

# Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology

Advance your career with a Doctorate of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology.

## Objectives

The purpose of the doctoral program is to graduate fully licensable clinical psychologists with state-of-the-art knowledge relating to the psychological practice of assessment, therapy, and research. A primary program objective is the preparation of clinical psychologists who will be effective in supervising and managing therapists in multidisciplinary mental health care delivery systems in a diverse society. To meet these objectives, the program emphasizes fundamental scientist-practitioner skills such as practical clinical skills in assessment and treatment, and scholarly skills in designing, conducting, analyzing and disseminating research that contributes to the field of psychology. Students will also be able to focus their training on one or more of five areas of emphasis (clinical-adult, applied behavior analysis, assessment, developmental psychopathology, or health). To meet these objectives, students will be provided with opportunities to:

1. Practice assessment and treatment skills in a highly supervised environment.
2. Work with and be supervised by faculty with expertise in a variety of assessment and treatment modalities.
3. Use state-of-the-art equipment and technology employed in the field today.
4. Propose and conduct research.
5. Participate in a collegial atmosphere that is open to diverse opinions and viewpoints and prepares students to analyze the current literature critically.
6. Teach undergraduate students.

## Curriculum Design

The doctoral program is a full-time, full-residency program that is designed to be completed in five years although most students complete it in six years. No part-time students will be accepted. The curriculum is designed to meet or exceed state and national guidelines for licensing and accreditation.

## Areas of Emphasis

[Clinical-Adult](#) – focuses on a broad range of behavioral, emotional, and interpersonal problems for adults of all ages. Research projects focus on the etiology, assessment, and treatment of various adult conditions.

[Applied Behavior Analysis](#) – applies empirically validated learning principles, behavioral conditioning techniques, and related environmental modifications to enhance behavioral repertoires.

[Assessment](#) – encompasses training in psychoeducational, developmental, neuropsychological, and personality assessment for a range of populations from childhood to older adulthood.

[Developmental Psychopathology](#) – emphasizes understanding psychopathology across the lifespan including investigating ecological predictors such as parent-child relationships, school settings and other contextual factors.

[Health](#) – integrates psychological research and practice within and outside medical models of care in both the treatment and prevention of health conditions.

## Integration of M.S. & Ph.D. curricula

The doctoral program builds on our current M.S. programs, which offer two different clinical approaches. The Clinical Behavioral (CB) M.S. program provides training in state-of-the-art behavioral assessment and empirically validated treatment techniques, encompassing applied behavior analysis, behavior therapy, cognitive-behavior therapy, and modern behavior therapies. The General Clinical (GC) M.S. program provides a multitheoretical view of psychological disorders that emphasizes assessment, diagnosis, and treatment from various perspectives. A unique feature of our doctoral program is the opportunity for students to acquire specialization in applied behavior analysis and assessment, or to sample from a menu of courses from multitheoretical orientations.

Pre-practicum work will require three to five hours per week of phone intakes at the on-site clinic and group supervision during the first year. After mastering M.S.-level skills, Ph.D. students supervise junior doctoral clinicians. Doctoral students also take a course designed to teach them the skills necessary to manage, supervise, and evaluate healthcare systems as well as a course on undergraduate teaching.

## Doctoral Fellowship

To help ensure the success of our students in the program, every student accepted will be eligible for a full-time doctoral fellowship for the first three to four years of the program. Students will be assigned to a faculty member in their area of research interest. Students will spend an average of 20 hours per week with that faculty member, assisting with research and teaching activities. Fellows may be asked to help with class preparations, as well as assist in data collection, preparation and analysis. The faculty members will serve as mentors to their students, training and guiding them in developing their own research plans for master's thesis and dissertation work.

Students may request a specific faculty person as their mentor, and may request a change in mentor as they matriculate through the program. Every effort will be made to accommodate student requests within reason. Doctoral fellowships include a tuition waiver (for up to 90 credits) and a stipend (\$16,500 per year). Students are responsible for the registration fee and their parking tag each semester.

### Program Requirements

The Clinical Doctoral program requires the completion of 90 graduate credit hours. The master's degree is earned en route to the doctoral degree. Students in the doctoral program must complete a master's thesis. Students may choose courses that are required for Board Certification in Behavior Analysis (BCBA). Students must obtain a B or better in all courses. The current program of study detailing required courses and electives can be found on our department websites PhD program page: [emich.edu/psychology/programs/phd.php](https://www.emich.edu/psychology/programs/phd.php).

Other program requirements include:

1. Master's Prepracticum: 200-300 hours (onsite; taken in conjunction with master's courses).
2. Doctoral Prepracticum: 120-150 hours first year (onsite; approximately five hours per week for one year; students answer phones, do intakes, and do some clerical work. The doctoral prepracticum is part of 20-hour per week doctoral fellowship).
3. Internal Practicum: 500 hours for one year and 150-200 per year for next two years (onsite); starting Summer of first year, doctoral students begin to see 1-2 clients at the clinic along with telephone duty. Fall and Winter of second year, students see 4-6 clients.
4. External Practicum: a minimum of one 500-hour practicum (although 1,000 hours is recommended for successful internship placement) is conducted offsite (externship). Ph.D. students typically complete 1,000 hours, working 20 hours per week for one year.
5. Research: master's thesis, qualifying paper, and dissertation.
6. M.S. clinical supervision and undergraduate teaching (in third or fourth years of program); advanced students prepare educational workshops for first-year students.
7. Clinical Predoctoral Internship (2,000 hours).

### Admission Requirements

Admission to the program is based on the following criteria:

1. Academic ability as measured by verbal, quantitative and writing scores on the GRE. In keeping with other Ph.D. programs in the state and with national criteria, successful students typically have a minimum score in the 50th percentile on the verbal and quantitative sections, and a writing section minimum score of 4.0. However, successful applicants may present much higher scores given the highly competitive nature of clinical doctoral programs. Applicants are not required to take the GRE Advanced Psychology Test.
2. Achievement in undergraduate or graduate work. Successful students typically have a minimum

standard of a 3.50 on a 4.00 scale undergraduate GPA. Again, successful applicants typically present with much higher GPAs. Students may be admitted with either a bachelor's or a master's degree. If prior relevant graduate coursework, course requirements will be determined on a case-by-case basis after admission.

3. Academic background in psychology. Applicants must have completed a minimum of 20 semester hours in psychology, including a course in statistics and a laboratory course in research methods/experimental psychology.
4. Personal qualities that predict success in graduate study and in professional placement after graduation. To evaluate these, each applicant must submit three letters of recommendation and complete a personal interview after an initial screening.
5. Fit between applicant and faculty interests. A personal statement and essay regarding fit with training faculty is required describing the applicant's interests. We will be particularly interested in students who have had research and/or clinical experiences similar to those of our faculty.
6. Final approval by the University for admission includes passing the criminal background check.

### How to Apply

Visit <https://www.emich.edu/psychology/programs/grad-admissions.php> for department application materials and full instructions.

All application materials are due on or before DECEMBER 1 for the next Fall semester only.

### Contact Us

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Program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation (CoA) of the American Psychological Association. Questions related to the program's accredited status should be directed to CoA:

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