**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 halftime, 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 applied research studies, or are considering pursuing doctoral training in clinical psychology.

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.
- A resume or vita highlighting research and clinical experiences in psychology or related disciplines.

Applicants must complete the online application (https://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 1. Interviews will be scheduled during the third and fourth week in February and first week in March. Offers of admission will be sent from the beginning to the middle 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 (http://www.towson.edu/clinicalpsych).

**Non-immigrant International Students**

*Program Enrollment.* F-1 and J-1 students are required to be enrolled full-time. The majority of their classes must be in-person and on campus. See the list of programs that satisfy these requirements (https://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/international/programs-complying1-f1-regulations.html), and contact the International Student and Scholars Office (https://www.towson.edu/academics/international/isco) with questions.

*Admission Procedures.* See additional information regarding Graduate Admission policies (https://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/policies.html) and International Graduate Application (https://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/international) online.

**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).
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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 and internship coordinator to complete a capstone clinical presentation integrating theory, evidence based research, and clinical intervention techniques that they have learned and used with one client during their clinical internship year. These presentations will be open to students and faculty within the program and will be evaluated on a pass/fail basis by the program director and internship coordinator. Students will have one opportunity to re-do their presentation if it was not acceptable the first time. In addition, students in the practitioner option will be required to take PSYC 730, Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy. Students must also take 9 units of elective credit.

**Electives**

Elective coursework 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**
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PSYC 666 | PSYCHOTHERAPY AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE I | 3
PSYC 697 | PRACTICUM IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY | 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
PSYC 897 | PSYCHOLOGY THESIS (Student may choose to take 897 in one term or 898 over two terms for a total of 6 units.) | 6 units of Electives
*Students pursuing LCPC Licensure may take one additional unit of PSYC 697 during the Winter Term (see below for more details)*
PSYC 899 | PSYCHOLOGY THESIS | 1 unit
PSYC 730 | ADVANCED CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHOTHERAPY | 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 students 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.