

## Millersville University M.S. Degree Program in Clinical Psychology

(updated 6.22.2022)

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 **42+-credit** option.

Upon admission to the program, **please contact your advisor** to schedule a meeting to develop an initial **program of study and course sequence**. It is recommended that you complete only **2 courses during your first semester** as you acclimate to the rigor of graduate school. Then **ramp up to 3 courses thereafter**. Following your first semester, **please stay in touch with your advisor each semester** to update your program of study.

When navigating the online course schedule, make sure to search "by department" instead of "by subject."

**All material below 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* (fall, spring, sometimes online in summer)

PSYC 612: *Research Design and Statistical Analysis* (fall, spring, sometimes summer)

PSYC 635: *Psychopathology* (fall only—must be taken by all 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

**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*** (fall, spring, summer)

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 632: *Group Counseling and Psychotherapy* (fall)

PSYC 634: *Child Psychopathology and Intervention* (summer; *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* (fall)

PSYC 638: *Cognitive-Behavior Therapies* (spring)

PSYC 639: *Existential/Humanistic Therapies* (spring)

### **Assessment**

Prior to or the same semester as internship, all students need to take PSYC 670: *Clinical Interviewing and Appraisal Skills* (fall, spring)—Requires passed CCEs.

## **Internship (6 credits)**

All students need to complete PSYC 682: *Internship*, which begins during Spring semester of 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year (with 3<sup>rd</sup> year students given priority). 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. Students should take only 1 other course during the semesters they complete Internship. Requires at least one advanced therapy course as prerequisite and PSYC 670 as pre-/co-requisite.

## **Ethics**

All students need to take PSYC 537: *Ethics and Professional Practice* (summer 1, sometimes spring)—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 42+-credit option, these courses may be taken as electives (please work with your advisor). *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* (usually spring and/or summer)

SCCN 630: *Multicultural Counseling* (summer, fall)

SCCN 645: *Career Development* (summer, fall)

If you are completing the 60-credit option, you will also need to enroll in at least one **group course** to meet the LPC educational requirements. If you are interested in facilitating groups as a career, you may take both courses because they cover different content.

PSYC 630: *Group Work: Theories and Interventions* (spring)—May be taken before CCEs are passed.

PSYC 632: *Group Counseling and Psychotherapy* (fall)—Advanced therapy course requires passed CCEs.

### **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:* These courses may be taken before CCEs are passed.

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

PSYC 515: *Physiological Psychology* (fall)

PSYC 517: *Tests and Measurements* (spring)

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

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

PSYC 536: *Applications of Biopsychology* (spring; summer 1)

PSYC 540: *Applied Behavior Analysis* (formerly *Classroom Intervention*—fall)

PSYC 547: *Applied Social Psychology* (summer)

PSYC/SCCN 586: *Topics* courses (content varies—usually winter, summer)

PSYC 626: *Trauma Treatment: Theory, Research and Methods* (TBA)

PSYC 633: *Systems of Psychotherapy* (fall)

PSYC 637: *Theories of Family Dynamics* (spring)

PSYC 671: *Cognitive, Achievement, and Adaptive Functioning Assessment* (formerly *Psychological Assessment I*—fall, spring)

PSYC 696: *Research Methods in Psychology* (thesis sequence, part 1)

PSYC 699: *Thesis* (thesis sequence, part 2—PSYC 696 is pre-requisite)

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

## Notes

- 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*.
- Students completing the 42+-credit track should check the requirements for the doc program(s) to which you plan to apply and work with your advisor to adapt your plan of study to your training needs. Also, be aware that the 42+-credit M.S. degree does not meet the educational requirements for LPC licensure in PA.
- Students who plan to practice outside PA should check the licensing requirements for the state(s) in which you plan to become licensed and consult with your advisor to adapt your plan of study to your training needs.
- Students may register for courses that require passed CCEs before taking that/those exam(s). If you do not subsequently pass all three CCEs before the course(s) requiring CCEs begin(s), please unenroll.
- Students may take *up to 3 courses during the summer, with no more than 2 courses in a single session* (Summer I, II, or III).
- Winter courses, Topics courses (other than Trauma Institute), and courses taken in a department other than Psychology require advisor approval.
- Bear in mind that course offerings in a given semester are *subject to change*. 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* for courses.
- 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, contact your advisor to determine an alternate plan.

## **Important Tasks for Clinical Students**

**Read the Psychology section in the MU *Graduate Catalog*** (available 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.

**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 his/her program indicating (a) the student's perception of the problem(s) that led to his/her poor grade, and (b) what he/she intends 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. 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**

A grade of F will be given to any student found guilty of plagiarism or other academic dishonesty. 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.

### **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.