



University  
of Houston  
Clear Lake

## MASTER OF ARTS IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

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### APPLICATION INFORMATION

Revised September 2023

**NOTE: Deadline for Master's program: January 25<sup>th</sup> of each year**

## CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

The Clinical Psychology program prepares students to become mental health professionals and includes theoretical training and practical experience in psychological assessment and psychotherapy with emphasis on behavioral and cognitive approaches. Graduates of the program regularly meet the academic requirements for licensure in Texas as a Professional Counselor or Psychological Associate (LPC and LPA).

**ADMISSIONS:** Admission is competitive. The program accepts a new cohort of approximately 15-20 students each year out of a pool of 60-80 applicants. Typically, at least half the cohort begins the program in the summer, with the other half starting in fall. Students cannot begin in the spring. The Clinical Psychology faculty review all applications and interview the top candidates to discuss their interest in the field and assess personal readiness for the program. In selecting candidates for the program, the faculty are concerned with (1) academic ability to complete graduate course work, (2) personal maturity and interpersonal skills necessary for mental health practitioners, (3) life experience and professional background which might enhance professional competence, and (4) motivation for and commitment to studying clinical psychology including appropriate career and professional goals.

**PREREQUISITES:** Graduate admission to the university. Additionally, the program requires five prerequisite undergraduate psychology courses (15 hours): Introductory Psychology, Abnormal Psychology, and three courses (9 additional hours) of upper-level psychology courses. Upper-level psychology courses that may provide good preparation for the program include, but are not limited to, Social Psychology, Theories of Personality, Human Growth and Development, and Research Methods and Statistics. Preference is given to applicants with all prerequisites completed.

### PROGRAM CURRICULUM

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|---|---|--|
| <b>REQUIRED CORE COURSES</b><br>21 hours                  | PSYC 5031<br>PSYC 5235<br>PSYC 5734<br>PSYC 6036/37<br>PSYC 6134<br>PSYC 6531 | Human Growth and Development<br>Learning Principles<br>Ethics, Law, and Professional Consultation <sup>a</sup><br>Advanced Nonexperimental/Experimental Methods & Statistics<br>Biological Basis of Behavior<br>Psychopathology <sup>a,b</sup> |
| <b>SOCIOCULTURAL REQUIREMENT</b><br>3 hours               | PSYC 5136   | Multicultural Counseling <sup>a</sup><br><i>Other courses may be substituted with consent of Program Director</i>  |
| <b>ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS</b><br>2 of 3 courses, 6 hours | PSYC 6031<br>PSYC 6032<br>PSYC 6033   | Behavioral Assessment <sup>b</sup><br>Intellectual Assessment <sup>a,b</sup><br>Personality Assessment <sup>a,b</sup>  |
| <b>THERAPY REQUIREMENTS</b><br>4 courses, 12              | PSYC 5231<br>PSYC 5239<br>PSYC 5731<br>PSYC 6235                              | Psychotherapy: Theory and Research <sup>a,b</sup><br>Group Psychotherapy <sup>a,b</sup><br>Psychotherapy Skills & Professional Orientation <sup>a,b</sup><br>Behavioral/Cognitive Therapies <sup>a,b</sup>                                     |
| <b>THERAPY</b>  | PSYC 5138   | Mindfulness and Acceptance Therapies   |

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|--|---|
| <b>ELECTIVES</b><br>Select 2 courses,<br>6 hours | PSYC 5233 Introduction to Family Therapy<br>PSYC 5433 Substance Abuse Causes and Treatments<br>PSYC 5630 Behavioral Family Systems<br>PSYC 5736 Behavioral Medicine<br>PSYC 5835 Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Addictions<br>PSYC 6337 Development/Treatment of Mood and Anxiety Disorders<br>PSYC 6534 Couple and Sex Therapy<br>PSYC 7031 Dialectical Behavior Therapy<br>PSYC 7333 Pediatric Psychology<br><i>Other therapy courses may be substituted with consent of Advisor</i> |
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|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>FREE ELECTIVE</b><br>3 hours | <i>Students working toward the LPC should take PSYC 5335 Career Counseling</i><br><i>Students working toward LPA often take a third therapy elective</i> |
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|--|---|
| <b>SUPERVISED CLINICAL</b><br>12 hours | PSYC 6038 Clinical Practicum (2 semesters) <sup>a,b</sup><br>PSYC 6636 Clinical Internship (2 semesters) <sup>a,b</sup> |
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Footnotes:           <sup>a</sup>Restricted Course open only to students admitted to a professional psychology program  
<sup>b</sup>Course requires one or more prerequisites—see University catalog

TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS = 63

**PRACTICUM:** Clinical Practicum is a two-semester sequence which is often the student’s first professional training contact with real clients. It is conducted in the university’s Psychological Services clinic under the supervision of a faculty supervisor, using two-way mirrors and audio- and videotaping. Practicum has two prerequisites that must be completed prior to registering for the course; see the university Catalog for further information. The program director will consult with each student as each begins the program to determine when the student will take practicum. The two-semester sequence can begin in any semester, including summer.

**INTERNSHIP:** There are a number of facilities in the greater Houston area which provide internship training for students in the program. An intern spends 500 hours, spanning a minimum of two semesters, in a mutually selected facility where he/she is supervised by an appropriately credentialed clinician, typically either a Licensed Psychologist or a Licensed Professional Counselor. Recent internship facilities include Houston Methodist Behavioral Health Clinic, The Center for Success and Independence, The Montrose Center, UT Center for Neurobehavioral Research on Addiction, and Shriner’s Hospitals for Children, as well as a number of other hospitals, agencies and clinics. Internship may include the summer term.

**RECOMMENDED SEQUENCE OF STUDY**

These are the recommended course sequences for full-time students. A student could complete the program in two academic years (7 semesters), registering in the summer following admissions and the two summers thereafter. A student starting in summer and taking a full load is likely to start practicum the next spring or summer. It is also possible to complete the program in two years (7 semesters) by starting in fall and finishing in fall. Some students choose to complete the program in three years if taking 10-11 classes per year is not feasible.

| SUMMER 1  | FALL 1  | SPRING 1  |
|---|---|---|
| May start summer semester:<br><i>Psychother. Skills &amp; Prof. Orient*</i><br><i>Learning Principles*</i>  | <i>Psychother. Skills &amp; Prof. Orient*</i><br><i>Psychopathology*</i><br><i>Learning Principles*</i><br><i>Behavioral Family Systems OR other flex core or therapy</i>                   | <i>Behavioral/Cognitive Therapies*</i><br><br>2 flexible core or therapy courses (methods and stats course recommended)<br><br><i>Career Counseling (or another flex)</i> |
| SUMMER 2  | FALL 2  | SPRING 2  |
| <i>Clinical Practicum or 1 flexible therapy course (e.g., Group Therapy)</i><br><i>Psychotherapy Theory &amp; Research or 1-2 flex core/therapy courses (total 2-3 classes)</i> | <i>Ethics, Law, &amp; Professional Consultation*</i><br><br><i>Cognitive Assessment*</i><br><br><i>Clinical Practicum</i><br><br><i>Behavioral Family Systems OR Personality Assessment</i> | <i>Career Counseling and/or Personality Assessment</i><br><br><i>Multicultural Counseling</i><br><br><i>Clinical Internship or 1 flexible course</i>                      |
| SUMMER 3  |   |   |
| <i>Clinical Internship</i>  |   |   |
| <i>Psychotherapy Theory &amp; Research or 1 flex core/therapy course</i>  |   |   |

**Flexible core list**

Biological Basis, Human Growth & Development  
 PSYC 6036/37 Methods/Stats  
 Free Elective (Career Counseling)  
 Psychotherapy: Theory and Research  
 Group Therapy

**Flexible therapy list**

Mood & Anxiety Disorders  
 Sleep Assessment & Treatment  
 Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Addictions  
 Dialectical Behavior Therapy  
 Behavioral Medicine (Pediatric/Adult)  
 Behavioral Family Systems/Parent Training

**Clinical Practicum** is a two-semester sequence which can begin in Spring 1, Summer 2 or Fall 2 (Summer 2 shown in the example above). Practicum placement will be negotiated with each student based on several factors including tenure in the program, completion of prerequisites and individual needs and preferences.

†**Clinical Internship** is a two-semester sequence, requiring 500 clock hours of clinical training in a mutually selected facility. At least one semester of **Clinical Practicum** and **Professional Practice, Law and Ethics** must be completed before beginning internship. It is recommended that students also complete the other specific courses listed for Fall 1, Spring 1 and Fall 2 and **Group Therapy** prior to internship.

‡Students should take either Intellectual Assessment or Personality Assessment in Fall 2 and the remaining course in Spring 2, unless otherwise advised by the Program Director.

\*PSYC 5335 **Career Counseling** is required for all students working toward LPC licensure, though it is not a degree requirement in the curriculum. LPC licensure also requires coursework in addictions (e.g., ACT for addictions) and family dynamics (e.g., Behavioral Family Systems).

Part-time students should note the sequencing of courses listed here as well as being aware of prerequisite requirements for many courses.

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## APPLYING TO THE PROGRAM

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Students wishing to enroll in the Clinical Psychology Program must formally apply. Students apply once per year, by the January 25 deadline, and those admitted to the M.A. program start in either summer or the fall. For additional information, please visit the Clinical Psychology webpage and read the **Frequently Asked Questions** document and **Student Handbook**. After reviewing these documents and the website carefully, if you still have questions about the program, please contact the Program Director. If you have specific questions about the application process, please email: [clinicalschool@uhcl.edu](mailto:clinicalschool@uhcl.edu).

Application requires that both **Steps 1 and 2** below are completed

**Step 1: Apply for admission to the University of Houston-Clear Lake:**

- a. Complete the “GoApplyTexas.org” on-line university application. Currently there is a fee for the university admission application. Go to [www.uhcl.edu](http://www.uhcl.edu). Select the “Admissions” tab, and click on “Apply Now” near the top of the page. Once you create a profile, you will complete the application. Select U.S. Graduate Application. If applying to the master’s program, select HSH-Clinical Psychology MA as your major. The university application should be completed as early as possible before the admissions deadline to allow adequate time for the Office of Admissions to process the application and evaluate transcripts.
- b. Submit GRE scores (not more than 5 years old) through the ETS system. It may take ETS two weeks from the date the test is taken to send the official score report.  
UHCL GRE Code: 6916 – UNIV HOUSTON CLEAR LAKE – Grad. LSAT or MCAT

scores could suffice. The GRE is usually used as *one* indicator of graduate potential that is standardized across applicants.

- c. Submit official transcripts from all institutions attended. Transcripts should be mailed to this address:

Office of Admissions  
University of Houston-Clear Lake  
2700 Bay Area Blvd.  
Box 13  
Houston, TX 77058

**Step 2: Submit Additional Supporting Documents for the Clinical Psychology Program**

- (a) You will be assigned a UHCL account after you have completed the GoApplyTexas (university on-line application). You will receive an e-mail with instructions on how to access your account. The following supporting documents must be uploaded within your account (see additional, detailed instructions at the end of this packet):
- Curriculum Vitae: An expanded résumé describing previous education; research experience; clinically-relevant activities; all work experience; any honors, presentations, papers, avocations or other relevant life experiences
  - Statement of purpose and goals, not to exceed 2 pages single-spaced, describing your reasons for wanting this degree and how it fits into your career goals.
- (b) Three letters of recommendation and recommendation forms (found on program web site) **should be submitted directly by the recommenders to [clinicalschool@uhcl.edu](mailto:clinicalschool@uhcl.edu)**. Recommendations from academic faculty and/or work supervisors who know the applicant well are preferred.
- (c) In addition to the university application fee, **there is an additional program application fee of \$35 for the Clinical Psychology M.A. program**. The program application fee may be [paid by credit card online](#) or by check payable to “University of Houston-Clear Lake” and send it to:

Clinical Psychology Program Applications  
University of Houston-Clear Lake  
2700 Bay Area Blvd., **Box 73**  
Houston, TX 77058

Applications received without fee paid by the deadline may not receive consideration.

**Deadline for Application:**

**Applications will be accepted through January 25<sup>th</sup> at which time review of applications for admission into the next calendar year cohort will begin.**

Applications attempted after this date may not be reviewed. Interviews typically occur in March and offers of admission are extended by April 15. The incoming cohort starts in the summer or fall. It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that his/her application for university admission and supporting transcripts are received by the university **Office of Admissions**, that all additional supporting documents have been uploaded, and that letters of recommendation are submitted directly by the references by the application deadline. Applicants can check the status of their application by logging into their accounts.

**Required Application Materials Checklist:**

- GoApplyTexas University Application**
- Transcripts**
- GRE scores**
- Curriculum Vitae**
- Statement of Purpose/Goals**
- Three Letters of Recommendation**
- Clinical Psychology Program application fee**

**Additional information regarding applications:**

Any evidence of tampering with recommendations or transcripts could result in disqualifying the applicant from admission. Applicants should note that admission to graduate status at the university is not equivalent to admission to the Clinical Psychology Program. Applicants are not admitted into the Clinical Psychology Program until they receive formal notice from the Clinical Psychology Program Admissions Committee that they have been accepted.

***In adherence to Texas State HB1508, effective September 1, 2017, amended Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 53, the UHCL Clinical Psychology Program hereby informs anyone planning to enroll in our program that individuals who have been convicted of certain criminal offenses might not be eligible to obtain professional licensure in Texas. An individual may request a licensing authority to issue a criminal history evaluation letter regarding the person's eligibility for a license issued by that authority. Thus, students interested in becoming a Licensed Professional Counselor or Licensed Psychological Associate would be advised to contact the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors or the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, respectively.***