

# PSYCHOLOGY – PSY.D.

## Director of clinical training

Kendal C. Boyd

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.

## Program learning outcomes

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 are required to complete elective units for degree completion. The department offers elective coursework in specialty areas such as primary care psychology, neuroscience and neuropsychology, clinical child psychology, social/cultural health psychology, and psychology of religion.

Students have the option (but are not required) to utilize 12 units of their total elective unit requirement to fulfill a professional concentration. A list of pre-determined concentrations can be found on the departmental website (<https://behavioralhealth.llu.edu/academics/psychology/>). If a student wishes to create a unique concentration, they must submit a formal proposal to the Department of Psychology Academic Affairs Committee indicating the proposed 12 elective units to use toward the completion of their professional concentration, as well as the proposed title of the professional concentration. The Department of Psychology Academic Affairs Committee will consider each proposal individually in making a recommendation to support/not support the proposed concentration.

Under certain circumstances, and upon recommendation of the Department of Psychology Academic Affairs Committee, students may adjust courses or numbers of units taken during the current and subsequent academic year(s) to best fit their program requirements. Upon such recommendation, students will be permitted to move forward as members of the cohort in which they enrolled.

## 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](mailto:apaaccred@apa.org); website <<https://www.accreditation.apa.org/>>. (<http://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation/>)

## Admissions

In addition to Loma Linda University (<http://llucatalog.llu.edu/about-university/admission-policies-information/#admissionrequirements>) 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 35<sup>th</sup> 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: Foundations of psychological science

PSYC 524	History, Systems, and Philosophy of Psychology <sup>1</sup>	2
PSYC 545	Cognitive Foundations <sup>1</sup>	4
PSYC 551	Psychobiological Foundations <sup>1</sup>	4
PSYC 564	Foundations of Social and Cultural Psychology <sup>1</sup>	4
PSYC 575	Foundations of Human Development <sup>1</sup>	4

PSYC 591	Colloquia (one unit each year for three years; one unit for M.A.) <sup>1</sup>	3	PSYC 696	Psy.D. Doctoral Research (1-8)	16
<b>Core Curriculum II: Quantitative psychology research methodology</b>			<b>Total Units</b>		
PSYC 501	Advanced Statistics I <sup>1</sup>	4	<b>121</b>		
PSYC 502	Advanced Statistics II <sup>1</sup>	4	<b>Clinical practice<sup>4</sup></b>		
PSYC 505	Research Methods in Psychological Science <sup>1</sup>	4	PSYC 721	Practicum Preparation I	3
PSYC 511	Psychometric Foundations <sup>1</sup>	3	PSYC 781	Internal Practicum (2)	8
<b>Core Curriculum III: Wholeness</b>			PSYC 782	External Practicum (4)	16
PSYC 526	Ethics and Legal Issues in Clinical Psychology <sup>1</sup>	3	PSYC 798	Pre-Internship (4)	16
PSYC 554	Health Psychology <sup>1</sup>	4	Internship (any combination of PSYC 799A and PSYC 799B is acceptable)		
PSYC 567	Human Diversity	3	PSYC 799A	Internship (5)	
RELE 5__	Graduate-level ethics	3	PSYC 799B	Internship (10)	
RELR 540	Wholeness and Health <sup>1,5</sup>	3	<b>Total Units</b>		
RELT 530	Spirituality and Clinical Psychology	3	<b>83</b>		
<b>Clinical psychology: General</b>			<sup>1</sup> Required for M.A. degree; includes 4 units of electives <sup>2</sup> Students may meet their elective-unit requirement through any of the following: 1) any elective course chosen from this list, 2) any other elective course offered by the Department of Psychology that is not being used to meet another requirement, 3) any graduate-level course offered in any other department in the School of Behavioral Health, or 4) any graduate-level course offered in any other school other than the School of Behavioral Health with department approval. <sup>3</sup> California licensure <sup>4</sup> 700-numbered courses are in addition to didactic units required for the degree <sup>5</sup> Fulfills service learning requirement		
PSYC 555	Psychopharmacology	2	<b>Minimum required grade point average</b>		
PSYC 571	Adult Psychopathology <sup>1</sup>	4	Students must maintain a minimum grade point average of B (3.0) in all courses taken for the degree.		
PSYC 681	Clinical Supervision and Consultation	2	<b>Comprehensive examination</b>		
PSYC 681L	Clinical Supervision and Consultation Laboratory	1	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:		
PSYC 683	Management and Professional Practice	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• biological bases of behavior</li> <li>• cognitive–affective bases of behavior</li> <li>• social and multicultural bases of behavior</li> <li>• growth and life span development</li> <li>• assessment and diagnosis</li> <li>• treatment/intervention</li> <li>• research methods</li> <li>• ethical/legal/professional issues</li> </ul>		
<b>Psychological assessment</b>			<b>Doctoral research</b>		
PSYC 512	Cognitive/Intellectual Assessment	2	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.		
PSYC 512L	Cognitive/Intellectual Practice Laboratory	1			
PSYC 513	Objective Personality Assessment	2			
PSYC 513L	Objective Personality Practice Laboratory	1			
PSYC 516	Neuropsychological Assessment	2			
PSYC 516L	Neuropsychological Assessment Practice Laboratory	1			
<b>Psychological treatment</b>					
PSYC 581	Evidence-Based Psychological Practice I	2			
PSYC 581L	Evidence-Based Psychological Practice I (Laboratory)	1			
PSYC 582	Evidence-Based Psychological Practice II	2			
PSYC 582L	Evidence-Based Psychological Practice II (Laboratory)	1			
PSYC 583	Evidence-Based Psychological Practice III	2			
PSYC 583L	Evidence-Based Psychological Practice III (Laboratory)	1			
PSYC 584	Evidence-Based Psychological Practice IV	2			
PSYC 584L	Evidence-Based Psychological Practice IV (Laboratory)	1			
<b>Electives</b>					
<b>19</b>					
Electives include, but are not limited to: <sup>2</sup>					
PSYC 566	Cultural Psychology				
PSYC 604A	Advanced Topics in Multivariate Analyses I				
PSYC 604B	Advanced Topics in Multivariate Analyses II				
PSYC 676	Geropsychology <sup>3</sup>				
PSYC 684	Human Sexual Behavior and Treatment <sup>3</sup>				
PSYC 685	Drug Addiction and Therapy <sup>3</sup>				
PSYC 686	Child, Partner, and Elder Abuse <sup>3</sup>				
PSYC 694	Seminar in Advanced Topics in Psychology				
<b>Research</b>					

### **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**

Five (5) years – full-time enrollment required