

Clinical Psychology



WHAT IS CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY?

Clinical psychology is the psychological specialty that provides continuing and comprehensive mental and behavioral health care for individuals and families; consultation to agencies and communities; training, education and supervision; and research-based practice.

It is ... marked by comprehensiveness and integration of knowledge and skill from a broad array of disciplines within and outside of psychology proper. The scope of clinical psychology encompasses all ages, multiple diversities and varied systems.

PHD VS. PSYD

- The two most common doctoral degrees in Psychology are the PhD (Doctor of Philosophy) and the PsyD (Doctor of Psychology). Programs in colleges of education may offer the EdD (Doctor of Education) degree.
- The PhD is generally regarded as a research degree. Although many professional psychology programs award the PhD degree — especially those in university academic departments — these programs typically have a greater emphasis on producing new knowledge and engaging in research.
- The PsyD is a professional degree in psychology (similar to the MD in medicine or a JD in law). Programs conferring the PsyD degree focus heavily on the application of psychological science to provide a service to individuals or groups.

A CAREER IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY: WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Psychologists who provide clinical or counseling services are trained in a range of techniques and theoretical approaches, making hospitals, schools, counseling centers, group or private health care practices and hospital systems all good places to launch a career.
- Some psychologists working in clinical practice choose to specialize in treating those with chronic illnesses such as obesity or diabetes; others specialize in treating people with specific psychological disorders, such as anxiety, schizophrenia or depression. Others work with school children who have learning disabilities or in college counseling centers to promote wellness and academic success.
- If you are passionate about working with specific populations like children, the economically disadvantaged, or seniors, you might consider looking at community-based organizations that work with these groups.

SAMPLE SCHOOL FOR CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- University of Washington
- University of Wisconsin at Madison
- Yale University
- Duke University
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- University of Pennsylvania

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

SAMPLE PROGRAM TIMELINE (COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA - CHAPEL HILL)

Year	Fall	Spring
Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Therapy or Child/Family Therapy • Statistics • Adult or Developmental Psychopathology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Methods • Ethics & Practice • Statistics
Year 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Assessment • Master's Research • 2nd Year Practicum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breadth Course* • 2nd Year Practicum • Master's Research • College Teaching, if TF next year
Year 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiculturalism • Psychology of Emotions • Advanced Practicum • Dissertation Research • Assessment Practicum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult or Child/Family Assessment • Breadth Course* • Dissertation Research • Advanced Practicum • Assessment Practicum
Year 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced Practicum • Dissertation Research • Supervision of Supervision • Assessment Practicum (<i>for child/fam track</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision/Consultation • Breadth Course*
Year 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced Practicum • Dissertation Research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced Practicum • Dissertation Research

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- At Princeton, Ronald Comer, PhD, Director of Clinical Psychological Studies, advises students with an interest in clinical careers: comer@princeton.edu
- American Psychological Association Applying to Graduate School Guide: APA.org/Education/Grad/Applying.aspx
- Occupational Outlook Handbook - Psychology: BLS.gov/OOH/Life-Physical-and-Social-Science/Psychologists.htm