

Millersville University M.S. Degree Program in Clinical Psychology

(updated 10.18.2023)

The 60-credit Clinical program meets the educational requirements for the PA Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) credential. If you wish to pursue doctoral study after graduation without the LPC credential, there is a 48+-credit option. Please contact your advisor to schedule a meeting during your first semester in the program to discuss which option is best suited for your career goals. It would also be helpful if you consult the program Course Plan later in the document to start planning your program of study before this meeting and to refer back to it as you go through the program.

Below is an explanation of the program and PA LPC requirements. Please note that this material is subject to change as deemed necessary by the psychology faculty. Please keep an eye on your email for periodic announcements and updates. Note that some messages may go to your junk folder.

Clinical Core

You will take these three courses during your first year. It is advised that you *not* take all three core courses in the same semester.

PSYC 530: *Child Development in the Family System*

PSYC 612: *Research Design and Statistical Analysis*

PSYC 635: *Psychopathology* (fall only—must be taken by all 1st year Clinical students)

Core Competency Exams (CCEs): CCEs are 2-hour exams in each core course. You will register and sit for CCEs at the end of the semester of each core course. You may repeat a failed CCE exam in each area once. *You may not enroll in more than 27 credits before passing all CCEs.*

Advancement to Degree Candidacy

This means that your academic progress is satisfactory, and you may proceed into *advanced* courses. Criteria for candidacy are: (a) minimum 3.0 GPA, (b) passed CCEs in all three core areas, and (c) having received a satisfactory evaluation (both academic and dispositional) from the Psychology Graduate Committee.

Professional Disposition and Evaluation

Clinical development is like an apprenticeship. It goes well beyond book learning and extends to changes in the ways in which clinicians view themselves and others and interact in the world. In addition to evaluating your course assessments and academic performance, faculty have the responsibility to monitor your overall professional development and disposition, including your ability

to make ethically sound judgments, your clinical skills, and your orientation towards receiving feedback and learning. For example, it is an important professional disposition to be open to feedback and receive it in a non-defensive manner.

Maintaining Grades

If your GPA falls below 3.0, Graduate Studies will automatically place you on *academic probation* for one semester during which time you must raise your grades. Failure to do so can result in program dismissal. An “F” grade results in automatic program dismissal by Graduate Studies.

Therapy and Assessment Skills Courses

PSYC 631: *Psychotherapy and Intervention Skills*

May be taken before CCEs are passed. This course is a prerequisite for advanced therapy courses (below).

Advanced Therapy Courses

You will complete at least 2 advanced therapy courses. At least one must be successfully completed *before* the spring internship (below). *Note:* These courses require both PSYC 631 and passed CCEs as prereqs.

PSYC 634: *Child Psychopathology and Intervention* (*Note:* Space may be limited for Clinical students because this course is required for School Psych students; may not be taken if you have completed PSYC 527: *Childhood Disorders*)

PSYC 636: *Cognitive Therapy* (recommended that you take this course before 638 and 639)

PSYC 638: *Cognitive-Behavior Therapies*

PSYC 639: *Existential/Humanistic Therapies*

Assessment

Prior to or the same semester as internship, all students need to take PSYC 670: *Clinical Interviewing and Appraisal Skills*, which requires passed CCEs.

Conceptualization Courses

PSYC 633: *Systems of Psychotherapy*

PSYC 637: *Theories of Family Dynamics*

Internship (6 credits)

All students need to complete PSYC 682: *Internship*, which begins during Spring semester of the 3rd year. LPC regulations require a minimum of 600 hours in a field experience. In most cases, students enroll in 3 credits of Internship during Spring and the other 3 credits during Summer I and II. Students should take only 1 other course during the semesters they complete Internship. Internship requires at least one advanced therapy course as a prerequisite and PSYC 670 as a pre-/co-requisite.

Ethics

All students need to take PSYC 537: *Ethics and Professional Practice* —May be taken before CCEs are passed.

Licensure-Required Courses

If you are completing the 60-credit option, you will need to complete the courses below to meet the LPC educational requirements. If you are completing the 48+-credit option, the courses below may serve as electives. *Note:* These courses may be taken before CCEs are passed. Please work with your advisor to determine the best course sequence.

PSYC 625: *Human Growth and Development*

SCCN 630: *Multicultural Counseling*

SCCN 645: *Career Development*

PSYC 630: *Group Work: Theories and Interventions*

Electives

Please work with your advisor to determine (a) the number of electives you need to complete and (b) the best course sequence to match your training needs in conjunction with your professional goals/interests. *Note:* Some courses are only offered in the summer and winter as specified in the list below.

Note: These courses may be taken before CCEs are passed.

PSYC 511: *Substance-Related Disorders* (summer)

PSYC 517: *Tests and Measurements*

PSYC 526: *Advanced Adolescent Psychology* (summer, winter)

PSYC 527: *Childhood Disorders* (summer; may not be taken if you have completed PSYC 634: Child Psychopathology)

PSYC 536: *Applications of Biopsychology* (may not be taken if you have completed PSYC 586 50A: Neuropsychology)

PSYC 540: *Applied Behavior Analysis*

PSYC 547: *Applied Social Psychology* (summer)

PSYC/SCCN 586: *Topics courses* (content varies)

SCCN 586 04: *Trauma Institute, Mental Health* (summer)

PSYC 586 50A: *Neuropsychology* (winter; may not be taken if you have completed PSYC 536: Biopsychology)

PSYC 626: *Trauma Treatment: Theory, Research and Methods*

PSYC 632: *Group Counseling and Psychotherapy*

PSYC 671: *Cognitive, Achievement, and Adaptive Functioning Assessment*

PSYC 696: *Research Methods in Psychology* (thesis course 1, recommended to take in the spring)

PSYC 699: *Thesis* (thesis course 2, 696 is the pre-req., recommended to take in the fall)

Advanced therapy courses beyond the required two (see above) also may count as electives.

Important Tasks for Clinical Students

Read the Psychology section in the MU *Graduate Catalog* (online). The catalog includes all Clinical program policies and course descriptions during your matriculation. You may need to access these *official* course descriptions when applying for licensure. *Note:* The Graduate Catalog may contain out-of-date information. Please consult this document for course decisions.

Save *all* course syllabi. Licensing transcript reviewers may request these to ensure that educational requirements were met by a particular course. Also, doctoral programs may allow you to transfer some courses from your master's degree provided that the learning objectives are congruent. Do not expect your professors to keep "old" course syllabi indefinitely.

Request an *official* copy of your transcript after graduation. Licensing boards and doctoral programs will require official transcripts with a university seal on it (i.e., not scans/copies). Check for the accuracy of the spelling of your name and the actual date of M.S. degree conferral.

Review the current PA LPC requirements and regulations, which are available here:

<http://www.pacodeandbulletin.gov/Display/pacode?file=/secure/pacode/data/049/chapter49/chap49toc.html>

and here:

<https://www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardsCommissions/SocialWorkersMarriageandFamilyTherapistsandProfessionalCounselors/Documents/Applications%20and%20Forms/Non-Application%20Documents/SWM%20-%20FAQs%20LPC.pdf>

Evaluation of Students **(from the MU Graduate Catalog)**

The Department of Psychology has the responsibility of evaluating its students to ensure that they will have the skills and competencies necessary for professional positions. To assure a sufficient level of competency, several methods of evaluation are employed.

Grades

In most courses, grades are determined by the student's ability to demonstrate to the instructor's satisfaction that the subject has been mastered. In skills courses, grades are based on mastery of academic content and also on the instructor's evaluation of the student's demonstration of appropriate clinical and interpersonal skills and dispositions. A grade of A indicates outstanding performance, a grade of B indicates good performance, and a grade of C indicates clearly unsatisfactory performance. Plus/minus grades are given at the instructor's discretion.

Grades of C+, C and C-

If a student receives a grade of C+ or below, that student is automatically placed on departmental probation, and the student's overall performance is reviewed by the graduate faculty. A student receiving a grade of C+ or below should first have a conference with the instructor who gave the grade. The purpose of this conference is to reach an understanding of the reasons behind the grade. Additionally, the student is required to write a letter to the graduate program coordinator of their program indicating (a) the student's perception of the problem(s) that led to their poor grade, and (b) what they intend to do to correct those problems and prevent recurrence. Typically, students are expected to repeat the course in which they received their first C+ grade or below in order to remove the original grade and obtain a grade of B- or better. If the student receives a second C+ or below, the student is subject to dismissal from the psychology and counseling programs, pending review by the graduate faculty.

Grades of Incomplete

A grade of "Incomplete" will be given only to provide the student with the opportunity to complete unfinished work without attending class. In addition, if multiple class meetings are missed it may not be possible to make up work. Students will be informed in advance, if at all possible, about the pending grade of "Incomplete." A mutually acceptable, written agreement between the instructor and the student receiving the grade must be created to specify the deadline to complete the requirements, content of the requirements and default grade in the event that requirements are not met by deadline.

Grades of F

Students who receive an F in any course in the program may be dismissed from the psychology and counseling programs, pending review by the graduate committee. A grade of F will be given to any student found guilty of plagiarism or other academic dishonesty.

Core Competency Examination for Psychology (Note: This policy is currently being updated.)

Clinical Competence Review Process

Students who are judged to lack clinical skills, counseling skills, professional competence or professional dispositions are subject to dismissal from the psychology and counseling programs. All faculty teaching graduate courses are qualified and ethically bound to evaluate all the above-mentioned skills

and competencies. If there are any concerns, the program faculty may operate on a decision-making continuum, consistent with standards of practice in the profession, which could include a meeting with the student and appropriate parties to share feedback about clinical and dispositional concerns, the development of a specific remediation plan, temporary suspension from coursework, or unilateral dismissal from the graduate program after review and vote by the graduate committee.

Ethical Principles of Psychologists and School Counselors

Students whose behavior in any way indicates a breach of the standards specified by the American Psychological Association, the Pennsylvania Psychological Association, the Pennsylvania State Licensure Board, the National Association of School Psychologists, the American Counseling Association or the American School Counselor Association are subject to dismissal from their program.

Grievance Procedure

Students should be aware that there is a student grievance procedure. A grievance should be submitted in writing to the graduate committee in care of the current graduate program coordinator. The graduate committee in conjunction with the grievance committee will attempt to resolve the complaint. If this process does not resolve the complaint, the matter should be handled as specified in the *Policies Governing Graduate Courses: Academic Appeals* under the *Academic Policies* section.

Program Course Plan

Please work with your advisor to individualize your program of study in accordance with your personal interests and your professional development goals and needs. Be sure to stay in touch with your advisor each semester before registering (registration for the Spring semester is the last week of October and, for the Fall semester, the first week of April). Although your course plan should be close to this program of study, there may be individual differences based on the following: whether you have plans to obtain an LPC, the state in which you plan to get licensed, whether you have plans to attend a doctoral program, and your career interests. It is your responsibility to discuss these topics with your advisor and be familiar with requirements for licensure and (if applicable) doctoral program admission. The following course plan is based on the full-time, 60-credit track of the program, which is based on the current PA LPC requirements. The 48-credit track, which is designed to prepare students for doctoral programs, would not make someone eligible for LPC licensure.

Approvals required: Students interested in taking Winter courses, Topics courses other than the Trauma Institute and Neuropsychology, and courses taken in a department other than Psychology require explicit advisor approval.

Number of courses per semester: Students are advised to take two courses their first semester to help with acclimating to the program and graduate-level studies. Thereafter, full-time students are advised to take 3 courses per Fall/Spring semester. Please consider your work schedule when registering for classes. It is not feasible for students who work full-time to also take a full course load. Students may take up to 3 courses during the summer, with no more than 2 courses in a single session (Summer I, II, III). Students may only take one course at the same time as their full-time internship. Students may also only take one advanced therapy course at a time.

When reviewing this course plan, please be familiar with the following:

- All Advanced Therapy courses require that the student has passed all CCEs and PSYC 631 Psychotherapy and Intervention as a pre-req. PSYC 670 requires passed CCEs. Internship requires two Advanced Therapy courses, either two pre-requisites or one pre-req. and one co-req., and PSYC 670 as a pre-req or co-req. Students may register for courses while currently enrolled in a pre-req. If you do not subsequently pass all three CCEs and/or PSYC 631 before the course(s) requiring those prereqs begin(s), please unenroll. Internship requires a total of 6 sequential credits, which means 1-3 credits in the Spring and 1-3 credits in Summer I and II. The number of credits for which you should enroll in Internship each semester is determined by when your Internship starts and ends and your simultaneous courses. Please consult with your advisor and the Internship instructor to determine how many credits you should register for each semester.
- Bear in mind that course offerings in a given semester are subject to change, as is the University Course Catalog. To prevent any confusion, please use this document as your primary reference, if for some whatever reason the Course Catalog is outdated. Always consult the MU Web Schedule in conjunction with this document—and again, be sure to work with your advisor to develop an alternate plan as needed before registering. When viewing the MU Web Schedule please search by Department > Psychology to see all course offerings.
- Remember that you are not the only person who needs to register for courses. Accordingly, please do not register for additional courses beyond those discussed with your advisor. Also, if a course is already full, please put your name on the waitlist and contact your advisor to determine an alternate plan.

Program Course List

Required Courses

PSYC 530: Child Development in the Family System^{CCE}
 PSYC 612: Research Design and Statistical Analysis^{CCE}
 PSYC 635: Psychopathology^{CCE}
 PSYC 537: Ethics and Professional Practice
 PSYC 631: Psychotherapy and Intervention Skills (pre-req. for Advanced Therapy courses)
 PSYC 637: Theories of Family Dynamics
 PSYC 633: Systems of Psychotherapy
 PSYC 670: Clinical Interviewing and Appraisal Skills* (pre-req. or co-req for Internship)
 PSYC 682: Internship (6 credits)

Advanced Therapy Courses (two required**, PSYC 631 pre-req.)

PSYC 636: Cognitive Therapy* (take before 638 and 639)
 PSYC 638: Cognitive-Behavior Therapies*
 PSYC 639: Existential/Humanistic Therapies*
 PSYC 634: Child Psychopathology and Intervention* (may not be taken if completed PSYC 527: Childhood Disorders)

Required for Licensure (in PA and most other states)

PSYC 625: Human Growth and Development
 SCCN 630: Multicultural Counseling
 SCCN 645: Career Development
 PSYC 630: Group Work: Theories and Interventions

CCE = course has an accompanying core competency exam

**Passed CCEs are required for Advanced Therapies and PSYC 670.*

***After two, additional Advanced Therapies may count as electives*

Electives

PSYC 511: Substance-Related Disorders
 PSYC 517: Tests and Measurements
 PSYC 526: Advanced Adolescent Psychology
 PSYC 527: Childhood Disorders (may not be taken if you have completed PSYC 634: Child Psychopathology)
 PSYC 536: Applications of Biopsychology (may not be taken if you have completed PSYC 586 50A: Neuropsychology)
 PSYC 540: Applied Behavior Analysis
 PSYC 547: Applied Social Psychology
 PSYC/SCCN 586: Topics courses (content varies)
 SCCN 586 04: Trauma Institute, Mental Health
 PSYC 586 50A: Topics: Neuropsychology (may not be taken if you have completed PSYC 636 Biopsychology)
 PSYC 626: Trauma Treatment: Theory, Research and Methods
 PSYC 632: Group Counseling and Psychotherapy
 PSYC 671: Cognitive, Achievement, and Adaptive Functioning Assessment
 PSYC 696: Research Methods in Psychology (thesis course 1, recommended to take in the Spring)
 PSYC 699: Thesis (thesis course 2, 696 is the pre-req., recommended to take in the Fall)

YEAR 1

FALL (6 cr.)	SPRING (9 cr.)	SUMMER I (3 cr.)	SUMMER II-III (3-6 cr.)
PSYC 635: Psychopathology	PSYC 530: Child in Family System OR PSYC 612: Research	PSYC 537: Ethics	SCCN 645: Career OR SCCN 630: Multicultural
PSYC 530: Child in Family System OR PSYC 612: Research	PSYC 631: Psychotherapy & Interven. PSYC 637: Family Dynamics OR PSYC 630: Group Work OR Elective: PSYC 517: Tests & Measurements; PSYC 536: Bio		<i>Elective:</i> PSYC 511: Substance OR SCCN 586: Trauma Institute OR PSYC 547: Applied Social OR PSYC 526: Adv. Adolescent

YEAR 2

FALL (9 cr.)	SPRING (9 cr.)	SUMMER I (3-6 cr.)*	SUMMER II-III (3-6 cr.)*
SCCN 645: Career OR SCCN 630: Multicultural	PSYC 625: Human Dev. OR PSYC 637: Family Dynamics OR PSYC 630: Group Work	PSYC 625: Human Dev. AND/OR PSYC 634: Child Psychopath. AND/OR PSYC 536: Bio AND/OR PSYC 527: Childhood Disorders	PSYC 511: Substance AND/OR SCCN 586: Trauma Institute AND/OR PSYC 547: Applied Social AND/OR PSYC 526: Adv. Adolescent
PSYC 636: CT OR PSYC 630: Group Work	PSYC 638: CBT OR PSYC 639: Existential/Humanistic		
PSYC 670: Clinical Interviewing and Appraisal OR <i>Elective:</i> PSYC 671: Cognitive Assessment; OR PSYC 540: Classroom Interv. (ABA)	PSYC 670: Clinical Interviewing and Appraisal OR PSYC 537: Ethics (if not completed Summer Year 1) OR <i>Elective:</i> PSYC 517: Tests & Measurements; PSYC 536: Bio	<i>* Note: During Year 2, take one course during Summer I and two courses during Summer II/III OR take two courses during Summer I and one course during Summer II/III.</i>	

YEAR 3

FALL (6-9 cr.)	SPRING (3-6 cr.—if needed)	SUMMER I-II-III (3-6 cr.—if needed)
PSYC 633: Systems	PSYC 682: Internship (3 cr.)	PSYC 682: Internship (3 cr.)
Two of the following: PSYC 636: CT PSYC 630: Group Work PSYC 671: Cognitive Assessment PSYC 540: Classroom Interv. (ABA)	PSYC 638: CBT OR PSYC 639: Existential/Humanistic OR PSYC 517: Tests & Measurements OR PSYC 536: Bio	<i>1-2 Elective(s):</i> Select any courses from the summer list above that you have not yet completed.