

Doctor of Philosophy - Clinical Psychology

Plan Description

The Graduate Faculty of the Department of Psychology is comprised of a group of dedicated individuals who have received their training at outstanding graduate programs. We continue to recruit accomplished scholars who will enhance the quality and diversity of the graduate experience available to our students.

The department is committed to providing our graduate students with a high quality program balanced across classroom, laboratories, and other research settings, as well as various practicum placements. The department currently offers M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Clinical Psychology and Psychological & Brain Sciences.

The Doctor of Philosophy - Clinical Psychology program prepares students to address human concerns through both scholarly research and the application of psychological knowledge and skills. We recognize psychology as an empirical science and expect students to have a broad understanding of existing psychological knowledge. We guide students to base their scholarly and professional activity on the scientific foundation of psychology. Through an integration of didactic study, supervised clinical activity, and mentored scholarly research, we prepare students as generalist scientist-practitioners to conduct scientific research and clinical interventions with children and adults.

For more information about your program, including your graduate program handbook and learning outcomes, please visit the Degree Directory.

Plan Admission Requirements

Application deadlines

Applications available on the UNLV Graduate College website.

The program is accredited by the American Psychological Association.

All domestic and international applicants must review and follow the Graduate College Admission and Registration Requirements.

Doctor of Philosophy - Clinical Psychology program currently admits only students seeking a doctoral degree.

The program admits students for matriculation only in the fall semester. Applicants will be notified of their status by April 15. We anticipate entering classes of 8-10 students each year.

Typical admitted students have GPAs of 3.7 and GRE scores of 157.

A bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution or a master's degree or equivalent from an

accredited institution. We strongly recommend that applicants have a degree in psychology. Applicants should have completed a minimum of 18 hours of undergraduate psychology courses including Statistics, Abnormal Psychology, and Research Methods.

Applicants are also expected to demonstrate foundational knowledge competency in Cognitive Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Physiological Psychology, Social Psychology, and History of Psychology. Foundational competency in each area can be demonstrated by either, 1) a grade of B- or better in a relevant undergraduate course; or 2) a score at or above the 70th percentile in the relevant area of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) Psychology Subject Test. Applicants can be admitted without having achieved these foundational competencies, but should attempt to meet them prior to entering the program. If competencies are not met prior to entering the program, they can be remediated after entering the program during the first two years of study by taking necessary undergraduate coursework or the GRE Psychology Subject Test with relevant scores at or above the 70th percentile.

Satisfactory scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test. The GRE Psychology Subject Test is recommended but not required. Current GRE Board policy states that your scores are retained for the five testing years following the testing year. Applicants must have official scores sent to UNLV (GRE code 4861) and may also submit unofficial scores in their online application.

Applicants must have official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended (even if credits were transferred) sent to UNLV and should upload unofficial versions of their transcripts directly into their online applications.

Three letters of recommendation that evaluate the applicant's potential for doctoral studies in a scientist practitioner model training program.

A letter of intent written by the applicant. This letter should describe your clinical and research interests, education and professional goals, a primary faculty member with whom you wish to work, and any other factors that you would want the admissions committee to consider in evaluating your application. We welcome you to comment on how you contribute to or benefit from our multicultural community.

A current curriculum vitae.

A personal interview with members of the program faculty is required for finalists in the selection process. Typically applicants who are finalists are notified by early February of the program's interview day." Alternative interviews may be scheduled under unique circumstances.

Note: Strong applicants who fail to meet one of the Clinical Programs admission requirements may still be considered for admission.

Students are accepted into a degree program as described in the Graduate Catalog. The faculty and corresponding subplans within the described program are subject to change at any time.

Plan Requirements

See Subplan Requirements below.

Subplan 1: Post-Bachelor's – Clinical Psychology

Subplan 2: Post-Master's – Clinical Psychology

Subplan 1 Requirements: Post-Bachelor's - Clinical Psychology

Total Credits Required: 93

Course Requirements

Clinical Foundation Courses – Credits: 21

Students are precluded from transferring/waiving credit for the Clinical Foundation courses.

PSY 723 Assessment I: Cognitive and Academic Assessment	3
PSY 724 Assessment II: Personality and Psychopathology	3
PSY 725 Intervention with Children	3
PSY 726 Intervention with Adults	3
PSY 736 Psychopathology	3
PSY 750 Diversity in Professional Psychology	3
PSY 755 Ethics and Professional Issues	3

Research Methods, Statistics, and Psychometric Courses – Credits: 12

PSY 707 Research Methods	3
PSY 708 Statistics for Psychologists I	3
PSY 709 Statistics for Psychologists II	3
PSY 712 Psychometrics	3

Practicum – Credits: 6

Complete 6 credits of practicum in spring and fall semesters of the second year of study.

PSY 767 Practicum	1-3
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Elective Courses - Credits: 3

Complete 3 credits of a 700 level psychology course (except PSY 767: Practicum; PSY 769: Thesis; PSY 770: Dissertation; or PSY 771: Professional Internship).

No more than six elective credits toward the MA and PhD degree may be fulfilled with PSY 766: Independent Study, PSY 768: Independent Research or a combination of the two.

700-level courses offered by other departments may fulfill the elective requirement with approval.

Thesis – Credits: 6

Enroll in thesis credits starting in the semester the thesis is formally proposed.

PSY 769 Thesis [After]	3 – 6
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Students are eligible to receive an MA degree after completing 6 credits of PSY 769 - Thesis and the requirements above.

Advanced Integrative Knowledge Courses – Credits: 6

These courses are typically taken in the fall and spring semesters of the third year of study:

PSY 720 Systems and Cognitive Neuroscience	3
PSY 722 Developmental and Social Psychology	3

Elective Courses – Credits: 12

Complete 12 credits of 700 level psychology courses (except PSY 767: Practicum; PSY 769: Thesis; PSY 770: Dissertation; or PSY 771: Professional Internship).

No more than six elective credits may be fulfilled with PSY 766: Independent Study, PSY 768: Independent Research or a combination of the two.

700-level courses offered by other departments may fulfill the elective requirement with approval.

Practicum – Credits: 12

Complete 12 credits of practicum in spring and fall semesters of the third and fourth years of study.

PSY 767 Practicum

1-3

Internship – Credits: 3

Complete a full calendar year APA-approved clinical psychology internship. Take one credit of PSY 771 Professional Internship in the fall, spring, and summer during internship year.

PSY 771 Professional Internship

1

Dissertation – Credits: 12

Enroll in dissertation credits starting in the semester the dissertation is formally proposed. Continuous enrollment required until dissertation is defended.

PSY 770 Dissertation

3 – 12

Degree Requirements

En route to doctoral candidacy the student must complete the requirements for a master's degree in psychology, and complete 6 credits of thesis over a minimum of 2 semesters. The thesis must be proposed and defended orally.

In addition to a master's degree in Psychology equivalent to the one previously described (48 credits), a minimum of 45 semester hours in graduate psychology is required for the doctoral degree.

Electives consist of any 700-level Psychology courses excluding PSY 767: Practicum; PSY 769: Thesis; PSY 770: Dissertation; or PSY 771: Professional Internship. No more than six elective credits may be fulfilled with PSY 766: Independent Study, PSY 768: Independent Research or a combination of the two. 700-level courses offered by other departments may fulfill the elective requirement with approval.

Students must obtain a grade of B- or better in each course taken for that course to count toward the degree. One grade below a B- (i.e. C+ or lower) will result in probation. Once on probation for receiving a grade below a B-, a second grade (in the same or different classes) below a B-, will result in immediate separation from the program. If a student re-takes a course in which s/he received a grade lower than a B- (i.e. C+ or lower) and earns a B- or better, s/he will be removed from probation. A student may only be on academic probation twice during their graduate career in Psychology; a third probation will result in separation from the program. No student shall be allowed more than two simultaneous grades of incomplete, except in the case of a documented and approved medical leave.

Students must conform to all policies of the UNLV Graduate College, as stated in the UNLV Graduate Catalog, those stated in the UNLV Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program Student Handbook, and the American Psychological Association Code of Ethics. Students will be evaluated at least yearly across all program competencies. Inadequate performance in one or more competency may result in the imposition of additional requirements, loss of Graduate Assistantship, probation, or separation from the program.

If the program determines that a student is not making satisfactory progress toward the degree, it may request the Graduate Dean to separate the student from the program or place the student on probation. Failure to meet the conditions of the probation will result in separation from the program.

Transfer Credits. Admitted clinical students may transfer credits from graduate studies in other programs contingent upon departmental approval and in accordance with Graduate College policy. Transfer Credits will only be considered to fulfill Research Methods, Statistics, and Psychometric courses, Elective courses, Thesis credits, and Discipline Specific and Advanced Integrative Knowledge courses. All courses must be completed with a minimum grade of B- or better in order to meet program requirements.

Students must take a minimum of 6 credits of thesis over two semesters which may include summers. Students should enroll in thesis credits starting in the semester the thesis is formally proposed.

Students must take a minimum of 12 credits of dissertation over four semesters which may include summers. Students should enroll in dissertation credits starting in the semester the dissertation is formally proposed. Continuous enrollment is required until the dissertation is defended. The dissertation must be orally proposed and defended.

Graduation Requirements

The student must submit all required forms to the Graduate College and then apply for graduation up to two semesters prior to completing his/her degree requirements for both the Master's and Doctoral portions of the program.

The student must submit and successfully defend his/her thesis by the posted deadline. The defense must be advertised and is open to the public. After the thesis defense, the student must electronically submit a properly formatted pdf copy of their thesis to the Graduate College for format check. Once the thesis format has been approved by the Graduate College, the student will submit the approved electronic version to ProQuest. Deadlines for thesis defenses, format check submissions, and the final ProQuest submission can be found here.

The student must submit and successfully defend his/her dissertation by the posted deadline. The defense must be advertised and is open to the public.

After the dissertation defense, the student must electronically submit a properly formatted pdf copy of their dissertation to the Graduate College for format check. Once the dissertation format has been approved by the Graduate College, the student will submit the approved electronic version to ProQuest. Deadlines for dissertation defenses, format check submissions, and the final ProQuest submission can be found here.

Subplan 2 Requirements: Post-Master's - Clinical Psychology

Total Credits Required: 54

Course Requirements

Clinical Foundation Courses – Credits: 21

Students are precluded from transferring/waiving credit for the Clinical Foundation courses.

PSY 723 Assessment I: Cognitive and Academic Assessment	3
PSY 724 Assessment II: Personality and Psychopathology	3
PSY 725 Intervention with Children	3
PSY 726 Intervention with Adults	3
PSY 736 Psychopathology	3
PSY 750 Diversity in Professional Psychology	3
PSY 755 Ethics and Professional Issues	3

Practicum – Credits: 18

Complete 18 credits of practicum in spring and fall semesters of the, second, third, and fourth years of study.

PSY 767 Practicum	1-3
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Internship – Credits: 3

Complete a full calendar year APA-approved clinical psychology internship.

PSY 771 Professional Internship	1
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Dissertation – Credits: 12

Enroll in dissertation credits starting in the semester the dissertation is formally proposed. Continuous enrollment required until dissertation is defended.

Degree Requirements

Students entering the Clinical Psychology doctoral program with a Master's degree equivalent to the one previously described in Subplan 1 (48 credits) will be required to complete a minimum of 54 credits that include the Clinical Foundation Courses (21 credits), Practicum (18 credits), Internship (3 credits), and Dissertation (12 Credits). For these students, the number of required courses for the PhD will be determined in consultation with the Director of Clinical Training. Additional credits will be required to address deficiencies or build specialized expertise.

Electives consist of any 700-level Psychology courses excluding PSY 767: Practicum; PSY 769: Thesis; PSY 770: Dissertation; or PSY 771: Professional Internship. Up to six elective credits may be fulfilled with PSY 766: Independent Study, PSY 768: Independent Research or a combination of the two. 700-level courses offered by other departments may fulfill the elective requirement with approval.

Students must obtain a grade of B- or better in each course taken for that course to count toward the degree. One grade below a B- (i.e. C+ or lower) will result in probation. Once on probation for receiving a grade below a B-, a second grade (in the same or different classes) below a B-, will result in immediate separation from the program. If a student re-takes a course in which s/he received a grade lower than a B- (i.e. C+ or lower) and earns a B- or better, s/he will be removed from probation. A student may only be on academic probation twice during their graduate career in Psychology; a third probation will result in separation from the program. No student shall be allowed more than two simultaneous grades of incomplete, except in the case of a documented and approved medical leave.

Students must conform to all policies of the UNLV Graduate College, as stated in the UNLV Graduate Catalog, those stated in the UNLV Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program Student Handbook, and the American Psychological Association Code of Ethics. Students will be evaluated at least yearly across all program competencies. Inadequate performance in one or more competency may result in the imposition of additional requirements, loss of Graduate Assistantship, probation, or separation from the program.

If the program determines that a student is not making satisfactory progress toward the degree, it may request the Graduate Dean to separate the student from the program or place the student on probation. Failure to meet the conditions of the probation will result in separation from the program.

Transfer Credits. Admitted clinical students may transfer credits from graduate studies in other programs contingent upon departmental approval and in accordance with Graduate College policy. Transfer Credits will only be considered to fulfill Research Methods, Statistics, and Psychometric courses, Elective courses, Thesis credits, and Discipline Specific and Advanced Integrative Knowledge courses. All courses must be completed with a minimum grade of B- or better in order to meet program requirements.

Students must take a minimum of 12 credits of dissertation over four semesters which may include summers. Students should enroll in dissertation credits starting in the semester the dissertation is formally proposed.

Graduation Requirements

Students must submit all required forms to the Graduate College and then apply for graduation up to two semesters prior to completing their degree requirements.

Students must submit and successfully defend their dissertation by the posted deadline. The defense must be advertised and is open to the public.

After the dissertation defense, the student must electronically submit a properly formatted pdf copy of their dissertation to the Graduate College for format check. Once the dissertation format has been approved by the Graduate College, the student will submit the approved electronic version to ProQuest. Deadlines for dissertation defenses, format check submissions, and the final ProQuest submission can be found [here](#).

Plan Graduation Requirements

Refer to your subplan for Graduation Requirements.

Subplan 1: Post-Bachelor's – Clinical Psychology

Subplan 2: Post-Master's – Clinical Psychology