

## PROPOSED REVISION OF M.A. CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM

### Clinical Psychology

**Program Mission:** ~~The Master's of Arts in Clinical Psychology is designed for students with career interests in clinical, counseling, or community psychology. Students with interests in these areas are recommended to complete course work which facilitates the development of clinical skills and competencies. These courses cover the areas of psychological assessment, therapy, and research, including completion of a thesis. A two semester internship in an approved agency setting under both agency and academic clinical supervision is in the second year.~~

**Program Mission:** The Master's of Arts in Clinical Psychology is designed for students with career interests in master's-level clinical practice or those who plan to obtain a Ph.D. or Psy.D. The foundation of the Clinical Psychology program is the scientist-practitioner model with training rooted in theoretical knowledge and ethical practice. The clinical training component provides students with instruction in empirically-based psychotherapies, assessment, and diagnosis, culminating in a practicum and a two-semester internship. The research focus of the program is designed to develop students' critical thinking and quantitative skills, and includes coursework in research design and analysis, and a required thesis.

**Admission Requirements:** To be eligible for degree candidacy, applicants must meet all of the requirements for admission to the Graduate School (see "Admission to Graduate Degree and Certificate Programs"). A limited number of students are accepted each year and admission to the program is competitive. Prior to consideration for acceptance, students must provide evidence of admission to the Graduate School and completion of the GRE (General) test. Three letters of recommendation attesting to the applicant's potential for successful completion of graduate work must also be submitted. In addition, students must meet at least one of the following requirements in order to be considered for admission:

- A 3.0 grade point average in all undergraduate courses and a 3.25 GPA in undergraduate psychology (based upon a 4 point scale).
- ~~A minimum composite score (verbal, quantitative, and analytical) of 1500 on the GRE.~~  
Although the program has no minimum GRE requirement, the average GRE scores of enrolled students in recent years has been 1100 (V+Q).

In the unusual situation where a student does not meet the specific entrance requirements, but believes he or she warrants exceptional consideration, the student may petition the Clinical Psychology Committee for consideration.

Applications and other supporting data should be submitted to the Graduate School prior to March 1 for consideration for admission the following fall semester. To gain admission, applicants must present a transcript from an accredited institution approved by EIU showing the completion of twenty semester hours of course work in psychology. The following courses are required for admission: statistics; experimental psychology; and abnormal psychology.—Courses considered critical and strongly recommended include: learning or behavioral management; tests

and measurement; personality theory; developmental psychology (child or adolescent). Deficiencies in course work must be made up prior to or concurrently with the graduate program. Petitions for waiver and/or substitution may be made to the departmental clinical psychology committee.

**Study Plan Approval:** The study plan shall be approved by the departmental clinical psychology committee and filed with the departmental graduate coordinator prior to the final semester of study.

## Degree Requirements

Degree requirements include those outlined for the master's degree by the Graduate School (see "Requirements for the Master's Degree"). A student is awarded the Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology following successful completion of ~~at least 48 semester hours of~~ graduate course work consistent with the student's study plan, successful completion of a comprehensive examination and receipt of the Certificate of Comprehensive Knowledge, completion of the clinical internship, and completion of a master's thesis.

## Core Course Requirements

- PSY 5025 - Psychological Assessment I. Credits: 4
- PSY 5026 - Psychological Assessment II. Credits: 3
- PSY 5035 - Advanced Psychopathology. Credits: 3
- PSY 5040 - Psychotherapy. Credits: 3
- PSY 5060 - Cognitive Behavior Therapy. Credits: 3
- PSY 5070 - Group Psychotherapy. Credits: 3
- PSY 5560 - Family Therapy. Credits: 3
- PSY 5710 - Research Design and Statistical Analysis I. Credits: 4
- PSY 5711 - Research Design and Statistical Analysis II. Credits: 3
- **PSY 5890 – Practicum. Credits: 3**
- PSY 5900 - Internship in Clinical Psychology: Professional Ethics. Credits: 6
- PSY 5950 - Thesis. Credits: 3 to 6
- PSY 5980 - Internship in Clinical Psychology II. Credits: 6 to 9

## Electives

- ~~CSD 5920 – Career Counseling. Credits: 3~~
- ~~CSD 5970 – Counseling the Chemically Dependent. Credits: 3~~

Students can select elective courses from the following areas:

### Research

- **PSY 5990 – Independent Study. Credits 1-3 up to a maximum of 6 credits**

**Cross-Cultural Psychology (Can take 1 of the following courses)**

- **PSY 5400 – Psychotherapy with Diverse Population. Credits: 3**

- PSY 5997 – Study Abroad. Credits: 6
- CSD 5600 – Cross Cultural Counseling. Credits: 3

Human Development (Can take 1 of the following courses)

- PSY 5170 – Theories of Learning. Credits: 3
- PSY 5540 – Psychological Processes in the Aged. Credits: 3
- PSY 5970 – Seminar: Clinical Topics in Human Development
- PSY 6300 – Advanced Child Development. Credits: 3
- PSY 6500 – Child Psychopathology. Credits: 3

Substance Abuse and Dependence

- PSY 5970 – Seminar: Substance Abuse and Dependence. Credits: 3

Career Counseling

- CSD 5920 – Career Counseling. Credits: 3

### **Graduate Assistantships**

Information on graduate assistantships may be obtained by contacting the Coordinator of Graduate Studies or Chair, Department of Psychology, Physical Sciences 1151, EIU.

### **RATIONALE:**

The proposed revisions to the M.A. Clinical Psychology program are a result of discussion and feedback from faculty in our program, department faculty, current and former graduate students, and internship supervisors. This is particularly true of the change in the program mission statement, addition of the practicum course as a core requirement, and of increasing the number of possible elective courses. The primary reasons for the above changes are as follows:

- (1) Change in mission statement: The primary reasons for the changes in the Program Mission are to make the mission statement more accurately reflect the aims of our graduate program. The field of clinical psychology is based on the scientist-practitioner model, which emphasizes that clinicians have a solid training in both the empirical elements utilized in research as well as in learning applied skills. Based on feedback from students who apply and those who eventually enroll in our program, this dual-focus training is one of the primary reasons why students decide to attend our graduate program. Finally, the dual focus of the program is also consistent with the fact that the majority of our graduate students are interested in either obtaining a job of a clinician after graduation and/or to pursue doctoral study in psychology.
- (2) Change wording in graduate catalog for GRE requirement: The format of the GRE exam has changed such that the analytical component is now rated on a 6 point scale. Therefore, the earlier requirement of 1500 GRE no longer applies.
- (3) The deletion of the stated number of required credit hours is because the program and department are considering a program change in which students will be required to take a set number of elective courses. In the past 4-5 years, most students in our program have opted to

take elective courses (typically between 1-4 elective courses). These electives are currently not required for graduation from our program.

(4) Practicum will now be a required course in the curriculum. This is a change that was recommended by agency directors/supervisors (at which our students have completed internship) to better prepare students for the clinical work they do on internship. This change also facilitates obtaining licensure in IL as a master's level clinician.

(5) The inclusion of extra elective courses will provide students with the opportunity to take courses in special areas of interest and/or complete courses that are not part of our core curriculum which would better prepare them for either doctoral programs, work with a child population and/or licensure in the State of Illinois. These courses are all currently in the catalog. Certain courses were deleted either because our students have not taken the course in recent years or it is no longer a course that is offered.

To summarize, the above proposed changes will serve to strengthen our program in the following ways:

1. Will make our program more consistent with the scientist-practitioner model outlined in our revised mission statement.
2. Will appeal to students interested in careers as a clinician as well as those intending to eventually apply to doctoral programs.
3. Will allow students to more easily meet the requirements required by the Illinois licensing laws for master's level mental health practitioners.
4. Will provide more options for those students who are primarily interested in clinical work with children.

**Effective Date:** Fall 2009

**Date approved by the Psychology Department:** September 29, 2006 & Re-approved March 27, 2009

**Date approved by the College of Sciences Curriculum Committee** April 10, 2009

**Date approved by CGS** \_\_\_\_\_