

# PSYCHOLOGY M.A. - CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

Degree: Master of Arts

<https://www.towson.edu/cla/departments/psychology/grad/psychology/clinical/>

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The clinical psychology concentration of the Master of Arts in Psychology is ideally suited to meet the needs of individuals who want to provide clinical services at the masters' level as a licensed clinical professional counselor (LCPC), want to work as master's-level psychometricians or behavioral specialists, want to work as research or clinical staff on applied research studies, or are considering pursuing doctoral training in clinical psychology.

The program curriculum provides comprehensive and hands-on training in assessment, diagnosis, state-of-the-art and evidence-based treatments, as well as research methods and statistics. Courses in psychotherapy and behavior change prepare students to do intake interviews and case conceptualizations and to provide evidence-based individual therapy. Advanced seminars in legal, ethical and professional issues in psychology, personality and intellectual assessment are offered regularly and prepare students for the required nine-month field placement.

Opportunities are available for students to work on research projects under the direct supervision of a faculty member. In addition to completing a research thesis, students may also have the opportunity, depending on the faculty member, to assist in developing research conference presentations and manuscripts for publication.

A unique feature of the clinical psychology concentration is a required half-time, nine-month internship. Students may elect to complete a clinical or research internship depending upon their personal and professional goals. Students on clinical internships provide supervised psychological services to clients in an off-campus mental health setting. Students on research internships will assist an experienced scientist in conducting clinical trials research.

Clinical psychology students are encouraged to attend full time so as to complete all program requirements within four terms. Students may, however, attend part time for some or all of their degree work.

## Admission Requirements

Courses in the following areas:

- General Psychology (3)
- Abnormal Psychology (3)
- Behavioral Statistics (3)
- Personality, social, cognitive or developmental psychology (3)

*Students must have earned a grade of "B" or better in all prerequisites except general psychology. These courses cannot be used to meet the formal elective requirements for the degree as defined below.*

- A minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.00.

*All GPA calculations for admission are based upon the last 60 units of undergraduate and post-baccalaureate study.*

- Acceptable performance on the General Test of the Graduate Record Examination.

- Two letters of recommendation

*Academic letters, preferred.*

- A personal statement, not to exceed four double-spaced pages, addressing the applicant's reasons for pursuing a master's degree in Clinical Psychology, their area of clinical and/or research interest and their professional goals.

Applicants must complete the online application (<http://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/apply>) and include the required materials.

## Admissions Interview

Applicants who meet our minimum academic requirements and are considered a good fit for the program will be invited to interview with the clinical psychology program admissions committee. The interview is a required part of the admissions process.

## Admissions Timeline

Students are admitted to the Clinical Psychology program for the fall term only. Those wishing to begin graduate work in the fall must have their completed application and all admission credentials submitted to University Admissions by January 15. Application materials will be reviewed between January 15 and February 15. Interviews will be scheduled during the last week in February and first two weeks in March. Offers of admission will be sent beginning the last week of March with an expected acceptance date of April 15. *(Please note that this timeline is tentative and subject to change).* Admission is granted on a competitive, space-available basis.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to visit the clinical psychology website at [www.towson.edu/clinicalpsych](http://www.towson.edu/clinicalpsych).

**Non-immigrant international students:** See additional admission information in Graduate Admissions (<http://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/apply/international.html>)

## Degree Requirements

Students may choose between the Researcher and Practitioner options. Students pursuing either option must complete 48 units of required and elective coursework including a research project (see below for details) and a two-term, 500-hour field placement. Students may need to take summer courses to meet the program requirements.

## Researcher vs . Practitioner Options

Students in both options must complete the 36 units of required coursework. Additional requirements for each of the options are noted below.

### Researcher Option

Students electing to pursue the **Researcher option** will work with a faculty member to complete an empirical thesis. Students must take a total of 6 units of thesis credits; students may either take PSYC 897 for 6 units in one term or PSYC 898 for 3 units over two terms. Students must also take 6 units of elective credit.

**NOTE:** Students must remain continuously enrolled in a Thesis course until all thesis requirements have been completed and must be enrolled in thesis credits during the term in which they plan to graduate. Students who have taken all 6 units of thesis credit and who have not completed the thesis requirements must take PSYC 899 (Thesis Continuum) for 1-unit during each subsequent term until the thesis requirements are complete.

### Practitioner Option

Students electing to pursue the **Practitioner option** will work with the program director or other faculty member to complete a comprehensive literature review and critique (the topic will be chosen collaboratively between the student and the faculty advisor). Students must take 3 units of PSYC 691 (Independent Investigation in Psychology) and 9 units of elective credit.

### Electives

Elective course work is chosen by the student from within or outside the field of psychology. These courses are expected to complement the program of study and require prior written consent of the program director.

### Field Placement Requirement

The practicum and internship carry with them a residency requirement of two terms. The student must be available for a 16-hour per week placement in a clinical or research setting. All students must obtain the grade of "B" or better in Practicum in Clinical Psychology (PSYC 697) and Internship in Clinical Psychology (PSYC 797). Students earning a grade lower than "B" in either course may repeat the entire sequence no more than one time. Failure to earn a "B" or higher in both courses will result in dismissal from the program.

Code	Title	Units
<b>Required Courses</b>		
PSYC 720	ASSESSMENT OF INTELLIGENCE	3
PSYC 631	ADVANCED ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY	3
PSYC 632	ADVANCED CHILD PSYCHOPATHOLOGY	3
PSYC 687	ADVANCED EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN I	3
PSYC 688	ADVANCED EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN II	3
PSYC 665	PSYCHOTHERAPY AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE I	3
PSYC 666	PSYCHOTHERAPY AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE II	3
PSYC 697	PRACTICUM IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY <sup>*Students pursuing LCPC Licensure may take one additional unit of PSYC 697 during the Winter Term (see below for more details)</sup>	3
PSYC 755	COGNITIVE THERAPY I	3
PSYC 765	PERSONALITY ASSESSMENT IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY	3
PSYC 790	ETHICAL, LEGAL AND PROFESSIONAL ISSUES IN PSYCHOLOGY	3
PSYC 797	INTERNSHIP IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY	3
<b>Researcher/Practitioner Options</b>		
Select one of the following options:		12
<b>Researcher Option</b>		
PSYC 897/898 Psychology thesis (Student may choose to take either 897 in one term or 898 over two terms for a total of 6 units).		
6 units of Electives		
<b>Practitioner Option</b>		
PSYC 691	INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION IN PSYCHOLOGY	

9 units of Electives

Total Units

48

**\* NOTE: Students may choose to take an optional 1 unit of PSYC 697 (Practicum in Psychology) over the Winter term. This option is available so that the hours accrued at the field placement during the Winter term can be counted toward the total hours required for LCPC licensure (i.e., hours may only be counted toward the total hours required for licensure IF the student is enrolled in a practicum or internship course).**

1. Employ research methods appropriate to the discipline;
2. Demonstrate basic discipline-specific skills and competencies;
3. Demonstrate competency in acquiring and processing information in the search for understanding.