

Purpose and Goals of the Program

The purpose of the General Clinical Masters Program is twofold: For all students, the program is designed to prepare individuals to apply for a “limited license” and to practice as a Michigan Limited License Psychologist. Applications are made through the Board of Examiners, Psychology Licensing Board, Lansing, Michigan. Since the licensing requirements change periodically, you should contact the Board of Examiners to find out the specific requirements you must meet at the time you expect to graduate. It will also be important that you familiarize yourselves with the Administrative Rules of the Board of Psychology. Of particular note is that, starting in 2010, all individuals seeking a limited license to practice psychology in the state of Michigan are required to pass the Examination for Practice of Professional Psychology (EPPP). This exam is the same one used to provide full licensure for doctoral-level psychologists. Information about licensure can be found at the following website:

http://www.state.mi.us/orr/emi/admincode.asp?AdminCode=Single&Admin_Num=33802501&Dpt=CH&RngHigh=)

For those with interests in continuing graduate education, the program will prepare students for entry into a PhD or PsyD program in clinical psychology. Courses in this program are the same ones taken by students in EMU’s clinical psychology PhD program. In those cases in which students proceed into a PhD or PsyD program, it may be the case that credit is provided for some or many of those courses.

This program requires 45 semester hours of study, including six semester hours (600 clock hours) of supervised practicum experience in an approved mental health or rehabilitation facility, such as a community mental health center. In this program, you will study statistics, personality processes, psychopathology, personality and cognitive assessment, and clinical approaches to intervention. If you choose, you will also have the opportunity to take classes in research design and data analysis. Furthermore, you will hone your research skills through classroom assignments, and if you wish, by completing either a masters thesis or research project. The thesis involves conducting, and successfully defending an original piece of research. It is done with the close supervision of a faculty mentor. Upon completion of this program, you will be prepared to be qualified for positions such as a Michigan Limited License Psychologist, a psychological assistant, a psychometrician, or mental health worker (depending on current certification and licensing laws in the state where you practice) in a variety of public and private agencies. Often you will function as a member of an inter-disciplinary mental health team under the supervision of a psychiatrist or doctoral-level psychologist.

You may enroll in the General Clinical MS program as a full- or part-time student, though in recent years, most students have been enrolled full-time. As a full-time student, you will likely complete the program in 2 years. As a part-time student, the time to completion is highly variable, depending upon many factors, including course load, practicum completion, and course sequencing. Completion of the practicum experience usually occurs during the daytime hours, although not necessarily on a full-time basis.

The following is a listing of the skills taught in the General Clinical MS program. They are incorporated into the program to provide you with the requisite skills of the profession. These will serve as professional building blocks.

Practical clinical skills

1. Learn assessment techniques using multimodal and multi-method approaches.
2. Learn diagnostic techniques and procedures.
3. Write professional evaluations, treatment plans, progress notes, and other reports.
4. Develop and implement treatment programs.
5. Develop and deliver case presentations.
6. Implement psychotherapeutic practice that is consistent with theoretical and empirical literature in conjunction with the direction and experience of a licensed clinical psychologist.
7. Develop skills in implementing treatments.
8. Demonstrate sensitivity to issues of cultural and individual diversity.
9. Demonstrate knowledge of and correct use of the APA Ethics Code for clinical practice.

General scholarly skills

1. Develop critical analysis of assessment and treatment research literature.
2. Demonstrate the ability to write high quality (possibly publishable) articles.
3. Demonstrate the ability to make a presentation of research or scholarly piece in a public forum.

Research skills

1. Demonstrate knowledge of research in clinical assessment and treatment.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of treatment outcome research.
3. Design, conduct, analyze, and disseminate research that contributes to the field of psychology.

Student opportunities

1. Practice assessment and treatment skills in highly supervised prepracticum and practicum experiences. The majority of clinical supervision is provided by psychologists in community-based settings.
2. Work with and be supervised by faculty who have expertise in a variety of assessment and treatment modalities. This supervision will most often occur during prepracticum experiences.
3. Participate in a collegial atmosphere that is accepting of diverse opinions and prepares you to analyze the current literature critically.