PSYCHOLOGY M.A.

Degree: Master of Arts
https://www.towson.edu/cla/departments/psychology/grad/psychology/

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The Master of Arts in Psychology has four concentrations:

- Clinical Psychology (http://catalog.towson.edu/graduate/degree-certificate-programs/liberal-arts/psychology-ma/clinical-psychology)
- Counseling Psychology (http://catalog.towson.edu/graduate/degree-certificate-programs/liberal-arts/psychology-ma/counseling-psychology)
- Experimental Psychology (http://catalog.towson.edu/graduate/degree-certificate-programs/liberal-arts/psychology-ma/experimental-psychology)
- School Psychology (http://catalog.towson.edu/graduate/degree-certificate-programs/liberal-arts/school-psychology-certificate-ma).

Each concentration is described on its own page in detail with reference to objectives and requirements. All listed prerequisite courses are undergraduate courses. Please note that only one degree can be awarded; students who complete more than one concentration will not receive two different degrees. In addition, Certificates of Advanced Study (C.A.S.) are offered in Counseling Psychology and School Psychology.

The faculty in the Department of Psychology recognizes a special responsibility to the profession of psychology to ensure that all graduates of the program demonstrate attitudes and behavior consistent with the standards of the profession. The faculty of the specialization involved may recommend to the program director remedial or disciplinary action for such behavior as dishonesty, unethical conduct or other behaviors construed by the faculty as counterproductive to the field of psychology. Students have the right to appeal any action according to the procedures outlined in this catalog.

Students who complete one of the Master of Arts in Psychology concentrations are prepared to enter a variety of professions as well as pursue post-master’s and doctoral studies.

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.

Courses

PSYC 503 INFANT AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (3)
Advanced course reviewing historical and current changes in the areas of infancy and childhood. Emotional, cognitive and individual development will be covered in-depth. Emphasis is placed on critical analysis of research theory construction and methods. Prerequisite: PSYC 203; spring semester.

PSYC 504 ADOLESCENT PSYCHOLOGY (3)
Physical, emotional and intellectual development during adolescence; social development and heterosexuality; adolescent personality; problems of adjustment; juvenile delinquency. Prerequisite: PSYC 203; fall and spring semester.

PSYC 511 TESTS AND MEASUREMENTS (3)
Psychological and educational testing and evaluation. The construction, administration, interpretation and use of the various evaluative devices of aptitude and achievement. Prerequisites: PSYC 101 and PSYC 212; fall, spring and summer semester.

PSYC 512 PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY (3)
Mechanisms of drugs, their effects on behavior, and related topics. Prerequisites: 9 units of PSYC or consent of instructor; BIOL 110.

PSYC 515 MOTIVATION (3)
Interaction between physiological, neurological and pharmacological aspects of motivation with environmental influences such as culture, learning and social dynamics. Issues in human motivation and emotion that will be emphasized are aggression, sex, achievement (competence) and cognitive-social influences. Prerequisites: 6 units of psychology; PSYC 203 and junior standing recommended.

PSYC 517 SENSATION AND PERCEPTION (3)
A systematic investigation of the basic senses such as vision, audition, taste, smell and touch will be undertaken. The organization of sensory input will also be emphasized. Both human and nonhuman data will be presented. Prerequisites: 9 units of psychology or consent of instructor.

PSYC 519 DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES IN PSYCHOLOGY (3)
Diverse theories and topics explored by both traditional and modern psychology, drawn from a range of philosophical and cultural perspectives: psychodynamic and behaviorist approaches, and existential, positive, transpersonal and mind-body psychology. Prerequisites: 6 units of Psychology.

PSYC 532 CROSS CULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY (3)
Comparison of psychological behavior and theory in Western and non-Western cultures. Prerequisite: PSYC 101.

PSYC 547 SEX DIFFERENCES: PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES (3)
Sex role/personality development is examined from various perspectives: social, cultural, evolutionary and biological. Changing conceptions with regard to women, their roles and self-concepts, are emphasized within the overall context of sex difference and similarities.

PSYC 550 PERSONALITY (3)
Introduction to theoretical perspectives and research aimed at understanding personality processes and individual differences in thought, emotion, and behavior. Perspectives may include psychoanalytic, dispositional, biological, learning, and humanistic. Prerequisites: 6 units of psychology; fall and spring semester.

PSYC 551 INTRODUCTION TO THE EXCEPTIONAL CHILD (3)
Children with atypical physical, mental, social and emotional development, including the physically handicapped, the mentally retarded, the gifted, and emotionally disturbed children. Prerequisite: PSYC 201, PSYC 203 or PSYC 211.

PSYC 557 GENDER IDENTITY IN TRANSITION (3)
Psychological consequences of changing definitions of femininity, masculinity and personhood will be examined by using recent theories of gender identity formation. Concepts such as androgyny, sex-role transcendence and future shock will be related to psychological adaptation to change. Prerequisite: PSYC 315 or PSYC 447, or consent of instructor.

PSYC 560 ETHOLOGY AND COMPARATIVE PSYCHOLOGY (3)
A survey of the major behavioral adaptations in nonhuman and human species, within the framework of evolutionary theory, ethology and experimental psychology. Three lecture hours weekly. Prerequisites: 9 units of psychology or consent of instructor.
PSYC 561 COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY (3)
Examination of human cognitive processes and theories of cognition from the perspectives of information processing theory, neuroscience and connectionism. Topics include pattern perception, attention, memory, concepts, decision making, problem solving and language. Prerequisite: PSYC 314 or consent of instructor.

PSYC 565 PHYSIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY (3)
Course is concerned with an introduction to the physiological bases of behavior. The topics to be considered are basic neuroanatomy and neurophysiology, sensory and motor systems, motivational systems, and higher order behavioral systems. Three lecture hours weekly. Prerequisites: 9 units of psychology or consent of instructor.

PSYC 567 MIDLIFE DEVELOPMENT (3)
A study of adult behavior between the ages of 18 and 60. The developmental stages of young adulthood, adulthood and middle age will be discussed along with topics pertinent to each of the levels such as leaving and becoming emancipated from the family; the transition and adjustment to marriage and work; and bridging the gap between ideals and actual fulfillment. Prerequisite: PSYC 203.

PSYC 570 SPECIAL TOPICS IN PSYCHOLOGY (1-3)
Survey and critical evaluation of modern literature pertaining to selected problems in psychology. May be repeated in a different topic for a maximum of 12 units.

PSYC 571 SPECIAL TOPICS IN PSYCHOLOGY (1-3)
Survey and critical evaluation of modern literature pertaining to selected problems in psychology. May be repeated in a different topic for a maximum of 12 units.

PSYC 581 READINGS IN PSYCHOLOGY (1-2)
A survey of relevant research literature under the guidance of a staff member who will direct the student's research. May be repeated for a maximum of 4 units. Graded S/U. Prerequisite: 9 units of psychology and consent of instructor.

PSYC 591 INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION IN PSYCHOLOGY (3)
An opportunity for especially qualified students to undertake independent research problems according to their interest and training under the direction of a staff member. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 units, but only 6 units can apply to the major; the other 6 units will be used as general electives. Graded S/U. Prerequisite: PSYC 314 or PSYC 313, PSYC 391, and consent of instructor.

PSYC 594 TRAVEL AND STUDY ABROAD IN PSYCHOLOGY (1-3)
Study of selected topics, issues, programs, projects and/or facilities related to the field of psychology. Locations and topics to be selected by department and instructor sponsoring the program. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

PSYC 605 COUNSELING TECHNIQUES (3)
Training the student in practical counseling skills through demonstration and role playing with feedback in behavioral performance.

PSYC 606 CAREER DEVELOPMENT (3)
Designed to familiarize students with aspects of career development, to introduce them to a variety of relevant resources and media, and to assist them in integrating this knowledge by planning a program of career development for a specific group.

PSYC 607 APPLIED THEORIES OF COUNSELING (3)
Counseling theorists whose applied methodology has been successful in the treatment of various client populations. Techniques and application of methodologies in field settings.

PSYC 609 ADVANCED COUNSELING TECHNIQUES (3)
Advanced therapeutic interventions with various client populations. Prerequisite: PSYC 605 and PSYC 607.

PSYC 610 ADVANCED PSYCHOLOGY OF AGING (3)
Advanced study of the changes in learning, emotions, personality and social behavior and the impact of culture and attitudes on aging. Prerequisites: 6 units of psychology including PSYC 203. Students should be aware of how to read and understand psychology journals and how psychological research is conducted. Fall semester, evening, in alternate years.

PSYC 611 DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY (3)
Psychological structures and functions in human development across the life span. Both theoretical and research approaches are presented.

PSYC 613 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING (3)
Types of community health services and the relationships between those services; the responsibility of counseling in a mental health center; and the area of mental health consultant. Emphasis will be given to the application of counseling skills in a mental health setting.

PSYC 615 INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS IN COUNSELING (3)
Principal methods of behavioral research emphasizing concepts rather than statistical procedures. Preparation of counselors to evaluate methods, designs, and results of counseling research.

PSYC 622 ADVANCED MULTICULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY (3)
Promotion of cultural awareness and understanding of relevant theories, terminology and techniques for communicating and working with individuals of diverse backgrounds. Prerequisites: Advanced standing in counseling, clinical or school psychology and permission of instructor.

PSYC 623 PSYCHOLOGICAL ISSUES IN THE WORKPLACE (3)
Psychological effects and consequences of workplace stressors on employees and their families; job lost and insecurity, workplace stress, work-life balance and employee well-being, quality of work life and diversity management, adapting to organization change and career transition, and workplace ethical issues. Integration of course concepts from the disciplines of organizational psychology, human resource management and development, counseling, clinical and occupational health psychology. Prerequisites: None.

PSYC 625 FUNCTIONAL BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENT (3)
Application of behavioral assessment and analysis techniques in school settings. Prerequisites: 21 units in psychology, matriculation in graduate program in Psychology, consent of program director.

PSYC 631 ADVANCED ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY (3)
Current and historical perspectives of psychopathology. Emphasis on various diagnostic approaches. Prerequisite: PSYC 361.

PSYC 632 ADVANCED CHILD PSYCHOPATHOLOGY (3)
Etiology and presentation of various behavioral and psychological disorders which begin in or are unique to childhood and adolescence. Overview of pertinent developmental information and various perspectives of psychology and how they relate to the etiology and treatment of these disorders. Prerequisite: PSYC 631.

PSYC 637 COUNSELING STRATEGIES FOR DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE (3)
Understanding the basic issues of substance abuse, referrals, clinical assessments and developing counseling strategies for successful intervention.

PSYC 647 INDIVIDUAL APPRAISAL (3)
Practice in the use and analysis of techniques for understanding the individual with emphasis upon standardized procedures.
PSYC 651 INTERVENTIONS IN SCHOOL SETTINGS (3)
Group and individual intervention strategies appropriate for school settings. Prerequisite: PSYC 625.

PSYC 665 PSYCHOTHERAPY AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE I (3)
First of two-term sequence. Development of skill in theory-based and diagnostic case conceptualization and intake interviewing. Readings, lectures, and practical experiences related to intake interviewing. Dynamic, behavioral, cognitive, and humanistic theoretical models as they relate to case conceptualization. Prerequisites: Graduate standing in School or Clinical Psychology tracks and consent of program director.

PSYC 666 PSYCHOTHERAPY AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE II (3)
Second of two-term sequence. Development of knowledge of evidence-based practices in psychology. Readings, lectures, exercises, and practical experience to develop skill in goal setting treatment planning, and delivery of empirically supported individual therapies and treatment techniques. Prerequisites: PSYC 665 and consent of program director.

PSYC 672 PROSEMINAR (3)
Development of research proposals, including the literature review, proposed method and data analysis. Emphasis on use of appropriate format and style, both written and oral presentation of material. Prerequisite: PSYC 212 and PSYC 314.

PSYC 674 ADVANCED BIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY (4)
Major concepts, processes and methods in the field of biological psychology. Prerequisites: PSYC 212, PSYC 314 and PSYC 672.

PSYC 675 RESEARCH SEMINAR IN EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY (1)
Preparation and presentation of first-year empirical research projects to peers and faculty. Prerequisites: PSYC 672, PSYC 687, and enrollment in the Experimental Psychology Program. Corequisite: PSYC 691.

PSYC 678 SCHOOL-WIDE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION SEMINAR (3)
Practical school-wide prevention and intervention approaches for various issues that impact PK-12 schools, emphasis on universal (Tier 1) level. Corequisite: PSYC 773. Prerequisite: School Psychology Program admission.

PSYC 679 SPECIAL TOPICS SEMINAR (1-3)
Topics vary according to the instructor. May be repeated to a maximum of 12 units.

PSYC 680 ADVANCED COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY (4)
Study of human cognition, the cognitive perspective, and major methods of cognitive psychology. Topics will include perception, attention, memory, language, thinking, and cognitive neuroscience. The course includes reading of primary source articles and laboratory investigations of cognitive phenomena. Permit from program director required. Prerequisites: PSYC 212 and PSYC 314.

PSYC 682 ADVANCED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY (3)
Study of major theories, methods, and studies in social psychology. Course involves reading and discussion of primary research articles. Topics include social cognition, attitudes, and social influence. Permit from program director required. Prerequisites: PSYC 212, PSYC 314.

PSYC 685 COLLEGE TEACHING PRACTICUM (3)
Supervised teaching of introductory psychology. Prerequisite: PSYC 684.

PSYC 687 ADVANCED EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN I (3)
Treatment of descriptive and inferential statistical methods and design considerations. Prerequisite: PSYC 212 or equivalent.

PSYC 688 ADVANCED EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN II (3)
Treatment of advanced analysis of variance designs and related techniques. Prerequisite: PSYC 687 or equivalent.

PSYC 691 INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION IN PSYCHOLOGY (1-3)
An opportunity for graduate students to undertake research problems according to their interest and training under the direction of a faculty member. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 units. Prerequisites: PSYC 212 and PSYC 314; instructor permit.

PSYC 695 INDEPENDENT STUDY (3)
Individual and supervised study in selected areas of psychology. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

PSYC 697 PRACTICUM IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY (1-6)
Supervised experience in psychological interviewing, assessment and psychotherapy. Practicum in which students will meet for individualized supervision with the practicum instructor. Prerequisites: PSYC 620, M.A. candidacy in Clinical Psychology and consent of program director.

PSYC 703 PRESCHOOL ASSESSMENT (3)
Understanding the development of young children through formal and informal assessment. Prerequisites: PSYC 620, matriculation in School Psychology Track or consent of program director.

PSYC 713 ROLE OF THE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST (3)
History and foundations of school psychology, ethics and standards of practice, professional trends, organization and operation of schools. Prerequisites: Matriculation in School Psychology Track and consent of program director.

PSYC 717 THEORIES OF FAMILY COUNSELING (3)
Theoretical approaches and strategic methods of evaluating and counseling disturbed families.

PSYC 718 TECHNIQUES OF FAMILY COUNSELING (3)
Identification of problems that cause families to deteriorate, diagnosis of those problems, and techniques that will help families work through their difficulties. Emphasis on development of skills essential to effective family counseling practice. Prerequisites: Must have passed the departmental advancement candidacy examination or be enrolled in the CAS Program, and consent of the course instructor.

PSYC 720 ASSESSMENT OF INTELLIGENCE (3)
Construction, standardization, administration, scoring and interpretation of tests. Prerequisites: Matriculation in Clinical or School Psychology and consent of program director. Lab/Class fee will be assessed.

PSYC 721 GROUP COUNSELING (3)
Theories, principles and techniques of group counseling. Prerequisites: Must have passed the departmental advancement to candidacy examination and have consent of instructor.

PSYC 722 ADVANCED MULTICULTURAL COUNSELING (3)
Self-awareness, theoretical, assessment and treatment issues in the areas of multicultural counseling.

PSYC 730 ADVANCED CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHOTHERAPY (3)
Treatment of specific presenting problems seen in childhood and adolescence. Application of techniques in students' field. Prerequisites: Instructor approval.

PSYC 731 SCHOOL BASED CONSULTATION (3)
Theoretical and applied aspects of school consultation within framework of curricular, administrative and overall school environment. Prerequisite: Matriculation in School Psychology Track or consent of instructor.
PSYC 733 EXCEPTIONAL CHILD: ADVANCED ISSUES (3)
Identification of and planning for the students with exceptionalities in the schools. Focus of IDEA diagnostic categories and relevant new techniques. Prerequisite: Matriculation in School Psychology Track or consent of program director.

PSYC 735 DIRECT ASSESSMENT OF ACADEMIC SKILLS (3)
Direct assessment of academic skill deficits with a focus on developing technical and theoretical expertise in the area of assessment-to-intervention practices for children in academic settings. Corequisite: PSYC 773. Prerequisites: instructor approval, matriculation in the program in School Psychology, and completion of PSYC 720, PSYC 790, and PSYC 771 with a grade of B or higher.

PSYC 745 PRACTICUM IN COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY (1-3)
Supervised experience in educational, vocational and personal counseling. Must be taken in two separate semesters (3 credits per semester). Prerequisites: PSYC 609, PSYC 790 and must have passed the departmental advancement to candidacy examination and have consent of counseling program director.

PSYC 755 COGNITIVE THERAPY I (3)
Theory and techniques of cognitive and rational-emotive therapy, including assessment strategies and basic applications. Prerequisites: PSYC 631, PSYC 655, PSYC 665, matriculation in Clinical Psychology Program and consent of program director.

PSYC 761 SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENT (3)
Advanced knowledge of social/emotional and behavioral assessment. Identification and assessment of common internalizing and externalizing disorders through a variety of methods. Prerequisites: Matriculation in School Psychology Track or Clinical Psychology Program and consent of program director.

PSYC 765 PERSONALITY ASSESSMENT IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY (3)
Theoretical and empirical bases underlying personality assessment. Introduction to methods and instruments used in clinical evaluation. Prerequisites: Matriculation in Clinical Psychology Program and consent of program director.

PSYC 771 SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY PRACTICUM I (3)
Fieldwork in a public school setting under the supervision of a certified or licensed school psychologist. Concurrent weekly class meetings. Prerequisites: PSYC 605, PSYC 651, PSYC 625, PSYC 611, PSYC 713, PSYC 733, PSYC 687, PSYC 761, PSYC 720, PSYC 790: matriculation in School Psychology Program; and consent of program director.

PSYC 773 SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY PRACTICUM II (3)
Fieldwork under the supervision of a certified or licensed psychologist. Students must be available for clinic or school placement. Stress on techniques appropriate for the schools. Prerequisites: PSYC 651, PSYC 731 and PSYC 771; matriculation in School Psychology Program and consent of program director.

PSYC 790 ETHICAL, LEGAL AND PROFESSIONAL ISSUES IN PSYCHOLOGY (3)
Treatment of ethical, legal and professional issues related to the practice of school, clinical and counseling psychology. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

PSYC 791 INTERNSHIP SEMINAR IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY (1.5)
Seminar to accompany school psychology internship during Fall semester of the one-year internship. Focus on adaptive, ethical, and professional competence. Graded S/U. Corequisite: PSYC 794. Prerequisites: C.A.S. candidate in School Psychology track, successful completion of Masters Comprehensive Exam, completion of all coursework in the Graduate Program of School Psychology leading up to the Internship, acquisition of an internship placement, and permission of program director.

PSYC 792 INTERNSHIP SEMINAR IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY II (1.5)
Seminar to accompany school psychology internship during Spring semester of the one-year internship. Focus on adaptive, ethical, and professional competence. Graded S/U. Prerequisites: C.A.S. candidate in School Psychology track, successful completion of Masters Comprehensive Exam, completion of all coursework in the Graduate Program of School Psychology leading up to the Internship, acquisition of an internship placement, and permission of program director.

PSYC 793 INTERNSHIP IN COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY (3-9)
Intensive experience within a counseling facility involving exposure to the many facets of a mental health professional, including administrative and record-keeping duties; individual and group counseling observations and experiences; referral resources, etc. Prerequisites: PSYC 745 and consent of instructor.

PSYC 794 INTERNSHIP IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY I (4.5)
Full-time internship placement in a school setting. Offered Fall semester only. Graded S/U. Prerequisites: C.A.S candidate in School Psychology track, successful completion of Masters Comprehensive Exam, completion of all coursework in the Graduate Program of School Psychology leading up to the internship, acquisition of an internship placement, and permission of program director.

PSYC 795 INTERNSHIP IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY II (1)
Full-time internship placement in a school setting. Offered Winter session only. Includes on-campus seminar for interns within 50 miles of campus. Prerequisites: CAS candidate in school psychology track and permission of program director.

PSYC 796 INTERNSHIP IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY II (4.5)
Full-time internship placement in a school setting. Offered Spring semester only. Graded S/U. Prerequisites: C.A.S. candidate in School Psychology track, successful completion of Masters Comprehensive Exam, completion of all coursework in the Graduate Program of School Psychology leading up to the Internship, acquisition of an internship placement, and permission of program director.

PSYC 797 INTERNSHIP IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY (3)
Supervised field experience in a community mental health center, state psychiatric hospital, or other public mental health facility with exposure to the duties of a master’s level clinical psychologist including psychological assessment, psychotherapy, and report writing. Prerequisites: PSYC 697 and consent of Clinical Psychology Program director.

PSYC 897 PSYCHOLOGY THESIS (6)
Original research in psychology, using acceptable design and methodology, supervised by one or more faculty members.

PSYC 898 PSYCHOLOGY THESIS (3)
The previous course, PSYC 897, taken over two consecutive semesters.

PSYC 899 THESIS CONTINUUM (1)
Continuation of thesis research.