

PSYCHOLOGY – PSY.D.

Director of clinical training

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The APA-accredited Psy.D. Program, influenced by the practitioner-scholar model, emphasizes training in clinical practice based on the understanding and application of scientific psychological principles and research. The Psy.D. degree program is designed to be completed in five years or approximately 20 quarters of full-time enrollment.

Program learning outcomes

Upon completion of the Psy.D. Program, the graduate will:

1. Show an advanced understanding of the science of psychology.
2. Function as a highly competent clinician for whom research and practice constantly inform each other.
3. Demonstrate skills for conducting and understanding research.
4. Integrate whole-person care into clinical work.
5. Consistently engage in activities that promote lifelong learning.

The Psy.D. degree program makes a systematic attempt to promote an understanding of human behavior in relation to psychological, physical, spiritual, and social/cultural dimensions. For this purpose, the program provides a positive environment for the study of psychological, biological, cultural, social, and spiritual issues relevant to psychological research and practice.

Curriculum

The Psy.D. clinical degree program requires completion of coursework in the following areas: psychological science foundations, quantitative/research foundations, wholeness, general and elective courses, psychological assessment and treatment, clinical practice, and research. Specific course requirements are predicated on the practitioner-scholar training model. Curriculum requirements associated with the Psy.D. degree program are indicated below.

All students must complete the same set of core courses. In addition to these core courses, students must also select and complete coursework in one of four specialization areas according to their interests and career goals: generalist, clinical child, health psychology, or neuropsychology. Students will also complete a specified number of elective units, depending on their area of specialization.

Accreditation

The Doctor of Psychology degree in clinical psychology is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association. Questions related to the program's accreditation status should be directed to the Commission on Accreditation:

Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation
American Psychological Association
750 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002
telephone: 202/336-5979; email: apaaccred@apa.org; website <https://www.accreditation.apa.org/>.

Admissions

In addition to Loma Linda University (<http://llucatalog.llu.edu/about-university/admission-policies-information/#admissionrequirementstext>) and School of Behavioral Health (<http://llucatalog.llu.edu/behavioral->

[health/#generalregulationstext](#)) and the Faculty of Graduate Studies admissions requirements, the following minimum criteria are preferable to be considered for a pre-admission interview:

- A bachelor's degree in psychology or a related discipline.
- An undergraduate G.P.A. of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale or a master's degree G.P.A. of 3.3 or higher from an accredited college or university.
- *Verbal and quantitative scores, Graduate Record Examination (GRE) general test:* The sum of the GRE verbal and quantitative percentile rankings must equal or exceed 100, and neither percentile ranks can be below the 35th percentile. Only the most current GRE scores are admissible (exam must have been taken within the last five years and the most recent dated exam will be considered). The GRE psychology subject examination is not required. Due to issues associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the GRE General Test is waived for all 2021-2022 applicants to doctoral programs in the School of Behavioral Health. Please do not submit GRE scores through ETS or report your scores in any application materials as they will not be taken into consideration.
- *Writing assessment, GRE general test:* The GRE analytical writing section score must equal 4.0 or higher.
- Structured pre-admission interview by invitation: The psychology department requires a structured pre-admissions interview.
- *Recommendation letters:* Three letters of recommendation from professionals unrelated to the applicant and qualified to assess the applicant's potential for graduate education. A minimum of two letters are preferred from current or previous professors.

Any exceptions to the established G.P.A. and GRE minimum criteria, or any other admissions criteria, are made at faculty discretion and grounded on the faculty's overall assessment of the applicant and their credentials. Credentials include a demonstrated record of scholarship and/or specialized research training, strength of the applicant's prior academic training/institution, strength of applicant's letters of recommendation, and previous clinical experience.

Degree requirements

Core Curriculum I: Psychological science foundations

PSYC 544	Affective Aspects of Behavior ¹	4
PSYC 545	Cognitive Foundations ¹	4
PSYC 551	Psychobiological Foundations ¹	4
PSYC 564	Foundations of Social and Cultural Psychology ¹	4
PSYC 575	Foundations of Human Development ¹	4
PSYC 591	Colloquia (One unit each year for three years; one unit for M.A.) ¹	3

Core Curriculum II: Quantitative/research foundations

PSYC 501	Advanced Statistics I ¹	4
PSYC 502	Advanced Statistics II ¹	4
PSYC 505	Research Methods in Psychological Science ¹	4
PSYC 508	Psychometric Foundations ¹	2

Core Curriculum III: Wholeness

PSYC 526	Ethics and Legal Issues in Clinical Psychology ¹	3
PSYC 554	Health Psychology ¹	4
PSYC 567	Human Diversity ¹	3
RELE 5__	Graduate-level ethics	3
RELR 540	Wholeness and Health ^{1,3}	3
RELT 530	Spirituality and Clinical Psychology	3

Clinical psychology: General		
PSYC 571	Adult Psychopathology ¹	4
PSYC 681	Clinical Supervision and Consultation	2
PSYC 681L	Clinical Supervision and Consultation Laboratory	1
Psychological assessment		
PSYC 512	Cognitive/Intellectual Assessment	2
PSYC 512L	Cognitive/Intellectual Practice Laboratory	1
Psychological treatment		
PSYC 580	Evidence-Based Psychological Practice: Foundational Clinical Skills and Common Factors	3
PSYC 581	Evidence-Based Psychological Practice: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy	2
PSYC 581L	Evidence-Based Psychological Practice Lab: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (Laboratory)	1
Area of specialization		
Complete one area of specialization listed in the tables below.		18-20
Elective		
Students must complete the following number of elective units depending on area of specialization selected: ²		16-18
ANAT 516	Neuroscience GS ⁵	
NSBB 500	Foundations in Neuroscience ⁵	
NSBB 510	Cortical Circuits ⁵	
PSYC 566	Cultural Psychology	
PSYC 604A	Advanced Topics in Multivariate Analyses I	
PSYC 604B	Advanced Topics in Multivariate Analyses II	
PSYC 676	Geropsychology ³	
PSYC 681L	Clinical Supervision and Consultation Laboratory	
PSYC 683	Management and Professional Practice	
PSYC 684	Human Sexual Behavior and Treatment ³	
PSYC 685	Drug Addiction and Therapy ³	
PSYC 686	Child, Partner, and Elder Abuse ³	
PSYC 694	Seminar in Advanced Topics in Psychology	
PSYC 795	Directed Clinical Experience ⁴	
Research		
PSYC 696	Psy.D. Doctoral Research (1-8)	16
Total Units		124
Clinical practice ⁴		
PSYC 781	Internal Practicum (2)	8
PSYC 782	External Practicum (4)	16
PSYC 798	Pre-Internship (4)	16
Internship (any combination of PSYC 799A and PSYC 799B is acceptable)		40
PSYC 799A	Internship (5)	
PSYC 799B	Internship (10)	
Total Units		80

¹ Required for M.A. degree² Required total combined units for area of specialization and electives is 36. Students may meet their elective-unit requirement through any of the following: 1) any elective course offered by the Department of Psychology that is not being used to meet another requirement, 2) any graduate-level course offered in any other department in the School of Behavioral Health, or 3) any graduate-level course offered in any other

school other than the School of Behavioral Health with department approval.

³ Fulfills service learning requirement⁴ 700-numbered courses are in addition to didactic units required for the degree⁵ Strongly recommended for neuropsychology specialization students.

Areas of specialization

Generalist

Required courses		
PSYC 555	Psychopharmacology	2
PSYC 582	Evidence-Based Psychological Practice: Psychodynamic, Interpersonal, and Group Psychotherapy	3
PSYC 583	Evidence-Based Psychological Practice: Emotion-Focused/Process-Experiential Therapies	2
PSYC 583L	Evidence-Based Psychological Practice III	1
PSYC 584	Evidence-Based Psychological Practice: Child and Adolescent Therapy	3
Choose two (lecture/lab combination is considered one): ¹		6
PSYC 513	Objective Personality Assessment	
PSYC 513L	Objective Personality Practice Laboratory	
PSYC 514	Pediatric Assessment	
PSYC 516	Neuropsychological Assessment	
PSYC 516L	Neuropsychological Assessment Practice Laboratory	

Total Units **17**

Clinical child

Required courses		
PSYC 514	Pediatric Assessment	3
PSYC 584	Evidence-Based Psychological Practice: Child and Adolescent Therapy	3
PSYC 592	Child Colloquium ³	3
Choose from the following:		6
PSYC 515	Autism Diagnostic Assessment	
PSYC 574	Pediatric Health Psychology	
PSYC 586	Behavioral Parent Training	
PSYC 687	Mindfulness Interventions and Stress Management	
PSYC 688	Modular Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Children and Adolescents	
PSYC 689	Dialectical Behavior Therapy Skills Training	
Choose based on your primary research lab:		3
PSYC 517	Applied Imaging Intervention Research	
PSYC 585	Family-Based Intervention Research	
PSYC 675	Intersection of Pediatric Psychology and Developmental Disabilities	
PSYC 679	Community Engaged Research	
PSYC 690	Pediatric Health Behavior Research	

Total Units **18**

Health psychology

Required courses		
PSYC 537	Applied Behavioral Medicine	3

PSYC 546	Primary Care Psychology	3
PSYC 555	Psychopharmacology	2
PSYC 568	Health Disparities and Inequalities	3
PSYC 685	Drug Addiction and Therapy	3
Choose from the following:		4
PSYC 506	Cultural Research Methods in Health Psychology	
PSYC 574	Pediatric Health Psychology	
PSYC 582	Evidence-Based Psychological Practice: Psychodynamic, Interpersonal, and Group Psychotherapy	
PSYC 582L	Evidence-Based Psychological Practice II	
PSYC 584	Evidence-Based Psychological Practice: Child and Adolescent Therapy	
PSYC 676	Geropsychology	
PSYC 684	Human Sexual Behavior and Treatment	
PSYC 686	Child, Partner, and Elder Abuse	
PSYC 687	Mindfulness Interventions and Stress Management	

Total Units **18**

Neuropsychology

Required courses

PSYC 516	Neuropsychological Assessment	2
PSYC 516L	Neuropsychological Assessment Practice Laboratory	1
PSYC 555	Psychopharmacology	2
PSYC 654	Behavioral Neurology	2
PSYC 655	Functional Neuroanatomy	2
PSYC 656	Neurocognitive Disorders in the Aging Population	2
Choose 3 units: ¹		3
PSYC 513	Objective Personality Assessment	
PSYC 513L	Objective Personality Practice Laboratory	
PSYC 514	Pediatric Assessment	
Choose one course (lecture and lab): ¹		3
PSYC 582	Evidence-Based Psychological Practice: Psychodynamic, Interpersonal, and Group Psychotherapy	
PSYC 582L	Evidence-Based Psychological Practice II	
PSYC 583	Evidence-Based Psychological Practice: Emotion-Focused/Process-Experiential Therapies	
PSYC 583L	Evidence-Based Psychological Practice III	
PSYC 584	Evidence-Based Psychological Practice: Child and Adolescent Therapy	

Total Units **17**

¹ If an additional course is taken, it will be applied to electives.

² Units above 3 will reduce elective units.

³ Requires repeated registrations.

Minimum required grade point average

Students must maintain a minimum grade point average of B (3.0) in all courses taken for the degree. Furthermore, two failed grades (B- or below, or U) is grounds for dismissal from the program.

Comprehensive examination

Students in the Psy.D. program must successfully pass the comprehensive examination. The comprehensive examination is taken after completing the core curriculum. Though the specific format of the comprehensive examination is subject to change, the department currently utilizes the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) as part of the comprehensive examination. This examination covers the following domains:

- biological bases of behavior
- cognitive–affective bases of behavior
- social and multicultural bases of behavior
- growth and life span development
- assessment and diagnosis
- treatment/intervention
- research methods
- ethical/legal/professional issues

Doctoral research

Students in the Psy.D. programs are expected to complete specified research requirements, among which is the doctoral project, the requirements of which are delineated by the Department in accordance with standards established by the School of Behavioral Health. For the doctoral project, a formal proposal must be submitted to and approved by a faculty supervisory committee. Furthermore, upon completion of the project, a public defense before the supervisory committee is required.

Advancement to candidacy

Students may apply for doctoral candidacy upon successful completion of:

- the core curriculum and the required number of units
- required practicum experiences
- the comprehensive examination
- the doctoral project proposal

Normal time to complete the program

Five (5) years – full-time enrollment required