

M.S. in Clinical Behavioral Psychology

Advance your career with a Master of Science in Clinical Behavioral Psychology.

Overview

The program provides students with training in evidence-based cognitive-behavior therapies and applied behavior analysis in preparation for the professional practice of psychology as Limited License Psychologist (LLP) in Michigan and for Board Certification in Behavior Analysis (BCBA). As a unique asset of this program, all students are prepared to enter these two high demand areas of applied clinical science. The Clinical Behavioral Master's program operates within a framework of contextual behavioral science. Students learn to understand the biopsychosocial circumstances of their clients, to develop individualized treatment plans and utilize modern behavior therapies to help clients meet their goals. All students receive training in the philosophy and science underlying clinical behavioral therapies to become skilled flexible clinical practitioners. Graduates of the program are also well prepared to pursue advanced training at the doctoral level.

Objectives

1. Prepare students for diverse employment opportunities using cognitive-behavior therapies and applied behavior analysis.
2. Prepare students for diverse employment opportunities involving the assessment of behavior and cognition.
3. Prepare students to meet state requirements for licensing master's level psychologists (LLP).
4. Prepare students to meet national requirements for taking the Board Certification in Behavior Analysis (BCBA) exam.
5. Provide students with opportunities for basic and applied research.
6. Provide preparation for doctoral work for students interested.
7. Enable program completion in two years for full-time students.

Program Requirements

The M.S. in Psychology (Clinical Behavioral) requires the completion of 45 credits of course work. The required courses for the program have been mapped on to the 4th Edition Task List of the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, Inc.® (BACB) and this course sequence meets the coursework requirements for eligibility to take the Board Certified Behavior Analyst Examination®. The program is under review for BACB Verified Course Sequence status in Fall of 2018. Applicants will have to meet additional requirements to qualify including obtaining a practicum placement with BACB approved supervision.

Clinical Behavioral Psychology Foundations: 19 credits

- Learning 3 credits
- Behavioral Assessment with Prepracticum 4 credits
- Clinical Behavior Analysis with Prepracticum 4 credits
- Experimental Analysis of Behavior with Prepracticum 4 credits
- Behavioral & Other Evidence-based Psychotherapies with Prepracticum 4 credits

General Competencies: 13 credits

- Cognitive Assessment 4 credits
- Psychological Statistics 3 credits
- Psychopathology 3 credits
- Scientific and Professional Ethics 3 credits

Elective Courses: 9 credits

Nine hours selected from psychology courses within the department in consultation with the graduate advisor. The program suggests but does not require the following courses:

- Evidence-Based Therapies for Children and Adolescents 3 credits
- Behavioral Medicine 3 credits
- Psychopharmacology 3 credits
- Clinical Ecological Psychology 3 credits
- Modern Behavior Therapies 3 credits
- Treatment of Anxiety Disorders 3 credits

Practicum: 4 credits

Students are required to complete a 500 hour practicum experience.

- Field Practicum with Seminar (Fall) 2 credits
- Field Practicum with Seminar (Winter) 2 credits

Program Total: 45 credits

Assistantships

Graduate assistantships provide financial support (tuition scholarships and stipend) and experiential learning experiences. Consequently, these assistantships are highly competitive. They are typically available for up to two years (four enrollment periods), subject to the recommendation of an academic department and approval of the Graduate School. Full-time assistantships provide the following benefits:

- A. Up to 18 credit hours of tuition per fiscal year (Tuition benefits are prorated for part-time assistantships and for G.A.s beginning their appointments after the start of the semester).
- B. Library privileges and a 10% discount on purchases at the University bookstore.
- C. Stipend (about \$9000 per year).
- D. Valuable teaching and research experience.

While there are a limited number of graduate assistantships in the psychology department, additional EMU graduate assistantship opportunities can be found at: <http://www.emich.edu/hr/employment/hiring-information/graduate-assistant.php>

Admission Requirements

Priority consideration will be given to applicants who meet all of the requirements for graduate degree admission status listed below:

1. Meet the Graduate School admission requirements;
2. Complete the Graduate School application via APPLY EMU;
3. Complete the Department application on PSYCAS;
4. Have an undergraduate GPA of approximately 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale;
5. Have at least 20 hours of credit in psychology, including statistics and experimental psychology;
6. Submit a transcript of GRE scores in which the scores for the verbal and quantitative sections are at the 50th percentile or higher; and
7. Present three letters of recommendation from faculty, employers, or others who can testify to the applicant's suitability for the program of study.

Incomplete applications will not be considered. Credits earned under non-degree student status do not automatically apply to the requirements of the degree program.

How to Apply

All application materials are due in on or before FEBRUARY 1 for the next Fall semester. There is no admission to degree programs in the winter and summer sessions. Visit emich.edu/psychology/programs/ms_cb.php for links to the APPLY EMU and PSYCAS applications. Be sure to complete both!

Program Faculty

Marilyn Bonem, Ph.D.	basic & applied behavior analysis
Adam Briggs, Ph.D., BCBA	assessment and treatment of severe destructive behavior, group oriented contingencies in learning settings, EIBI skill programming, supervision and staff performance
Michelle Byrd, Ph.D., LP	behavioral pediatrics, behavioral parent training, behavioral medicine/health, evidence-based cognitive-behavioral therapies
Claudia Drossel, Ph.D., LP	neurobehavioral health, behavioral gerontology, behavioral pharmacology, evidence-based behavior therapies, human operant research
Tamara Loverich, Ph.D., LP	modern behavior therapies that address emotion dysregulation including Acceptance and Commitment Therapy and mindfulness-based therapies
Alex Maragakis, Ph.D.	Integrated behavioral and primary care, quality improvement, treatment cost, and provider burnout
Angela Staples, Ph.D.	regulation of emotions in face-to-face interactions, impact of sleep disturbances on daytime functioning
James Todd, Ph.D.	experimental analysis of human and nonhuman behavior, use of behavior modification to increase independent living skills for persons with disabilities
Thomas Waltz, Ph.D., LP	behavioral economics, applied behavior analysis, evidence-based behavior therapies, implementation science

Contact Us

Psychology Department
341 Science Complex
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
Ph: 734-487-1155
Fax: 734-487-6553
psy_cbgrad@emich.edu

Program Coordinator:
Thomas Waltz, Ph.D.
301D Science Complex
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
Ph: 734-487-4852
twaltz1@emich.edu

