**Psychology — Psy.D.**

**Director of clinical training**
Adam L. Aréchiga

The APA-accredited Psy.D. degree 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).

The specific objectives of the Psy.D. degree program are to provide students:

- a solid academic foundation (with a minimum accepted grade of B or Satisfactory [S]),
- the highest level of clinical skills, and
- the ability to apply research relevant to clinical issues and cases.

Among the outcomes measures used to determine the Psy.D. degree program's success in achieving the above-mentioned objectives are the following:

1. Psychological science foundation and clinical course performance, as well as successful completion of the comprehensive examination.
2. Clinical skills development as evidenced by performance in general clinical, assessment, and treatment courses; ongoing clinical evaluations from practicum placements and internship; and successful completion of the comprehensive examination.
3. Application of research design and methods appropriate to the doctoral project; involvement in community-based program development, evaluation, and consultation; membership in professional organizations; and passing the national licensing examination.

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 clinical Psy.D. degree program requires completion of course work in the following areas: psychological science foundations, quantitative/research foundations, wholeness, general and elective courses, psychological assessment and treatment, clinical practice, and research.

The specific course requirements are predicated on the training model (i.e., practitioner-scholar). The specific curriculum requirements associated with the Psy.D. degree program are indicated below.

With regard to elective courses, all students are required to complete a specified number of elective units for the completion of their degree. The department offers elective course work in specialty areas such as clinical health psychology, neuroscience and neuropsychology, clinical child psychology, and social/cultural health psychology, among other areas.

Students have the option (but are not required) to utilize 12 units of their total elective unit requirement to fulfill a professional concentration. In order to complete a professional concentration, students must submit a formal proposal to the Department Academic Affairs Committee indicating the 12 elective units they propose to use toward the completion of their professional concentration, as well as the proposed title of the professional concentration. The Department Academic Affairs Committee will consider each proposal individually in making a recommendation to support/not support the proposed concentration.

**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 1st Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002
telephone: 202/336-5979; e-mail: apaaccred@apa.org; Web site: http://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation

**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 a regionally accredited graduate program
- 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 5 years and the most recent dated exam will be considered). The GRE psychology subject examination is not required.
- 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 faculty’s overall assessment of the applicant and his/her credentials (e.g., 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: Foundations of psychological science**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 524</td>
<td>History, Systems, and Philosophy of Psychology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 545</td>
<td>Cognitive Foundations</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Electives include, but are not limited to:

- PSYC 566  Cultural Psychology
- PSYC 604  Advanced Topics in Multivariate Analyses
- PSYC 676  Geropsychology
- PSYC 684  Human Sexual Behavior and Treatment
- PSYC 685  Drug Addiction and Therapy
- PSYC 686  Child, Partner, and Elder Abuse

Core Curriculum II: Quantitative psychology research methodology

- PSYC 501  Advanced Statistics I
- PSYC 502  Advanced Statistics II
- PSYC 505  Research Methods in Psychological Science
- PSYC 511  Psychometric Foundations

Core Curriculum III: Wholeness

- PSYC 526  Ethics and Legal Issues in Clinical Psychology
- PSYC 554  Health Psychology
- PSYC 567  Human Diversity

Choose one course from each prefix

- RELE 5__  Graduate-level ethics
- RELR 535  Spirituality and Mental Health (or another RELR graduate-level relational elective)
- RELT 5__  Graduate-level theological

Clinical psychology: General

- PSYC 555  Psychopharmacology
- PSYC 571  Adult Psychopathology
- PSYC 681  Clinical Supervision and Consultation
- PSYC 681L  Clinical Supervision and Consultation Laboratory
- PSYC 683  Management and Professional Practice

Psychological assessment

- PSYC 512  Cognitive/Intellectual Assessment
- PSYC 512L  Cognitive/Intellectual Practice Laboratory
- PSYC 513  Objective Personality Assessment
- PSYC 513L  Objective Personality Practice Laboratory
- PSYC 516  Neuropsychological Assessment
- PSYC 516L  Neuropsychological Assessment Practice Laboratory

Psychological treatment

- PSYC 581  Evidence-Based Psychological Practice I
- PSYC 581L  Evidence-Based Psychological Practice I (Laboratory)
- PSYC 582  Evidence-Based Psychological Practice II
- PSYC 582L  Evidence-Based Psychological Practice II (Laboratory)
- PSYC 583  Evidence-Based Psychological Practice III
- PSYC 583L  Evidence-Based Psychological Practice III (Laboratory)
- PSYC 584  Evidence-Based Psychological Practice IV
- PSYC 584L  Evidence-Based Psychological Practice IV (Laboratory)

Electives

Electives include, but are not limited to:

- PSYC 566  Cultural Psychology
- PSYC 604  Advanced Topics in Multivariate Analyses
- PSYC 676  Geropsychology
- PSYC 684  Human Sexual Behavior and Treatment
- PSYC 685  Drug Addiction and Therapy
- PSYC 686  Child, Partner, and Elder Abuse

Research

- PSYC 696  Psy.D. Doctoral Research

Total Units

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 696</td>
<td>Psy.D. Doctoral Research</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Clinical practice

- PSYC 721  Practicum Preparation I
- PSYC 781  Internal Practicum
- PSYC 782  External Practicum I
- PSYC 783  External Practicum II
- PSYC 784  External Practicum III
- PSYC 785  External Practicum IV
- PSYC 798  Pre-Internship
- PSYC 799B  Internship (10 units per quarters [2000 hours])

Total Units

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 799B</td>
<td>Internship (10 units per quarters [2000 hours])</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Minimum required grade point average

Students must maintain a minimum grade point average of B (3.0) in all courses taken for the degree.

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 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 lifespan 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 (SBH). 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 (Parts I, II, III);
- required practicum experiences
- the comprehensive examination
- the doctoral project proposal

**Normal time to complete the program**
5 years — full-time enrollment required