



E A S T
CAROLINA
UNIVERSITY

graduate program



**Clinical
Psychology**

Overview

The graduate program in clinical psychology at East Carolina University is a two-year, 45 semester-hour program that prepares students for work as psychologists in a variety of settings or for further study at the doctoral level. A full-time, six-month working internship at a mental health facility is required. Five staff members currently teach the required clinical courses.

Employment Opportunities

Clinical psychology graduates have a good history of employment in the field. At present, more job openings exist for master's-level psychologists than individuals to fill these jobs. While a majority of graduates accept mental health center positions throughout North Carolina, others work in such varied settings as developmental evaluation clinics, prisons, community colleges, hospitals, and private practice in and out of state. Approximately 30 percent of clinical graduates elect to pursue a PhD after completing the program.

Licensure in North Carolina

In North Carolina, licensure is required to practice as a clinical psychologist. Students who have completed the MA program in clinical psychology may apply to the North Carolina Board of Examiners in psychology for consideration for licensure as a psychological associate.

Program Description

During the first academic year, nine courses are required, including two courses in assessment; two courses in treatment; and courses in ethics and professional practice, interviewing, psychopathology, learning, and statistics. These courses involve theoretical, professional, and practicum-oriented classroom work.

Extensive individualized instruction, including role playing, check-off performance requirements, and other feedback techniques, enhance the quality of practicum courses. This practicum work also involves weekly placements in several on- and off-campus agencies.

Additionally, at least two electives (6 semester hours) are required as part of the 45-hour program. In coordination with the program director, students select electives to meet their individual training goals and interests. Electives may be chosen from graduate courses taught in the Department of Psychology or from other graduate areas.

Internship

Approximately \$20,000 in training grants is brought into the department each year to support student intern-

ships. These grants, which provide stipends of about \$500 per month, have been stable for some years.

Internship placements are available in centers where doctoral-level psychologists provide supervision. Internship guidelines, developed in May 1980, enable coordination between the program and the agency for the maintenance of adequately supervised—though individually unique—internship placements. Communication between the program and supervisors, along with end-of-internship evaluations, permits adequate quality control.

Thesis

The master's thesis in psychology is a professional research paper and an example of students' research and writing skills. Students will present the completed thesis at an oral examination conducted by the thesis committee as the last step in the process. Six semester-hour credits are allowed for the thesis.

Other Requirements

A comprehensive examination, which tests students' knowledge in the areas of core and specialty course work, is required and is normally taken in the second year. Additionally, a research skill requirement of not less than 3 semester hours from certain areas determined by the department, or from a foreign language, must be met.

Applications

It is strongly recommended that all applicants take a common core of undergraduate psychology courses before applying to the clinical program. These include introductory psychology, psychological statistics, experimental psychology, learning, personality, physiological psychology, tests and measurements, and abnormal psychology.

About forty-five students apply to the clinical program each year from which eight are selected as the first-year class. Average scores on the objective measures for students admitted into the program generally fall in the following ranges:

GRE Aptitude (Verbal, Quantitative)	1000-1100
Advanced Psychology GRE	540-600
Undergraduate GPA	3.15-3.35
Psychology GPA	3.40-3.60
Senior Year GPA	3.45-3.70

Admission to the clinical program is contingent upon meeting all requirements of the East Carolina Graduate School *and* being recommended by the graduate admissions committee of the Department of Psychology.

A completed application will include a Graduate School application; a Department of Psychology basic information sheet; GRE verbal, quantitative, and advanced test scores; complete college transcripts; and a minimum of two letters of recommendation (at least one from a psychologist).

An on-site interview is required. Applicants may be admitted with deficiencies that must be met through appropriate undergraduate course work. These courses do not count toward the master's degree.

Screening and Admissions

The admissions screening procedure begins on March 15 of each year. All application material must be received by that date.

All clinical faculty and the members of the graduate admissions committee are involved in evaluating candidates. The practice of conducting on-site interviews allows candidates, as well as faculty, the opportunity to evaluate each other.

Fifteen to twenty candidates will be interviewed prior to the final selections. These interviews are typically held in early April, with the final decisions being made by late April and early May.

Financial Support

In addition to the six-month paid internship, research assistantships generally are available. A letter to the program director indicating the desire and basis for financial assistance is considered an application for an assistantship.

Additional Information


Additional information, including appointments for further discussion, can be obtained by contacting:

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