

The Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) is the group that composes the nationally used Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology. (The exam is administered by each state, so for information on dates of administration and other matters, contact the state licensing board.) The ASPPB link above has information on the EPPP.