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FELIX EVENT CENTER

School of Behavioral and Applied Sciences

Graduate Programs in

Psychology





Graduate Programs in Psychology

Azusa Pacific University's graduate programs in psychology equip individuals to be compassionate and prepared therapists and psychologists who not only understand their field, but know how to make a difference in it every day.

About APU's Psychology Programs // Housed in the university's School of Behavioral and Applied Sciences, the graduate programs in psychology at Azusa Pacific are fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The Doctor of Psychology program is also accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA).

Our programs are designed to help you balance the responsibilities of life, including work and family, as you continue your education. Most classes are offered in the evenings in four-hour blocks, so you'll spend fewer nights on campus each week. Our programs also allow you to choose between full-time or reduced-load schedules, so you can complete your degree at the pace that's right for you.

The M.A. in Clinical Psychology and the Doctor of Psychology programs meet California state requirements for licensure.

School of Behavioral and Applied Sciences Philosophy // Our desire is to take students to a new level of knowledge and interaction within a community of practice. APU's culture of Christian scholarship carries with it the value of quality programs and instructors, further enhancing an environment for heightened student achievement.

What is the difference between the M.A. and the Psy.D.? // The M.A. in Clinical Psychology with an emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy is focused on training individuals for the primary role of psychotherapist/counselor. It is focused on clinical practice in a variety of settings: Public mental health organizations, community mental health agencies, private practice, faith-based counseling agencies, residential treatment facilities, etc. Most graduates pursue licensure as an LMFT or have the option of pursuing licensure as an LPCC after obtaining their degree.

The Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology with an emphasis in Family Psychology is more extensive; it is focused on training individuals to become practitioner-scholars. Practically, this means that graduates of the Psy.D. program become psychotherapists but also engage in psychological assessment and clinical research. There are also opportunities for teaching, consultation, administration, etc. Most Psy.D. graduates pursue licensure as a clinical psychologist after obtaining their degree.

Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology: Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) and Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC)

The Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology with an emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy is designed for those who want to enter or continue their career in the field of professional counseling with individuals, couples, and families. This program trains students to become practitioner-scholars—able to understand the theories and methods of counseling and also apply them in practice. The program meets California requirements for licensure as a marriage and family therapist (MFT) and, with the addition of one elective, also meets the requirements for licensure as a licensed professional clinical counselor (LPCC).

Program Highlights:

- A rigorous, 66-unit academic curriculum paired with clinical practice prepares students for licensure in California.
- Convenient course schedules allow students to maintain the responsibilities of work and family while pursuing their degree.
- APU's distinctly Christian perspective provides a solid foundation formed by the integration of ethics, theology, and psychology.
- Expert faculty who are active in the field bring real-world experience to the classroom.

You Set the Pace // In designing your approach to MFT study, the blueprints can be laid out in a two-, three-, or four-year program. Depending on your course of action, you may take from 6 to 15 units each 15-week semester.

Two-, Three-, and Four-year Academic Plans // Participation in the full-time, two-year academic plan requires class attendance during the evening, two days per week. Each course meets once weekly. Two classes are offered each evening (beginning at 4:05 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.).

Participation in the reduced-load, three- or four-year plans also requires class attendance during the evening two or three days per week, but the student generally takes only two or three classes per semester, rather than the four classes per semester required by the two-year program.

An additional 12–15 hours per week for clinical placement training is required once trainee status is obtained. MFT students must accumulate a minimum of 225 hours of direct clinical contact in their practicum setting prior to graduation. LPCC students must accumulate a minimum of 280 hours of direct clinical contact in their practicum setting prior to graduation.

Clinical Placement // Students develop therapeutic skills through required hours of direct clinical experience. Students in the two-year program normally do so in a 12–18-month clinical placement, while students in the three- and four-year programs do so in a 24–30-month placement.

Although students are responsible for securing a placement site, site directors, the director of clinical training (DCT), and the Introduction to Clinical Practice course provide assistance. In addition, students receive support and opportunities to discuss clinical issues and problems with supervisors and faculty in clinical placement and supervision courses.

Transferable Education // APU's program allows you to transfer up to 12 units of graduate-level coursework from another regionally accredited school that meets licensing requirements. All units must be verified with the program director.

Program Locations // APU offers the MFT program at four convenient Southern California locations: Azusa, Orange County, Inland Empire, and San Diego.

Career Opportunities // Graduates of the MFT program choose from many career options, including:

- Agency directors, therapists, and/or staff
- Church counseling center administrators
- Hospital staff
- Nonprofit managers
- Private practice counselors
- Professional speakers
- Doctoral studies
- Supervisors
- Teachers
- University faculty and administrators
- Writers/contributing editors for professional journals

MFT Student Body // The student body consists of roughly 70 percent female students and 30 percent male students. Students represent diverse populations. Many enter straight from undergraduate study, and approximately 80 percent work while they complete their degree. Lecture classes consist of 25–40 students, and clinical settings include about 12 students.

Application deadlines

Fall: **March 1** Spring: **October 1**

Learn More // apu.edu/bas/graduatepsychology/mft

Contessa Ruiz // Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology: Marriage and Family Therapy

I chose APU because I liked the small-classroom/community atmosphere. I also was interested in learning how to incorporate faith into my work. I am so glad I chose APU. I enjoyed the small community and making friends within my cohort—I believe the format naturally lends itself to intimate relationship formation, allowing me to form true friendships, that I have sustained.

I enjoyed the track concept and never having to worry about getting into a class. I also enjoyed the personal nature of the professors, many of whom engaged in self-disclosure as a means of modeling what vulnerability looks like. I was so appreciative of the feedback I received from my professors, who worked hard to share all they could with the students. I also appreciated that the program required me to undergo 40 hours of therapy, which enabled me to learn about myself while developing new skills. I was able to articulate my experience to my therapist and practice what I would like it to look like someday.

Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology: Family Psychology (Psy.D.)

Accredited by the American Psychological Association

The Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) in Clinical Psychology with an emphasis in Family Psychology is fast becoming the recognized degree for practitioners. The Psy.D. at Azusa Pacific is identified as a practitioner-scholar program, preparing APU graduates by applying the science of psychology to its practice. The Psy.D. curriculum provides the courses and training necessary to meet the educational requirements for licensure in the state of California.

Program Highlights:

- Fully accredited by WASC and APA, the Psy.D. offers graduates a relevant and respected degree.
- A solid academic curriculum prepares students for California psychology licensure examinations and clinical practice.
- A Christian-values orientation informs the practice of psychology, and courses provide a structure for the integration of ethics, theology, and psychology.
- Faculty maintain active careers in the profession and bring their experience to the classroom.

APA-accredited // The Psy.D. program is accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) Commission on Accreditation: 750 First St. NE, Washington, DC 20002-4242; (202) 336-5500.

Doctoral Assistantships // Funds are allocated to provide a number of teaching-research assistantships (TRAs) each academic year for students in the doctoral program. Students may apply for a TRA each year for the first four years of their program. A TRA includes 50 percent tuition remission plus an annual stipend of \$6,250. Recipients must provide 15 hours of service per week.

Five- and Six-Year Options // APU's Psy.D. program offers a less-intensive, six-year curriculum plan in addition to the traditional five-year program. This option requires one or two fewer courses per semester.



Family Psychology // Based on systems theory, the discipline of family psychology recognizes the dynamic interaction between persons and environments without detracting from an awareness of individual intrapsychic issues. The Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology: Family Psychology program incorporates elements from several disciplines (e.g., clinical psychology, developmental psychology, personality theory, environmental psychology, neuropsychology, psychobiology, and social psychology). All the disciplines are related by the theoretical understanding of the dynamic, reciprocal relationship between these factors and their impact on human behavior.

This theoretical foundation undergirds the program courses at APU. In courses that have traditionally had an individual focus, systematic aspects relevant to the content area are incorporated. By the end of the program, students think systematically and apply systematic analysis to clinical situations.

A Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology: Family Psychology will best prepare students to provide psychological services in an era when it is becoming more difficult for people to navigate their way through the complex world in which they live.

Diversity // In our increasingly globalized world, it is imperative that psychologists are trained to understand and interact with a variety of cultures. At Azusa Pacific, we place an emphasis not only on students developing their knowledge of different people groups and their skills in providing treatment for diverse populations, but upon identifying, recognizing, and exploring their own attitudes.

More specifically, we strive to create a community where students can grow toward becoming culturally competent psychotherapists in a spirit of love and inclusion. We attempt to encourage difficult dialogue about current and historical injustices in human life and society, acknowledge and work through our own biases and prejudices, engage in multidimensional, active learning processes, and continually explore ourselves as ethnic and cultural beings.



Interdisciplinary Integration // Azusa Pacific has a strong Christian heritage and commitment to integrating evangelical Christian thought into all university programs. With that in mind, APU's Psy.D. program emphasizes the integration of psychology with ethics, theology, and spiritual formation. This unique perspective provides students with the opportunity to critically examine psychological theory using ethical and theological frameworks. Students are encouraged to explore the role and importance of moral and spiritual identity formation in the process of psychotherapy.

Individuals from any religious tradition may be admitted to the program, but should understand that coursework and training is structured using Christian values and principles. Students are asked to learn and thoughtfully interact with the content of courses that house this emphasis, as well as to reflect on their own beliefs and values as they relate to preparation for professional practice.

In addition to providing students with an interdisciplinary framework, the program facilitates and enhances the development of competency with respect to addressing religious and spiritual diversity in clinical practice. The Psy.D. program is sensitive to the reality of pluralism regarding the development of competency in the provision of psychological services to clients of various religious and spiritual traditions. Students often express appreciation for the interdisciplinary studies and integration of this program, regardless of their personal religious or spiritual identity.

Psy.D. Clinical Training // Clinical training is central to the practitioner-scholar model for educating clinical psychologists. APU's program assists students in developing the essential knowledge base, attitudes, and therapeutic skills to function as clinical psychologists. Quality clinical training provides practitioners with experiences that ensure depth and breadth of clinical interventions, diversity of clients, the opportunity to develop therapeutic competencies that integrate their theoretical coursework with direct client experience, and the development of the seven core competencies in professional psychology.

Clinical training at the doctoral level involves three years of practicum and a full-time, year-long internship (a limited number of two-year, half-time internships are available in some settings). Students entering the Psy.D. program with existing clinical training or licensure must still complete the program's clinical training sequence.

In their clinical placements, students gain experience in a variety of clinical settings, including inpatient/residential, child, outpatient, brief/managed care, and settings utilizing psychological assessment. Field placement sites and faculty psychologists provide supervision for clinical training. During training, the student completes a minimum of 1,600 hours, including supervision, direct client contact, and an assessment practicum completed over the course of the Psy.D. These hours of clinical training occur in addition to any master's-level training hours.

Community Counseling Center // Azusa Pacific University's Community Counseling Center (CCC) provides quality counseling and consulting services at a low cost to the Azusa community and surrounding areas. The mission of the CCC is to help families find harmony between their values and actions as they work through challenges and transition dilemmas. As part of this mission, students of APU's clinical and family psychology programs provide the services at the CCC to enhance their counseling skills and become more effective therapists and psychologists. For more information, visit apu.edu/ccc/.

Application deadline

January 15

Learn More // apu.edu/bas/graduatepsychology/psyd

Chanté Deloach // Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology: Family Psychology

Intrigued by a professor's description of his teaching experience at APU, I looked into the program. I found a unique atmosphere of sensitivity and commitment to students and their success that I had not found at larger research universities. Once immersed in the Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology program, I realized that the academic rigor matched the caliber of professors. This program offers excellent clinical training by faculty who are expert clinicians. They have a vested interest in facilitating growth in their students' interpersonal process as individuals and professionals. I especially appreciated the department's flexibility in allowing me to pursue clinical practicum experiences with ethnic minority and urban populations. After completing the clinical sequence, I have stellar diagnostic, assessment, and treatment skills compared to my counterparts at other institutions. I strongly recommend APU's program to anyone seeking a personalized education with excellent clinical training.

Take the Next Step

Every day, you can make a difference as a marriage and family therapist or psychologist. Take the next step toward earning your degree today.

Admission Process // Start your admission process by viewing the appropriate admission requirements below.

International Applicants: Visit apu.edu/international for additional admission requirements. For more information, contact the International Center at +1-626-812-3055 or international@apu.edu.

MFT Admission Requirements:

- Prerequisite courses in 1) Abnormal Psychology and 2) Human Growth and Development or General Psychology
- Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university with a minimum GPA of 3.0
- Completed Application for Graduate Admission
- \$45 nonrefundable application fee
- Official college or university transcripts sent to APU's Graduate and Professional Center
- Professional Interest Essay
- Three letters of recommendation on the APU recommendation form
- Interview/evaluation

For forms and further details, visit apu.edu/bas/graduatepsychology/mft/admission/.

Psy.D. Admission Requirements:

- Bachelor's or master's degree in psychology or closely related field with a minimum GPA of 3.0 or
- Bachelor's or master's degree in a field other than psychology, plus the following undergraduate courses:
 - General/Introduction to Psychology
 - Abnormal Psychology
 - Human Growth and Development
 - Theories of Personality
 - Introduction to Statistics
- Completed Application for Graduate Admission
- \$45 nonrefundable application fee
- Official college or university transcripts sent to APU's Graduate and Professional Center
- Professional Interest Essay
- Two academic references and one clinical reference
- GRE scores from exam taken within last five years
- Curriculum vitae or résumé
- Specification of intent for five- or six-year program
- Interview/evaluation

Applicants who are finalists will be invited to a meeting to present their qualifications for admission and for faculty evaluation of student skills. International applicants who are finalists will be interviewed by telephone by one or more members of the admissions committee. Upon notification of admission, applicants must confirm their intent to attend, in writing to the department, by April 15. Admission is for the next academic year only and may not be deferred.

For forms and further details, visit apu.edu/bas/graduatepsychology/psyd/admission/.

Financial Aid // Grants, scholarships, loans, and company reimbursement are among the financial aid opportunities that may be available to help you complete your degree. APU's Office of Graduate Student Financial Services is committed to helping you understand and find resources for the costs of pursuing your education.

For more information, contact the Office of Graduate Student Financial Services at (626) 815-4570 or visit apu.edu/gpc/sfs/.

Contact Information:

Department of Graduate Psychology
(626) 815-5008 or jmdeyo@apu.edu for Psy.D.
(626) 815-5009 or cwickey@apu.edu for MFT in Azusa and Orange County
(619) 718-9655 or jjordan@apu.edu for MFT in San Diego
(626) 857-2268 or dfigueroa@apu.edu for MFT in the Inland Empire

Graduate and Professional Center
568 E. Foothill Blvd., Azusa, CA 91702
(800) 825-5278 or (626) 815-4570
gpc@apu.edu
apu.edu/gpc

Helpful Links

Learn more about APU's graduate psychology faculty at apu.edu/bas/graduatepsychology/faculty/.

Learn more about APU's regional centers across Southern California at apu.edu/locations/.

Visit apu.edu/ccc to learn more about APU's Community Counseling Center.