

Liberty University

School of Behavioral Sciences

Doctorate In Clinical Psychology, (Psy.D.)

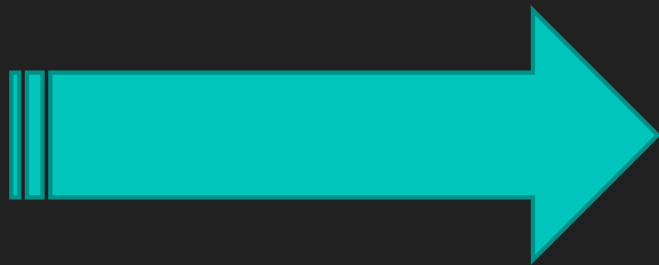
An Overview for Prospective Students

Why pursue a Psy.D.? What can you do with this degree?

- Obtain a license as Clinical Psychologist
 - This is a doctoral level license—
 - Have the broadest and most extensive training in the following:
 - Evidence based psychotherapy with adults, adolescents, children, families, and couples
 - Also learn methods of biofeedback and neurofeedback
 - Clinical diagnosis and treatment planning
 - Psychological testing and assessment—diagnose ADHD, Learning Disorder, Autism, Personality Disorders, and many other psychological disorders and syndromes
 - Provide training, consultation, and supervision to other professionals: psychiatrists, physicians, social workers, and counselors
 - Work in wide range of settings: private practice, hospitals, community based clinics, schools, and churches

In-depth training in the Science of Psychology

- Biological
- Social
- Emotional
- Cognitive
- Behavioral
- Spiritual-Religious



Foundations of
Human
Behavior

Integration of Biblical Worldview with Scientific Knowledge

Science to Inform Practice & Practice to Inform Science

- Obtain a solid foundation in research design and statistics
- Learn how to be an expert consumer of research: Read, Understand, Critique, & Apply Scientific Research to your clinical practice
- Also, learn how to conduct meaningful research within your own practice
 - Publish practice-based research
 - Write practice based clinical materials for professionals, paraprofessionals, and the general public
 - Lecture, teach, consult using cutting edge research

Extensive Training in Psychological Interventions

- Learn Evidence Based Therapies—treatments developed and scientifically tested
 - Cognitive and Behavioral Therapies
 - Psychodynamic Therapies
 - Emotion Focused Therapies
 - Family Therapies
 - Couples Therapy
 - Biofeedback
 - Neurofeedback

Learn How to Diagnose and Treat

- Depression
- Bipolar
- ADHD
- Impulse Control Disorders
- Eating Disorders and Somatic Disorders
- Anxiety
- OCD
- Autism
- Trauma
- Addictions
- Conduct problems
- Personality Disorders
- Relationship Disturbances (parent-child, family, couples)

Learn how to Administer and Interpret Cognitive and Psychologist Tests

- Intellectual Assessment (WISC, WAIS)
- Neuropsychological Assessment (Wisconsin Card Sort, Continuous Performance, Stroop)
- Objective Personality Tests (MMPI, Millon, Rating Scales)
- Projective Personality Tests (Rorschach, TAT)
- Behavioral Observation Scales
- Structured Clinical Interviews
- Family Assessments
- Attachment Assessments

Understand Interpersonal Neurobiology

- Learn how the Mind, Brain, and Relationships work together to form the Personality and Development
- Learn about the structures of the brains
- Learn about neurochemistry and psychopharmacology
- Learn how to harness the power of relationships, attention, and cognition to attention to change the brain and its structure

Work with Different Ages

- Infants and children
- Adolescents
- Young adults
- Middle aged adults
- Older adults

Multicultural Sensitivity

- Work with people from a variety of cultures, ethnicities, and worldviews.
- Develop a deeper understanding and appreciation for those who hold different values from your own, while remaining true to what you believe

Admission Requirements

- **Admission Requirements**
- Admission Requirements. Students follow the standard graduate program admissions requirements as published in the *Liberty University Graduate Catalog*, with the following additional requirement:
 - At least 18 semester hours in psychology that include at least one course in each of the following groups of courses: general psychology; abnormal psychology or psychopathology; quantitative methods, statistics, research methods or experimental design; personality psychology or theories of psychotherapy; physiological psychology; one course from the traditional “scientific sub disciplines”)
- GRE – Minimum score of 300 (applicants with extensive experience in the field may request to have the GRE waived.)
- • 3 Letters of Recommendation
- • Personal Essay
- • Faculty Interview

Competitive Applications

- Those with higher GPA with Psychology Major in Undergraduate
 - With Internship Experience—especially in clinical settings
 - Letters of reference from supervisors in clinical settings
 - Work experience in human service field and letters of reference from supervisors
- Those who have already acquired a Masters Degree in Psychology or related field
- Those who have already acquired a License in Human Services field (e.g. LPC, LCSW)
- Those with excellent social skills; evidence of emotion regulation skills, and very clearly articulated vision for why becoming an clinical psychologist is their “calling.”
- Those who clearly understand what it takes to complete a doctorate in clinical psychology and who are willing to make the investment of their time and financial resources.

Graduation Criteria

- Graduation Requirements. To graduate from the program, students must:
 - • Complete 126 hours of coursework
 - • Maintain a cumulative Grade Point Average of 3.0
 - • Successfully defend dissertation
 - • Complete degree within seven years

What Does the Program Look Like?

- Five Years Total—
 - Years 1-coursework with pre-practicum training
 - Years 2-4—course work plus 10-15 hours per week at practicum sites.
 - Year 5—full-time at internship site (1500-2000 hours plus dissertation work)
 - Year 6—post doctoral year, required for licensure

First Year

First Semester

- * 600: Intro clinical practice I
- * 805: Cognitive/intellectual assessment
- * 701: Adult Psychopath
- * 615: History and Systems
- * 700: Research Design I

15hrs

Second Semester

- 601: Intro clinical practice I
- * 605: Life Span Dev
- * 610: Child and Adolescent Psychopath
- * 702: Biological Bases of Behavior
- * 703: Statistics I

15hrs

Summer

- * 707: Social Bases of Human Behavior
- * 706: Diversity and Cross Cultural Psychology

6hrs

2nd Year

First Semester

- *796: Clinical Seminar I
- *705: Research Design II
- *710: Advanced Theories of Psychotherapy
- *740: Evidenced Based Psychotherapy/Adults
- *810: Psych Assess II: Personality
- *798 Practicum I

15hrs

Second Semester

- *796: Clinical Seminar I
- *635: ?????
- *708: Ethics and professional issues
- *815: Psych. Assess. III Integrative
- *745: Evidenced Based Psychotherapy/Children
- *798: Clinical Practicum II
- *770: Clinical Competency Exam
- ** Awarded MA, Clinical Psychology

15hrs

Summer

- *750: Advanced Group Psychotherapy
- *Psych. Elective

6hrs

3rd Year

First Semester

- *797: Clinical Seminar II
- *Assessment Elective
- *735: Cog/Affect Bases
- *889: Dissertation I
- *898 Practicum III

11 hrs

Second Semester

- *797: Clinical Seminar II
- *755: Applied Theology for Clinical Psychologists
- *715: Psychometrics
- *889: Dissertation II
- *898: Practicum IV

11 hrs

Summer

- *750: Advanced Group Psychotherapy
- *Psych. Elective

6 hrs

4th Year

First Semester

- *797: Clinical Seminar
- *825: Consultation
- *820: Psychopharm.
- *889: Dissertation III
- *998: Practicum V

11 hrs

Second Semester

- *797: Clinical Seminar
- *830 Supervision
- *Elective
- *889: Dissertation IV
- *898: Practicum VI
- *970: Clinical Competency

9 hrs

Summer

5th Year

First Semester

*999 Internship
*889 Dissertation

11 hrs

Second Semester

*999 Internship
*889 Dissertation

9 hrs

Summer

*999 Internship
*890 Dissertation Defense

Awarded PsyD in
Clinical Psychology

Is it worth the investment?

- How much yearly income would you need to make (after paying for your student loan), doing something you love, making a difference in the world?
- \$50,000?
- \$ 70,000?
- \$ 90,000?
- \$100,000 plus?

Is it financially viable to do this degree?

Loan amount

\$ 160,000

Interest rate

6 %

Years to repay

30 years

Calculate

Please note the monthly payment amount is an estimate provided for information purposes only.²

[Check out more college planning tools](#)

Results

Your estimated monthly payment

\$ 959

Amounts are estimates, and some lenders may require a minimum monthly payment.

There are ways to reduce your monthly payment if this amount seems unmanageable. Explore tips on how to [save on expenses](#) and [how to borrow less](#). You can also develop a full plan for financing your higher education with our [College Planning CalculatorSM](#).

Loan amount

\$ 160,000

Interest rate

6 %

Years to repay

15 years

Calculate

Please note the monthly payment amount is an estimate provided for information purposes only.²

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Results

Your estimated monthly payment

\$ 1,350

Amounts are estimates, and some lenders may require a minimum monthly payment.

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Income potential

- Most estimates of clinical psychologist income is greatly underestimated.
- Why?
- Because they are based on community agency-based psychologists base salary: usually \$60,000-80,000. These psychologists do very little individual therapy and mainly work as supervisors and/or administrators. But, many agencies will pay off your student loans.
- Or, they are based on the Average yearly income reported by all licensed psychologists—this includes those who practice part-time or who are no longer practicing but still maintain their license; e.g., the stay at home mom psychologist who maintains her license as a clinical psychologist but no longer sees patients.

Income Potential

- Psychologists in central Virginia healthcare facilities—outpatient practice
- See on average 6 patients per day, 5 days per week, 1 month vacation
- \$120,000 per year, plus benefits (healthcare, 401k etc)
 - Minus \$ 13, 500 for student loan payment
 - =\$ 106, 000 per year

Most Active, Primary Wage Earner Psychologist Make Well Over \$120,000

- For example, several local psychologists in Lynchburg
- Average 8 patients per day (45 minutes per session), 11 months, 1 month vacation
- Average Adjusted Reimbursement Rate= \$100 per hour
- =\$176,000 per year
- Add 2 Full-Psychological Evaluations per/month @\$1000 each= \$22,000
 - (Forensic Evaluation are \$3-5000 each)
- Total= \$198,000
- Subtract 31,350 overhead cost and student loan payment
- Total=\$166,650 per year
- This does not include other income generated from teaching, consultation, etc.

Typical Daily Schedule for Full-Time Psychologist in Private Practice

- 8:15 patient 1
- 9:00 patient 2
- 9:45 patient 3
- 10:30 patient 4
- 11:15 patient 5
- 12:00—lunch
- 1:00 patient 6
- 1:45 patient 7
- 2:30 patient 8
- 3:30: At home, on the couch watching Netflix