CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY, PH.D.

U.S. News & World Report consistently ranks Saint Louis University’s clinical psychology graduate education program in the top 100 of all graduate programs in the United States.

The clinical psychology program at Saint Louis University is designed to provide broad and general doctoral education and training in health service psychology. Our faculty members are committed to training and education that evidences the integration of science and practice, that is sequential, cumulative, graded in complexity, and designed to prepare students for further organized training, and that indicates respect for and understanding of individual and cultural diversity.

Further information about the program can be found in the program handbook and student manual.


Curriculum Overview

Thirty-six credits are required for SLU’s master’s degree in clinical psychology, including 30 credits of departmental and clinical core coursework and six credits of thesis research. Each student must complete and defend a thesis. Upon completion of the master’s degree, doctoral students complete an additional 42 credits of coursework and 12 credits of dissertation research.

Ph.D. students conduct a public presentation and oral defense of the dissertation following completion of this research project. They must also complete an APA-approved internship in clinical psychology prior to receiving their doctoral degree.

The program is also offered in a dual degree option with a Clinical Psychology and Psychopharmacology. Supervised clinical experience in neuropsychological assessment, consultation and treatment is offered through external placements.

Health Psychology (Experience or Exposure)

Students interested in health psychology should consider taking courses in clinical health psychology, cognitive behavior interventions, psychopharmacology, sports psychology, and addictions: assessment and interventions. Additional courses related to health psychology are offered in SLU’s College for Public Health and Social Justice. External placements in the application of psychological services to enhance physical well-being and health are available.

Trauma Psychology (Experience or Exposure)

Students interested in working in the field of trauma are offered elective graduate coursework in the psychology of trauma, cognitive-behavioral interventions, and addictions: assessment and interventions. Additional courses related to traumatic stress are offered through SLU's College for Public Health and Social Justice. Supervised clinical training experiences with those who have experienced trauma are offered within the on-campus Psychological Services Center on a trauma-focused team.

Sports Psychology (Experience or Exposure)

Elective graduate courses in sports psychology, health psychology and cognitive-behavioral interventions are offered to students interested in sports and performance psychology. Students work with teams and athletes across the community, including the SLU Department of Athletics, through research, practicum and clinical training opportunities.

Fieldwork and Research Opportunities

Training in psychological assessment and intervention for children, adolescents and adults is provided through the on-campus Psychological Services Center.

Advanced clinical training opportunities in neuropsychology, pediatric and clinical child psychology, health psychology and academic psychology are available through collaborative relationships with medical centers, agencies and practitioners in the St. Louis community. Specialized research, clinical and academic opportunities also are available through various fellowships, grants and contracts.

Careers

SLU’s American Psychological Association accredited clinical psychology program will train students to be competent and ethical scientist-practitioners in a variety of health care settings. Job possibilities include clinical psychology, clinical health psychology, neuropsychology, and child and pediatric psychology positions.

Students in SLU’s graduate program in clinical psychology have gained professional experience through internships at Baylor College of Medicine, Boston Medical Center, Vanderbilt University VA Medical Center, Rush University Medical Center and the University of Louisville, among others.

Admission Requirements

Most students enter the program with a bachelor’s degree and complete both the Master of Science degree and the Doctor of Philosophy degree in the clinical program.
All applicants apply to the Ph.D. program. Applicants who have earned a Master of Arts or Master of Science degree in psychology may apply for advanced standing upon matriculation into the program.

Students admitted to the program typically will have an average undergraduate GPA of 3.7 (on a 4.0 scale) and both verbal and quantitative GRE scores above the 50th percentile. Admitted students typically have also relevant clinical and research experience. Students must have completed a minimum of 21 credits of study in psychology, including courses in general psychology, abnormal psychology and research and/or statistical methods. Applications must be submitted by Dec. 1.

**Application Requirements**
- Application form and fee
- Transcript(s)
- Three letters of recommendation
- GRE scores
- Résumé
- Interview
- Personal statement
- Diversity statement

**Requirements for International Students**
All admission policies and requirements for domestic students apply to international students along with the following:

- Demonstrate English Language Proficiency ([http://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/office-admission/undergraduate/english-language-proficiency/](http://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/office-admission/undergraduate/english-language-proficiency/))
- Proof of financial support must include:
  - A letter of financial support from the person(s) or sponsoring agency funding the time at Saint Louis University
  - A letter from the sponsor's bank verifying that the funds are available and will be so for the duration of study at the University
- Academic records, in English translation, of students who have undertaken postsecondary studies outside the United States must include the courses taken and/or lectures attended, practical laboratory work, the maximum and minimum grades attainable, the grades earned or the results of all end-of-term examinations, and any honors or degrees received. WES and ECE transcripts are accepted.

**Assistantship Application Deadline**
Students who want to be considered for an assistantship must submit their application by Dec. 1. All applicants accepted for admission are considered for assistantships. No separate assistantship application is required.

**Review Process**
Applications are reviewed by a committee of psychology department faculty members.

**Scholarships, Assistantships and Financial Aid**
For priority consideration for a graduate assistantship, applicants should complete their applications by the program admission deadlines listed. Fellowships and assistantships provide a stipend and may include health insurance and a tuition scholarship for the duration of the award.

For more information, visit the student financial services office online at [http://www.slu.edu/financial-aid](http://www.slu.edu/financial-aid).

**Accreditation**
The American Psychological Association has continually accredited Saint Louis University’s clinical psychology program since 1965.

Questions related to the program’s accreditation status should be directed to the American Psychological Association's Commission on Accreditation:

Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation American Psychological Association
750 1st Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002
Phone: 202-336-5979

**Student Admissions, Outcomes, and Other Data** ([http://www.slu.edu/arts-and-sciences/psychology/pdfs/clinicalpsychologywebsiteinformation2019.pdf](http://www.slu.edu/arts-and-sciences/psychology/pdfs/clinicalpsychologywebsiteinformation2019.pdf))

**Learning Outcomes**
1. Graduates will be able to demonstrate Discipline Specific Knowledge (DSK) (categories 1-3) as defined by the American Psychological Association’s Office of Accreditation.
2. Graduates will be able to demonstrate the ability to apply knowledge of DSK category 4 as defined by the American Psychological Association’s Office of Accreditation.
3. Graduates will be able to meet or exceed expectations on the Profession Wide Competencies (PWCs) as defined by the American Psychological Association’s Office of Accreditation.

**Requirements**

**Bachelor’s Degree Entry**
This option is for students entering with a bachelor’s degree.

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<td>Neuroscience</td>
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<td>PSY 5520</td>
<td>Psychopathology</td>
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<td>PSY 5610</td>
<td>Clinical Interventions</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 6800</td>
<td>Ethics, Supervision, and Consultation</td>
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**Research Methods**

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<td>Psychometric Theory</td>
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**Statistics**

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<tr>
<td>PSY 5790</td>
<td>Applied Univariate Statistics in Behavioral Science</td>
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</table>
PSY 6500  Applied Multivariable and Multivariate Statistics in Behavioral Science  3

Clinical Practice
PSY 5800  Clinical Assessment Practicum I  0
PSY 5880  Practicum: Psychopathology  0
PSY 5830  Clinical Assessment Practicum II  0
PSY 5890  Clerkship in Clinical Psychology  0
PSY 6880  PRC: Clinical Interventions  0
PSY 5810  Clinical Practicum I  3
PSY 5820  Clinical Practicum II  3
PSY 6810  Clinical Practicum III  3
PSY 6820  Clinical Practicum IV  3

Electives
Select 15 credits  15

Research
PSY 5860  Clinical Research I  0
PSY 5870  Clinical Research II  0
PSY 5990  Thesis Research  6
PSY 6860  Clinical Research III  0
PSY 6870  Clinical Research IV  0
PSY 6990  Dissertation Research  12

Total Credits  90

1  At least one taken each semester in residence

Master's Degree Entry
This option is for students entering with a master's degree.

Course  Title  Credits

Required Courses
PSY 5100  History of Psychology  3
PSY 5120  Memory & Cognition  3
PSY 5130  Neuroscience  3
PSY 5220  Lifespan Dev Psychology  3
PSY 5300  Advanced Social Psychology  3
PSY 6030  Human Diversity  3

Research Methods
PSY 5080  Advanced Quantitative Research Methods  3
PSY 5090  Psychometric Theory  3

Statistics
PSY 5790  Applied Univariate Statistics in Behavioral Science  3
PSY 6500  Applied Multivariable and Multivariate Statistics in Behavioral Science  3

Clinical Practice
PSY 6810  Clinical Practicum III  3
PSY 6820  Clinical Practicum IV  3
PSY 6890  Internship in Clinical Psychology  0

Psychology Electives
Select 12 credits  12

Research
PSY 5860  Clinical Research III  0
PSY 5870  Clinical Research IV  0

PSY 6990  Dissertation Research  12

Total Credits  60

1  At least one taken each semester in residence

Continuation Standards
Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 in all graduate/professional courses.

Roadmap
Roadmaps are recommended semester-by-semester plans of study for programs and assume full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted.

Courses and milestones designated as critical (marked with !) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation. Transfer credit may change the roadmap.

This roadmap should not be used in the place of regular academic advising appointments. All students are encouraged to meet with their advisor/mentor each semester. Requirements, course availability and sequencing are subject to change.

Bachelor's Degree Entry

Course  Title  Credits

Year One
Fall
PSY 5030  Clinical Assessment I  3
PSY 5800  Clinical Assessment Practicum I  0
PSY 5520  Psychopathology  3
PSY 5880  Practicum: Psychopathology  0
PSY 5790  Advanced Quantitative Research Methods  3
PSY 5810  Clinical Practicum I  0
PSY 5860  Clinical Research I  0
PSY 5890  Clerkship in Clinical Psychology  0
PSY 5990  Thesis Research  0-3

Credits  12-15

Spring
PSY 5040  Clinical Assessment II  3
PSY 5830  Clinical Assessment Practicum II  0
PSY 5610  Clinical Interventions  3
PSY 6880  PRC: Clinical Interventions  0
PSY 5090  Psychometric Theory  3
PSY 6500  Applied Multivariable and Multivariate Statistics in Behavioral Science  3
PSY 5810  Clinical Practicum I  0
PSY 5860  Clinical Research I  0
PSY 5890  Clerkship in Clinical Psychology  0
PSY 5990  Thesis Research  0-3

Credits  12-15

Summer
Psy DSK Elective  0-3
PSY 5810  Clinical Practicum I  3
PSY 5860  Clinical Research I  0
PSY 5990  Thesis Research  0-3

Credits  3-9

Year Two

Fall

PSY 6800  Ethics, Supervision, and Consultation  3

Psy DSK Core and/or Psy Elective  0-3

PSY 5820  Clinical Practicum II  0

PSY 5870  Clinical Research II  0

PSY 5990  Thesis Research  0-3

Credits  3-9

Spring

PSY 6030  Human Diversity  3

Psy DSK Core and/or PSY Elective  0-3

PSY 5820  Clinical Practicum II  3

PSY 5870  Clinical Research II  0

PSY 5990  Thesis Research  0-3

Credits  3-9

Summer

Psy DSK Elective  0-3

PSY 6820  Clinical Practicum IV  0

PSY 6870  Clinical Research IV  0

PSY 6990  Dissertation Research  0-3

Credits  0-3

Year Three

Fall

Psy DSK Core and/or Psy Elective  0-6

PSY 6810  Clinical Practicum III  0

PSY 6860  Clinical Research III  0

PSY 5990  Thesis Research or PSY 6990 or Dissertation Research  0-3

Credits  0-9

Spring

Psy DSK Core and/or Psy Elective  0-6

PSY 6810  Clinical Practicum III  3

PSY 6860  Clinical Research III  0

PSY 5990  Thesis Research or PSY 6990 or Dissertation Research  0-3

Credits  0-9

Summer

Psy DSK Core and/or Psy Elective  0-3

PSY 6810  Clinical Practicum III  3

PSY 6860  Clinical Research III  0

PSY 6990  Dissertation Research  0-3

Credits  0-3

Total Credits  42-132

Program Notes

We do not have a terminal master’s degree. Coursework generally includes 90 credits including six hours of thesis research and 12 hours of dissertation research. In certain cases, credit may be awarded for completion of History and Systems of Psychology prior to program matriculation.

Students apply for internship during their fourth year and generally complete it during their fifth year. The internship is required for award of the doctoral degree. Once in a while, a student does not match in which case we work with the student to determine how to best spend the fifth year during which time they re-apply for internship. Dissertation hours (0-3 credits) may be taken while on internship.

Master’s Degree Entry

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<td>PSY 6990</td>
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<td>PSY 6030</td>
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<td>PSY 5090</td>
<td>Psychometric Theory or Applied Multivariable and Multivariate Statistics in Behavioral Science</td>
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**Year Two**

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**Year Three**

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**Program Notes**

Coursework generally involves 60 graduate credits including 42 hours of coursework, 6 practicum hours, and 12 hours of dissertation research.

Students entering with a clinical master’s degree must have fulfilled requirements for the Profession Wide Competency (PWC) Courses in their master’s degree programs. If these courses were not completed, were not completed at the graduate level, lacked original source material, were not completed with a grade of B or better, or in any other way did not meet our curricular requirements, these courses will need to be taken. This plan also assumes that students have completed at least nine hours of Discipline Specific Knowledge (DSK) credit in Research Methods/Statistics in their master’s programs. In total, six hours of Statistics and six hours of Research Methods (at least three hours of which address psychometric theory and/or test development) are required at the graduate level.

Students entering with a clinical master's degree usually apply for internship during their third year and generally complete it during their fourth year. The internship is required for award of the doctoral degree. Once in a while, a student does not match for internship in which case we work with the student to determine how to best spend the fourth year during which time they re-apply for internship. Dissertation hours (0-3 credits) may be taken while on internship.

**Contact Us**

For additional information about our program, please contact

Jillon Vander Wal, PhD
Graduate Coordinator, Clinical Program
jillon.vanderwal@health.slu.edu