Liberty University
School of Behavioral Sciences
Doctorate In Clinical Psychology, (Psy.D.)
An Overview for Prospective Students
Why pursue a Psy.D.? What can you do with this degree?

- Obtain a license as Clinical Psychologist
  - This is a doctoral level license—
  - Have the broadest and most extensive training in the following:
    - Evidence based psychotherapy with adults, adolescents, children, families, and couples
      - Also learn methods of biofeedback and neurofeedback
    - Clinical diagnosis and treatment planning
    - Psychological testing and assessment—diagnose ADHD, Learning Disorder, Autism, Personality Disorders, and many other psychological disorders and syndromes
    - Provide training, consultation, and supervision to other professionals: psychiatrists, physicians, social workers, and counselors
    - Work in wide range of settings: private practice, hospitals, community based clinics, schools, and churches
In-depth training in the Science of Psychology

- Biological
- Social
- Emotional
- Cognitive
- Behavioral
- Spiritual-Religious

Foundations of Human Behavior

Integration of Biblical Worldview with Scientific Knowledge
Science to Inform Practice & Practice to Inform Science

- Obtain a solid foundation in research design and statistics
- Learn how to be an expert consumer of research: Read, Understand, Critique, & Apply Scientific Research to your clinical practice
- Also, learn how to conduct meaningful research within your own practice
  - Publish practice-based research
  - Write practice-based clinical materials for professionals, paraprofessionals, and the general public
  - Lecture, teach, consult using cutting edge research
Extensive Training in Psychological Interventions

- Learn Evidence Based Therapies—treatments developed and scientifically tested
  - Cognitive and Behavioral Therapies
  - Psychodynamic Therapies
  - Emotion Focused Therapies
  - Family Therapies
  - Couples Therapy
  - Biofeedback
  - Neurofeedback
Learn How to Diagnose and Treat

- Depression
- Bipolar
- ADHD
- Impulse Control Disorders
- Eating Disorders and Somatic Disorders
- Anxiety
- OCD
- Autism
- Trauma
- Addictions
- Conduct problems
- Personality Disorders
- Relationship Disturbances (parent-child, family, couples)
Learn how to Administer and Interpret Cognitive and Psychologist Tests

- Intellectual Assessment (WISC, WAIS)
- Neuropsychological Assessment (Wisconsin Card Sort, Continuous Performance, Stroop)
- Objective Personality Tests (MMPI, Millon, Rating Scales)
- Projective Personality Tests (Rorschach, TAT)
- Behavioral Observation Scales
- Structured Clinical Interviews
- Family Assessments
- Attachment Assessments
Understand Interpersonal Neurobiology

- Learn how the Mind, Brain, and Relationships work together to form the Personality and Development
- Learn about the structures of the brains
- Learn about neurochemistry and psychopharmacology
- Learn how to harness the power of relationships, attention, and cognition to attention to change the brain and its structure
Work with Different Ages

- Infants and children
- Adolescents
- Young adults
- Middle aged adults
- Older adults
Multicultural Sensitivity

- Work with people from a variety of cultures, ethnicities, and worldviews.
- Develop a deeper understanding and appreciation for those who hold different values from your own, while remaining true to what you believe
Admission Requirements

- Admission Requirements. Students follow the standard graduate program admissions requirements as published in the Liberty University Graduate Catalog, with the following additional requirement:

  - At least 18 semester hours in psychology that include at least one course in each of the following groups of courses: general psychology; abnormal psychology or psychopathology; quantitative methods, statistics, research methods or experimental design; personality psychology or theories of psychotherapy; physiological psychology; one course from the traditional "scientific sub disciplines")

- GRE – Minimum score of 300 (applicants with extensive experience in the field may request to have the GRE waived.)

- 3 Letters of Recommendation
- Personal Essay
- Faculty Interview
Competitive Applications

- Those with higher GPA with Psychology Major in Undergraduate
  - With Internship Experience—especially in clinical settings
  - Letters of reference from supervisors in clinical settings
  - Work experience in human service field and letters of reference from supervisors
- Those who have already acquired a Masters Degree in Psychology or related field
- Those who have already acquired a License in Human Services field (e.g. LPC, LCSW)
- Those with excellent social skills; evidence of emotion regulation skills, and very clearly articulated vision for why becoming an clinical psychologist is their “calling.”
- Those who clearly understand what it takes to complete a doctorate in clinical psychology and who are willing to make the investment of their time and financial resources.
Graduation Criteria

Graduation Requirements. To graduate from the program, students must:

- Complete 126 hours of coursework
- Maintain a cumulative Grade Point Average of 3.0
- Successfully defend dissertation
- Complete degree within seven years
What Does the Program Look Like?

- Five Years Total—
  - Years 1—coursework with pre-practicum training
  - Years 2-4—course work plus 10-15 hours per week at practicum sites.
  - Year 5—full-time at internship site (1500-2000 hours plus dissertation work)
  - Year 6—post doctoral year, required for licensure
First Year

First Semester
* 600: Intro clinical practice I
* 805: Cognitive/intellectual assessment
* 701: Adult Psychopath
* 615: History and Systems
* 700: Research Design I

Second Semester
* 601: Intro clinical practice I
* 605: Life Span Dev
* 610: Child and Adolescent Psychopath
* 702: Biological Bases of Behavior
* 703: Statistics I

Summer
* 707: Social Bases of Human Behavior
* 706: Diversity and Cross Cultural Psychology

15hrs 15hrs 6hrs
2nd Year

First Semester
*796: Clinical Seminar I
*705: Research Design II
*710: Advanced Theories of Psychotherapy
*740: Evidenced Based Psychotherapy/Adults
*810: Psych Assess II: Personality
*798 Practicum I

Second Semester
*796: Clinical Seminar I
*635: ?????
*708: Ethics and professional issues
*815: Psych. Assess. III Integrative
*745: Evidenced Based Psychotherapy/Children
*798: Clinical Practicum II
*770: Clinical Competency Exam
**Awarded MA, Clinical Psychology

Summer
*750: Advanced Group Psychotherapy
*Psych. Elective

15hrs 15hrs 6hrs
3rd Year

**First Semester**
- *797: Clinical Seminar II
- *Assessment Elective
- *735: Cog/Affect Bases
- *889: Dissertation I
- *898 Practicum III

**Second Semester**
- *797: Clinical Seminar II
- *755: Applied Theology for Clinical Psychologists
- *715: Psychometrics
- *889: Dissertation II
- *898: Practicum IV

**Summer**
- *750: Advanced Group Psychotherapy
- *Psych. Elective

11hrs 11hrs 6hrs
4th Year

First Semester
*797: Clinical Seminar
*825: Consultation
*820: Psychopharm.
*889: Dissertation III
*998: Practicum V

Second Semester
*797: Clinical Seminar
*830: Supervision
*Elective
*889: Dissertation IV
*898: Practicum VI
*970: Clinical Competency

Summer
9 hrs

11 hrs
5th Year

First Semester

*999 Internship
*889 Dissertation

11hrs

Second Semester

*999 Internship
*889 Dissertation

9 hrs

Summer

*999 Internship
*890 Dissertation Defense

Awarded PsyD in Clinical Psychology
Is it worth the investment?

- How much yearly income would you need to make (after paying for your student loan), doing something you love, making a difference in the world?
  - $50,000?
  - $70,000?
  - $90,000?
  - $100,000 plus?
Is it financially viable to do this degree?

### Loan amount
- $160,000

### Interest rate
- 6%

### Years to repay
- 30 years

### Results
- Your estimated monthly payment: $959

Amounts are estimates, and some lenders may require a minimum monthly payment.

There are ways to reduce your monthly payment if this amount seems unmanageable. Explore tips on how to save on expenses and how to borrow less. You can also develop a full plan for financing your higher education with our College Planning Calculator™.

Please note the monthly payment amount is an estimate provided for information purposes only.

Check out more college planning tools

### Loan amount
- $160,000

### Interest rate
- 6%

### Years to repay
- 15 years

### Results
- Your estimated monthly payment: $1,350

Amounts are estimates, and some lenders may require a minimum monthly payment.

There are ways to reduce your monthly payment if this amount seems unmanageable. Explore tips on how to save on expenses and how to borrow less. You can also develop a full plan for financing your higher education with our College Planning Calculator™.

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Most estimates of clinical psychologist income is greatly underestimated.

Why?

Because they are based on community agency-based psychologists base salary: usually $60,000-80,000. These psychologists do very little individual therapy and mainly work as supervisors and/or administrators. But, many agencies will pay off your student loans.

Or, they are based on the Average yearly income reported by all licensed psychologists—this includes those who practice part-time or who are no longer practicing but still maintain their license; e.g., the stay at home mom psychologist who maintains her license as a clinical psychologist but no longer sees patients.
Income Potential

- Psychologists in central Virginia healthcare facilities—outpatient practice
- See on average 6 patients per day, 5 days per week, 1 month vacation
- $120,000 per year, plus benefits (healthcare, 401k etc)
  - Minus $13,500 for student loan payment
  - = $106,000 per year
Most Active, Primary Wage Earner Psychologist Make Well Over $120,000

- For example, several local psychologists in Lynchburg
- Average 8 patients per day (45 minutes per session), 11 months, 1 month vacation
- Average Adjusted Reimbursement Rate= $100 per hour
- =$176,000 per year
- Add 2 Full-Psychological Evaluations per/month @$1000 each= $22,000
  - (Forensic Evaluation are $3-5000 each)
- Total= $198,000
- Subtract 31,350 overhead cost and student loan payment
- Total= $166,650 per year
- This does not include other income generated from teaching, consultation, etc.
Typical Daily Schedule for Full-Time Psychologist in Private Practice

- 8:15 patient 1
- 9:00 patient 2
- 9:45 patient 3
- 10:30 patient 4
- 11:15 patient 5
- 12:00—lunch
- 1:00 patient 6
- 1:45 patient 7
- 2:30 patient 8
- 3:30: At home, on the couch watching Netflix