

# PSYCHOLOGY, MASTER OF ARTS

## Master of Arts in Psychology

At CSUDH, we offer two tracks for our MA in Psychology – Clinical and Health. Both options provide students with a solid academic background by giving them an opportunity to complete advanced coursework and further develop their research skills by working closely with a faculty mentor on a research project or thesis. A wide variety of practicum sites are available for students to learn about direct service provision to clients, employees, and patients for students pursuing the clinical psychology option. The MA in Psychology program is designed for students who want to strengthen their academic record in preparation for applying to doctoral programs. Others choose to begin careers in industry, mental health, community agency and education settings.

## Clinical Psychology Option (MACP)

The Clinical Psychology option is designed to meet the professional needs of college graduates who plan careers in community mental health or who are already employed as paraprofessionals and desire to further their education and opportunities for advancement. The student is offered a unique opportunity to obtain solid academic knowledge of clinical psychology coupled with extensive research and supervised experience in the application of such knowledge. Students who are interested in pursuing licensure as a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC) may opt to take additional approved coursework beyond that required for the MA. Specific coursework and requirements will be provided by the Psychology Department and must be completed prior to graduating from the program.

In the Psychology M.A. (clinical) the student is required to complete 33 units of credit, plus 400 hours of supervised practicum in a clinical setting and/or supervised research and teaching in an academic setting. In addition, the student must successfully complete a written comprehensive examination or a thesis. Students seeking the LPCC are required to complete 63 units of specified coursework in our program and a minimum of 280 hours of face-to-face clinical work supervised by a licensed therapist. These 280 hours are included in the 400-practicum hour requirement not in addition to it.

## Health Psychology Option (MAHP)

The Health Psychology Option will provide students with a solid academic background in health psychology. This specialized track is designed to meet the professional needs of college graduates who plan careers in community health and other health care settings such as rehabilitation centers, primary care centers and hospices. In addition, students enrolled in the Health Psychology Option will learn how to promote wellness in individuals and within organizations, and how to evaluate the effectiveness of prevention and treatment programs. The goal of a concentrated study in health psychology is to provide the student with an understanding of the relationships among biological, psychological, and social factors as they interact to influence mental and physical health. This goal is accomplished through an integrated program of coursework and research training. Students can earn up to 3 units of credit per semester for directed research (PSY 598) and thesis research (PSY 599). Our graduate students have been very successful securing funding for their graduate studies through several opportunities at California State University, Dominguez: Graduate Studies and Research travel fellowships, Graduate Equity Fellowship, and RA/TA fellowships. In the Psychology M.A. (Health Psychology track) the student is required

to complete 36 units of credit. In addition, the student must successfully complete a thesis.

## Admission Procedures

Admissions application deadline is **February 1st** at 11:59pm PST. **Any application after this deadline will not be considered.**

Prospective students should use the Cal State Apply application to apply to either the Clinical or Health Psychology option. Students must apply on or before February 1st to be considered for admission. Due to processing time, we strongly recommend that you complete your Cal State Apply application and submit official transcripts at least four weeks in advance of the department's February 1st application deadline.

Students will apply to and submit all materials via Cal State Apply: <https://www2.calstate.edu/apply/graduate> (<https://www2.calstate.edu/apply/graduate/>)

Below is a checklist of all the supplemental documents that you will need to upload and submit online.

**All materials must be uploaded and submitted to Cal State Apply by February 1st**

- Personal Statement
- CV/Resume
- Unofficial Transcripts of all institutions previously attended
- Unofficial Copy of Graduate Record Examination Scores (*check MA Program webpage (<https://www.csudh.edu/psychology/academic-programs/graduate/>) for GRE requirements for your application year*)
- One Writing Sample
- Three Letters of Recommendation
- All Official transcripts must be submitted to The Office of Admissions

Please refer to the Psychology MA Prospective Students webpage (<https://www.csudh.edu/psychology/academic-programs/graduate/prospective-students/>) for more details about the admission process, including an information packet, admission requirements (required courses, GPA, GRE... etc.), FAQ, and other helpful information.

## Classified Standing and Conditionally Classified Standing

Only students who have met all requirements as noted under Admission Procedures - M.A. Programs for the Psychology Department (<https://www.csudh.edu/psychology/academic-programs/graduate/prospective-students/>) will be considered for admission into the M.A. in Psychology Program with Classified Standing.

Students who lack some of the admission requirements may be considered for admission into the program with Conditionally Classified Standing. This would allow them to enroll in the University to correct their deficiencies, and also permit them to take up to nine semester units of graduate coursework which could apply toward their degree if and when Classified Standing has been established. Please note that admission to Conditionally Classified Standing does not assure that a student will achieve Classified Standing in the program.

## Requirements

### Clinical Psychology Option (33 units)

#### Admission Requirements

1. **A Bachelor's Degree from a fully accredited institution of higher education.**
2. **Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test** (*check MA Program webpage (<https://www.csudh.edu/psychology/academic-programs/graduate/>) for GRE requirements for your application year*)
3. **At least a "B" average in the last 60 semester units attempted**
4. **Successful completion of the following undergraduate courses or their equivalent, with at least a "B" average**

Code	Title	Hours
PSY 230	Elementary Statistical Analysis in Psychology	3
PSY 235	Intro To Research Methods	3
PSY 330 or PSY 331	Intermediate Statistics and Research Design Measurement In Psychology	3
PSY 360	Theories Of Personality	3
PSY 363	Abnormal Psychology	3
PSY 464	Introduction to Clinical Psychology	3

5. **Special consideration concerning the waiving of some of the above requirements is possible (e.g., if the student has had extensive previous experience in the community or clinical area).**

#### Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
PSY 535	Advanced Research Methods	3
PSY 550	Seminar in Developmental Psychology	3
PSY 563	Seminar in Psychopathology	3
PSY 564	Advanced Psychotherapy Techniques	3
PSY 565	Psychology of Clinical Groups	3
PSY 567	Individual Assessment	3
PSY 570	Community Psychology: Current Theory and Issues	3
PSY 571	Practicum in Clinical-Community Psychology	3
PSY 574	Practicum: Diversity Issues in Clinical and Health Psychology	3
PSY 597 or PSY 599	Directed Reading Thesis	3
Select one from the following:		3
PSY 510	Career Development in Clinical and Counseling Psychology	
PSY 520	Seminar in Psychopharmacology	
PSY 530	Advanced Analysis of Variance and Multivariate Techniques	
PSY 555	Psychology and Aging	
PSY 566	Indv Intellectual Assess	
PSY 575	Theories of Health and Behavior	
PSY 576	Seminar in Health Psychology Research	
PSY 585	Neuropsychology	
PSY 595	Special Topics:	
PSY 596	Clinical Psychology Practicum	
PSY 597	Directed Reading	
PSY 598	Directed Research	

**Total Hours** **33**

#### Additional program requirements include:

1. Comprehensive written examination or completion of a thesis. Students should register for PSY 597 Directed Reading (3 units) during the semester they plan to take the comprehensive examination. Students who choose to complete a thesis should register for PSY 599 Thesis in the semester they plan to defend.
2. A minimum of 400 hours of supervised practicum experience.
3. In addition to the major requirements, students must meet all university requirements for the master's degree indicated in the section of the catalog entitled "Graduate Degrees and Postbaccalaureate Studies (<https://catalog.csudh.edu/general-information/graduate-degree-postbaccalaureate-studies/>)."

### Health Psychology Option (36 units)

#### Admission Requirements

1. **A Bachelor's Degree from a fully accredited institution of higher education.**
2. **Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test** (*check MA Program webpage (<https://www.csudh.edu/psychology/academic-programs/graduate/>) for GRE requirements for your application year*)
3. **At least a "B" average in the last 60 semester units attempted**
4. **Successful completion of the following undergraduate courses or their equivalent, with at least a "B" average**

Code	Title	Hours
PSY 230	Elementary Statistical Analysis in Psychology	3
PSY 235	Intro To Research Methods	3
PSY 330 or PSY 331	Intermediate Statistics and Research Design Measurement In Psychology	3
PSY 363	Abnormal Psychology	3

Select one of the following:

PSY 370 Health Psychology

Coursework in biological psychology

5. **Special consideration concerning the waiving of some of the above requirements is possible (e.g., if the student has had extensive previous experience in the health psychology area)**

#### Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
PSY 520	Seminar in Psychopharmacology	3
PSY 530	Advanced Analysis of Variance and Multivariate Techniques	3
PSY 535	Advanced Research Methods	3
PSY 555	Psychology and Aging	3
PSY 563	Seminar in Psychopathology	3
PSY 570	Community Psychology: Current Theory and Issues	3
PSY 574	Practicum: Diversity Issues in Clinical and Health Psychology	3
PSY 575	Theories of Health and Behavior	3
PSY 576	Seminar in Health Psychology Research	3
PSY 585	Neuropsychology	3
PSY 599	Thesis	3
Select one from the following:		3
PSY 510	Career Development in Clinical and Counseling Psychology	
PSY 550	Seminar in Developmental Psychology	

PSY 564	Advanced Psychotherapy Techniques
PSY 565	Psychology of Clinical Groups
PSY 566	Indv Intellectual Assess
PSY 567	Individual Assessment
PSY 595	Special Topics:
PSY 597	Directed Reading
PSY 598	Directed Research
<hr/>	
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>36</b>

**Additional program requirements include:**

1. Students must write a thesis as the culminating experience for awarding the degree Master of Arts in Psychology (Health Psychology Option).
2. In addition to the major requirements, students must meet all university requirements for the master's degree indicated in the section of the catalog entitled "Graduate Degrees and Postbaccalaureate Studies (<https://catalog.csudh.edu/general-information/graduate-degree-postbaccalaureate-studies/>)."

## **Advancement to Candidacy**

A student must be advanced to candidacy before taking the comprehensive examination or enrolling in PSY 599 Thesis. The requirements for advancement to candidacy are as follows:

1. Classified Standing in the Psychology M.A.
  2. Completion of a minimum of 24 semester units of required courses.
  3. Approved Program of Study.
  4. A cumulative GPA of 3.0 in all courses taken as a graduate student.
  5. No grade lower than a "C" in the degree program.
1. To apply psychological theories and principles (including the biopsychosocial approach) in the areas of lifespan development, health, psychopathology, psychological assessment, community psychology, and clinical psychology.
  2. To use psychological research methods and statistical analyses to reach logical conclusions.
  3. To apply ethical and legal principles to the practice of psychology.
  4. To demonstrate appreciation of diversity among people and to structure teaching and psychotherapeutic as well as applied interventions to meet the educational, health needs, and mental health needs of diverse populations.
  5. To display interpersonal skills and personal qualities (such as self-awareness, professional integrity, flexibility, compassion, and personal presence) important in the psychotherapeutic relationship.