

PH.D. IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

The Clinical Psychology Ph.D. program seeks to train professionals with a broad knowledge of scientific psychology who will be skilled clinicians. The program's educational philosophy is to produce scientist/practitioners who possess expertise in both research and clinical practice. The department believes that experience in applied settings produces scientists who are sensitive to pragmatic issues and who are on the cutting edge of research questions essential to practitioners in the field. Conversely, clinicians who have been trained as scientists understand emerging research and incorporate new findings into their daily practice. The program uses a mentor model by which students are accepted to work with a particular member of the faculty for their degree-required research. All students are required to complete a dissertation and to be enrolled full-time. The demands of the program's training are not amenable to part-time or weekend course schedules. With limited exceptions, all coursework is offered in person.

Clinical psychology is the psychological science that seeks to understand, assess, and treat psychological disorders and conditions. SHSU clinical psychology students' published research has examined test development, personality assessment, psychopathology, gender and race/ethnicity issues, jury processes, and public policy, among other topics. Students' practicum experiences have involved work with serious mental illness (SMI), people with brain injuries, persons with a substance use disorder, adolescents, children and families, and persons in the legal system. Practicum settings have included a variety of inpatient and residential settings, private psychological practices, and correctional settings. In addition, the program operates its own Psychological Services Center where students provide services to a broad range of community clientele.

The doctoral program produces well-rounded clinical psychologists ready to work in a wide variety of clinical, research, and/or academic settings. Students receive rigorous training in the assessment, treatment, and prevention of psychopathology and physical health comorbidities in individuals across the lifespan. This training will take place in the form of research training and mentorship, didactic coursework, and clinical training. A broad selection of clinical practicum sites is available to support students in developing and refining their general clinical skills as well as skills tailored to work with specific populations or presentations corresponding to their future career goals.

Students in the Ph.D. program choose to participate in one of two emphasis areas that build on faculty strengths and departmental resources: forensic clinical or general clinical.

Forensic Clinical

The Forensic Clinical (FC) emphasis concentrates on preparing clinicians who can explain psychological phenomena to courts or administrative agencies, intervene with individuals and families at various junctures in the social and justice systems, and provide assessment and treatment for both victims and offenders. In addition to strong generalist training acquired by all students in the program, students who select this emphasis will complete forensically focused didactic coursework (for example, Forensic Assessment courses) and have the opportunity to participate in forensic evaluations for the courts. Students will engage in research training and mentorship in forensic arenas and have the opportunity to receive clinical training in forensically-oriented practicums that allow them to continue to develop their general clinical skills. Students will complete the program with the basic preparation they need to conduct legally-relevant clinical psychology research and pursue postdoctoral specialty training in either general clinical or forensic clinical psychology.

General Clinical

Students who chose to participate in the General Clinical (GC) emphasis will receive research, didactic, and clinical training that prepare them for diverse careers in clinical psychology. Regarding research training, faculty mentoring students in the GC emphasis have active programs of research related to the assessment, treatment, and prevention of psychopathology and physical health comorbidities in individuals across the lifespan. Students opting for the GC emphasis will select electives from a rich set of courses that align with their interests and career goals and receive clinical training in practicum sites focused on refining their general clinical skills as well as skills tailored to work with specific populations or presentations. Students will complete the program with the preparation they need to pursue postdoctoral training relevant to their research and clinical interests.

Additional information: Reference the Program Landing Page (<https://www.shsu.edu/programs/doctorate/clinical-psychology/>) for additional information, such as cost, delivery format, contact information, or to schedule a visit.

Applicants seeking admission to the doctoral program in clinical psychology must submit the following directly to the Office of Graduate Admissions (<https://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-admissions/transition.html>):

1. Graduate Application (<http://www.shsu.edu/admissions/apply-texas.html>): The Graduate Application is an institutional application required by SHSU. Students must provide biographical and educational information and information relevant to determining State of Texas residency.
2. Application fee (<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-studies/application-fee.html>): An university application fee is required for all applications to graduate programs at SHSU.
3. Transcripts documenting all prior degrees.* Applicants are welcome to submit transcripts for coursework from additional institutions, though this is not necessary.
4. Program application with the fee.
5. A minimum of two letters of recommendation (three are preferred).
6. Personal Statement/Essay.
7. Current resume or curriculum vitae.

8. TOEFL score (if applicable).
9. **Optional:** GRE scores. (Please note that you are not required to submit GRE scores with your application.)

*Applicants may submit unofficial transcripts for review by the admissions committee. However, under university policy, admission decisions are contingent upon receipt of official transcripts.

The application deadline is December 1, 2025.

The Doctoral Program seeks promising students from all backgrounds in the service of creating a diverse intellectual community. High test scores and grades do not guarantee acceptance, and students whose lower scores are offset by other exceptional qualifications may be admitted. New students may join the program with either a baccalaureate or a master's degree.

For application forms or further information, write, or call:

Clinical Psychology Ph.D. Program
 Department of Psychology and Philosophy
 Sam Houston State University
 Box 2210
 Huntsville, TX 77341-2210
 Telephone: (936) 294-1210
 E-mail: clinpsy@shsu.edu

Note: Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

All formal requirements for completion of the Ph.D. are described in the Clinical Psychology Doctor of Philosophy Program Handbook and may vary from one student to another depending on previous academic preparation. The following guidelines are offered to demonstrate the nature of the doctoral program and should not be misconstrued as representing the formal requirements for the PhD:

1. A course of study that includes training in the discipline-specific knowledge of psychology, including research and quantitative methods; history and systems of psychology; and the affective, biological, cognitive, developmental, and social bases of behavior. Students are also trained in the profession-wide competencies associated with clinical psychology, which include research, ethical and legal standards, individual and cultural diversity, professional values and attitudes, communication and interpersonal skills, assessment, intervention, supervision, and consultation and interprofessional/interdisciplinary skills. This course of study is sequential, cumulative, graded in complexity, and designed to prepare students for entry-level practice and further organized training.
2. Enrollment as a full-time student (i.e., a minimum of 9 credit hours per semester) on campus for at least four consecutive long (i.e., Fall, Spring) semesters.
3. Earned grades of B or better in all classes. Please consult the Program Handbook for a more detailed description of policies regarding academic standards.
4. Completion with a passing score on a written comprehensive examination.
5. Completion and defense of a doctoral dissertation that is the product of original scholarly research and is of such quality as to represent a meaningful contribution to knowledge in the field of psychology.
6. Completion of a year-long pre-doctoral internship, during which the student works full-time in an applied clinical setting.
7. Completion of the degree within 6 years from the first semester of registration as a doctoral student (i.e., following completion of requirements for the master's degree).

Students entering with a master's degree in psychology and who have completed similar courses as part of their degree may have courses waived at the discretion of the Doctoral Program Faculty.

| Code | Title | Hours |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------|
| Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology | | |
| Specified Courses | | |
| PSYC 5330 | Psychopathology | 3 |
| PSYC 5333 | Theory and Research In Psychotherapy I | 3 |
| PSYC 5360 | Advanced Physiological Psychology | 3 |
| PSYC 5387 | Advanced Statistics | 3 |
| PSYC 5388 | Experimental Design | 3 |
| PSYC 5392 | History and Systems of Psychology | 3 |
| PSYC 5394 | Psychometrics | 3 |
| PSYC 5395 | Assessment of Intelligence and Achievement | 3 |
| PSYC 5396 | Assessment of Personality and Psychopathology | 3 |
| PSYC 7330 | Clinical Psychology Proseminar | 3 |

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| PSYC 7336 | Mental Health Law | 3 |
| PSYC 7339 | Developmental Psychopathology | 3 |
| PSYC 7360 | Multicultural Psychology | 3 |
| PSYC 7362 | Ethics in Clinical Practice | 3 |
| PSYC 7370 | Empirically Supported Treatments | 3 |
| PSYC 7377 | Cognitive and Affective Bases of Behavior | 3 |
| PSYC 7378 | Social and Developmental Bases of Behavior | 3 |
| PSYC 7387 | Multivariate Statistics in Psychology | 3 |
| PSYC 8360 | Forensic Assessment I (Or Restricted Elective) ¹ | 3 |
| PSYC 8361 | Forensic Assessment II (Or Restricted Elective) ¹ | 3 |
| Restricted Electives | | |
| Select two of the following: | | 6 |
| PSYC 5035 | Special Problems in Psychology | |
| PSYC 5334 | Theory and Research In Psychotherapy II | |
| PSYC 5340 | Evidence-Based Child Therapy | |
| PSYC 5361 | Neuropsychopharmacology | |
| PSYC 5370 | Academic Assessment and Consultation | |
| PSYC 5385 | Advanced Health Psychology | |
| PSYC 5390 | Teaching of Psychology | |
| PSYC 5396 | Assessment of Personality and Psychopathology | |
| PSYC 5398 | Advanced Child Assessment | |
| PSYC 6394 | Practicum in Psychometrics | |
| PSYC 7333 | Law and Social Psychology | |
| PSYC 7374 | Human Neuropsychology | |
| PSYC 7388 | Latent Variable Modeling | |
| PSYC 7392 | Topics in Clinical Psychology | |
| Practica | | |
| PSYC 8381 | Beginning Doctoral Practicum | 3 |
| PSYC 8382 | Doctoral Clinical Practicum I (Students must take 8382 three times for a total of 9 hours) | 9 |
| PSYC 8383 | Doctoral Clinical Practicum II ² | 9 |
| Internship | | |
| PSYC 8110 | Internship I | 1 |
| PSYC 8111 | Internship II | 1 |
| PSYC 8112 | Internship III | 1 |
| Thesis | | |
| PSYC 6099 | Thesis ³ | 6 |
| Dissertation | | |
| PSYC 8099 | Dissertation ⁴ | 12 |
| Total Hours | | 108 |

¹ If six hours of Restricted Electives are taken in lieu of PSYC 8360 and PSYC 8361, these courses cannot be counted for the six hours of electives already required in the degree plan.

² Students must take PSYC 8383 for a minimum of nine hours and until such time as they enroll in Internship PSYC 8110.

³ Once enrolled in PSYC 6099, students must enroll in this course every semester until the thesis route sheet is received by the Office of the Registrar.

⁴ Once enrolled in PSYC 8099, students must enroll in this course every semester until the dissertation route sheet is received by the Office of the Registrar.

Note: Doctoral students must earn a grade of B or above in all classes.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) marketable skills initiative is part of the state's **60x30TX plan** and was designed to help students articulate their skills to employers. Marketable skills are those skills valued by employers and/or graduate programs that can be applied in a variety of work or education settings and may include interpersonal, cognitive, and applied skill areas.

The Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology is designed to provide graduates with the following marketable skills:

- Graduates will meet the educational requirements for licensure as a psychologist in Texas.
- As licensed psychologists, or while working under supervision, graduates will be able to provide comprehensive, multi-method psychological evaluations to answer a wide range of referral questions.
- As licensed psychologists or while working under the supervision, graduates will be able to provide psychotherapy services to diverse clients using empirically supported treatment techniques.
- Graduates will be competent to conduct psychological research, including developing research questions, designing empirical research, and using quantitative methods.