

DISCOVER

DOCTOR OF PSYCHOLOGY (PSY.D. – CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY)

Department of Psychology



Program of Study

The Department of Psychology offers a doctoral degree (Psy.D.) in clinical psychology. This is a full-time, 5-year program (Fall, Spring, and Summer) which follows a practitioner-scholar model, preparing students for leadership roles as culturally competent psychologists. The program provides significant training in assessment and therapeutic interventions through didactic coursework and supervised clinical training experiences beginning in the first year of the program. West Chester University Psy.D. graduates will be eligible to pursue a license as a clinical psychologist, to practice as culturally competent psychotherapists, to supervise graduate student training in mental health related disciplines, to provide consultation related to mental health within a diverse range of communities and organizations, and to teach undergraduate and graduate students in topics related to clinical psychology.

The Curriculum

Students complete a minimum of 114 credit hours across five years, with the fifth year dedicated to a full-time clinical internship. Students choose a clinical specialization in Child and Adolescent Mental Health or Trauma. Elective courses (12 credits) and practicum training experiences provide depth of training and expertise in specialty areas.

Degree Requirements

In addition to course work and clinical internships, Psy.D. students will complete the following degree requirements:

- Comprehensive Exam (to be completed by the end of Year 3; students must pass the comprehensive exam to apply for pre-doctoral internship) — Case oriented based on actual cases from the student's practicum experiences with an oral defense.
- Dissertation Study (proposal due/defended in Year 3, dissertation to be defended by the end of Year 5) — Students will conduct an original empirical research study under the close supervision and mentorship of a faculty member (i.e., dissertation chair).

WCU Community Mental Health Services/Psy.D. Training Clinic

This state of the art training facility located on the WCU campus and affiliated with the Department of Psychology offers a range of assessment and therapy services for a diverse socio-economic population. Supervised by licensed clinical psychologists, WCU Psy.D. students provide clinical services to children, families, and adults in the community. Psy.D. students complete 5 semesters of practicum training in the WCU Community Mental Health Clinic and have the option of completing their advanced practicum work by continuing at this clinic or by training at other approved practicum locations.

American Psychological Association Accreditation

Because the WCU Psy.D. program is new, it is not yet accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA). Doctoral programs are not immediately eligible to apply for accreditation through APA. Although our PsyD program is not currently accredited, we intend to initiate the accreditation process in Fall 2017, which is the earliest time that the APA allows, according to their new 2017 guidelines. Our first cohort of students entered the program in Fall 2016. We aim to secure APA accreditation by the time our first cohort of doctoral students graduates. We believe that we will be well prepared for the doctoral program accreditation process, given that we have structured the program to be aligned with APA accreditation guidelines and we have developed the program in partnership with an external reviewer who is also an APA site visitor.

Admission Procedure and Requirements

Applications for admission are available online from the Graduate Studies web site: wcupa.edu/grad. The Office of Graduate Studies is available to assist with questions about accessing and completing the application: McKelvie Hall, West Chester University, West Chester, PA 19383, Phone: 610-436-2943. Admission is for fall semester only. (NOTE: New deadline for receipt of applications is December 15.)

Application Materials:

- WCU Application and application fee
- Current CV, including research experience and clinical experience
- Personal statement (no more than three pages, double-spaced) addressing each of the following:
 - Why you want to pursue a Psy.D.
 - How the Psy.D. program at WCU fits with your professional goals, including the match between your interests and those of specific WCU psychology department faculty members
 - Your interest in and experience working with diverse populations
 - Your interest in traumatic stress, children, or adolescents
 - Your primary clinical interests and experience
 - Your research interests and experience
 - Special aspects of your academic background you feel make you especially well prepared for a career in professional psychology
 - Any specific weaknesses in your application that you feel should be explained

- List three faculty members from any sub-discipline within the WCU Psychology Department whom you would like to serve as your dissertation research mentor. (NOTE: Psy.D. students are encouraged to consider identifying potential faculty research mentors who are not clinical psychologists, in addition to the clinicians who represent the core faculty within the Psy.D. program.)
- Three letters of recommendation, at least one from an individual who is familiar with the academic and/or scholarly qualifications of the applicant (NOTE: for applicants who have been out of school for a lengthy period, and therefore are at a disadvantage in terms of obtaining recommendations from course instructors/professors, a letter may be provided by an individual who is familiar with the applicant's scholarship, such as a co-author on a publication, a collaborator on a public service grant, a co-presenter in a training workshop, etc.)

Admission Timeline:

Admissions to the Psy.D. program are made for Fall only, with a December 15 deadline for completed applications. Applications received after this deadline will be reviewed only on a space-available basis.

An on-campus interview is required of all successful applicants before an admission decision is made. Not all applicants will be invited for an on-campus interview. Applicants will be notified by January 31 of an invitation to interview, and the on-campus interview day is the third Friday in February.

Applicants will be informed of admissions decisions on or around March 1.

Student matriculation decisions are due by April 1, at which time a \$400 deposit is required.

Admission Requirements:

The following undergraduate or graduate level courses are required in preparation for the WCU PsyD. Program:

- Introduction to Psychology
- Statistics
- Research Methods
- Abnormal Psychology
- Personality Psychology (IF AN OFFER OF ADMISSION TO THE PSYD PROGRAM IS MADE, THIS COURSE MUST BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO MATRICULATING)

GRE, Major, and GPA Requirements:

- GRE General test (Verbal and Quantitative sections) required in last 5 years, even for applicants with a previous graduate degree
- Minimum GRE Scores Strongly Recommended: 153 (V) and 148 (Q)
- We DO NOT require the GRE Psychology Subject Test
- Undergraduate Psychology Major is required OR a major from a related discipline UNLESS the applicant has already obtained a graduate degree in Psychology
- GPA Requirements – BA/BS minimum 3.0, and for applicants with a Master's degree, a GPA of 3.3 for graduate program

For More Information

Office of Graduate Studies:

Write: Office of Graduate Studies, McKelvie Hall
102 West Rosedale Avenue
West Chester University
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-2943

Fax: 610-436-2763

E-mail: gradstudy@wcupa.edu

Web: www.wcupa.edu/grad

Visit: www.facebook.com/wcugrad

The Graduate Catalog is available online at <http://catalog.wcupa.edu/graduate/>.

About Graduate Studies

West Chester University offers high-quality graduate degrees in more than 70 disciplines or areas of study, as well as certificate and certification programs. The graduate studies program has grown remarkably since its introduction in 1960. West Chester University's program is the largest within the 14 institutions in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education, enrolling more than 2,200 graduate students. Programs may be taken on a part-time basis, and most of the graduate classes are scheduled during late afternoons and evenings for the benefit of in-service teachers and other employed persons.

About West Chester University

A comprehensive, public institution, West Chester University of Pennsylvania offers high-quality undergraduate and graduate degrees, as well as certification and certificate programs, in more than 100 subject areas. As the largest member of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education, West Chester offers a full and rewarding educational experience as well as reasonable tuition.

With a rich heritage dating to the 19th century, West Chester University was founded in 1871 as West Chester Normal School for the purpose of training teachers for the Commonwealth's newly established public schools. In 1960, West Chester State Teachers College expanded its programs to include liberal arts and graduate degrees and, as a result, dropped "Teachers" from its name. In 1983, West Chester State College became one of the 14 institutions in the State System of Higher Education. Along with its university status, the school acquired a new system of governance and the opportunity to expand its degree programs. Today, more than 16,000 graduate and undergraduate students, as well as 1,900 faculty and staff, study and work on the 406-acre campus. Situated in the Borough of West Chester, the campus is a picturesque mix of Gothic, Victorian, and modern architecture with pleasant, tree-shaded walks. Strategically located at the center of the mid-Atlantic corridor, West Chester University is just 25 miles west of Philadelphia and 17 miles north of Wilmington, Delaware. The campus is convenient to major cultural institutions, recreational activities, and commercial businesses, many of which provide internship opportunities for WCU's students.

OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

McKelvie Hall | 102 West Rosedale Avenue | West Chester, Pennsylvania 19383
Telephone: 610-436-2943 | Fax: 610-436-3277 | Email: gradstudy@wcupa.edu | Web: www.wcupa.edu/grad
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