



Doctor of Psychology (PsyD)

Supplemental Program Information

The PsyD program at John F. Kennedy University is accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA).

Questions related to the program's accredited status should be directed to:

Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation, American Psychological Association, 750 First St. NE,
Washington, D.C. 20002-4242 Phone: 202.336.5979 E-mail: apaaccred@apa.org Web: www.apa.org/ed/accreditation

INTEGRATED PROFESSIONAL SEMINAR

The Integrated Professional Seminar (IPS) is a key component of the program. This composite of courses is designed to integrate academic information and ethnographic or practicum experience throughout the program. During each ethnographic or practicum year, small groups of students meet together with a faculty member. Depending on the year, IPS emphasizes different elements of work with diverse populations. These include, for example, examining one's own belief systems, worldview, biases, group process, and clinical case presentations. The IPS provides a supportive setting in which students may collaboratively integrate their applied and academic experiences.

TRAINING PLACEMENTS

Ethnographic Placement

The first year ethnographic fieldwork lays the foundation for culture- and diversity-sensitive training as well as practice in self-reflection and self-awareness. The ethnographic experience involves immersion in environments that provide unique and diverse cultural experiences for the trainees. This immersion establishes an understanding of diversity and the relationships with power, privilege, and oppression in the practice of psychology.

To this end, the purpose of the ethnographic fieldwork experience is to provide first-year doctoral trainees with experience in an unfamiliar culture/setting. For a minimum of eight hours per week, first-year trainees engage in a cultural immersion experience in a setting specifically selected to expose trainees to a population with whom they have had little or no prior contact.

Ethnographic trainees' fieldwork is integral to their development as clinical psychologists. It is one of the principal means by which trainees establish the foundation necessary to work with the diversity of clients that they will encounter in their subsequent clinical placements as well as their future work as professionals. This ethnographic fieldwork experience and its accompanying Integral Professional Seminar (IPS I) are designed to focus on diversity.

Beginning Practicum

The Beginning Practicum is a placement at one of over 60 available sites. The focus of the Beginning Practicum is on the supervised integration and application of knowledge gained from the ethnographic fieldwork experience and ongoing doctoral coursework. In Beginning Practicum, trainees work 16–20 hours per week to develop skills in a variety of interventions and treatments including accurate assessment, conceptualization, and formulation of client cases from a multicultural/diversity perspective.

Advanced Clinical Practicum

The Advanced Practicum is a clinical placement at one of over 60 available sites for 20–24 hours per week. The focus of Advanced Practicum is on the supervised integration and application of knowledge gained from previous



practica, and ongoing doctoral coursework. At a more complex level than Beginning Practicum, trainees develop skills in comprehensive assessment, conceptualization, and formulation of client cases from a multicultural/diversity perspective. However, the focus in Advanced Practicum is extended to include advanced skills in the development of systematic and empirically justifiable plans for intervention with individuals, groups, or communities within the larger context of human diversity and social change.

PRE-DOCTORAL INTERNSHIP

Trainees apply for pre-doctoral internship when they are in the fourth year of the full-time curriculum. Trainees need to be registered for the relevant number of internship units for each quarter in which they are accruing internship hours.

JFK University PsyD trainees may apply for full-time or part-time internship programs that are accredited by APA, and in some cases internships that are part of the CAPIC and APPIC consortia. To be considered full time, trainees must work a minimum of 35 hours per week. A full-time internship is completed in four quarters at nine units per quarter for a total of 36 units.

EXAMINATIONS

Comprehensive Written Examination

This examination, typically given in the summer of year three, is similar to the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP), which is one of the requirements for California licensure. The exam consists of 200 multiple-choice questions and is taken after successful completion of required first-, second-, and third year courses. Passing this exam is a requirement for advancement in both the academic and clinical portions of the program.

Clinical Proficiency Examination

In the spring of year four, students present a written clinical case report to two faculty members who examine the student on the case. Passing this exam is a requirement for advancement in both the academic and clinical portions of the program.

Licensure Examination Preparation

All areas of study assessed on the comprehensive exams and national licensing exam are augmented with materials from Taylor Study Method (TSM). TSM provides students with a shadow curriculum including key terms, flashcards, mind maps, and practice exam questions.

ADVISEMENT

After matriculating into the program, students are assigned a faculty advisor with whom they meet at least once per quarter. Student performance in coursework, placements, and practica is evaluated on an ongoing basis, with formal yearly reviews. Each year must be completed satisfactorily for students to advance in the program. Failure to meet requirements for advancement will result in a referral to the Review and Advisement Committee to clarify and remediate the difficulty. In some instances, students may be required to supplement or repeat certain areas of the program, take a leave from the program, or be terminated from the program.

SATISFACTORY PROGRESS

Meeting program expectations in all competency areas in coursework, all requirements of fieldwork/practica, and passing the written comprehensive examination and the clinical proficiency examination are required before students may proceed to the next year of the program or internship. Failure to meet requirements for advancement to the next year may result in a student being required to supplement or repeat certain areas of the program or in termination from the program.



MA DEGREE IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

A student will be awarded an MA degree in Clinical Psychology when he or she has satisfactorily completed all required first-, second-, and third-year courses, is in good standing, and has passed the comprehensive written examination. This degree is non-terminal and non-licensable. Students who come into the PsyD program with an MA in Psychology are not awarded a second master's degree.

CLINICAL DISSERTATION PROJECT

The clinical dissertation project is an intensive study in an area of interest. Projects must reflect the program's emphasis on diverse or underserved populations and have clinical applicability. The dissertation integrates research findings, relevant literature, and original thought, deriving input from the population under study and contributing to the field of applied psychology. Traditional quantitative methodologies may be utilized or students can explore and use other research modalities. Projects may take the form of a program evaluation, theoretical exploration, meta-analysis, case study, phenomenological study, ethnography, or grounded-theory exploration. A dissertation proposal must be successfully defended prior to ranking of pre-doctoral internship, and a successful final dissertation defense is required for the degree to be awarded.

Completed dissertations can be found at the John F. Kennedy University Library and in the office of the PsyD Research Director. Recently completed dissertations include:

“A Subjective Inquiry of Lesbian Sexuality: A Grounded Theory Analysis”

“African-American Women and Human Immunodeficiency Virus Prevention: A Qualitative Approach to Assessing Needs”

“Culturally Sensitive Clinical Guidelines for Mental Health Professionals Working with Iraqi Women in the United States”

“Disability in Context: The Application of Narrative Theory to Multidimensional Health Care Problem”

“High School Teacher Intervention in Anti-Gay Harassment”

“Learned Helplessness: A Pathway between Childhood Trauma and Homelessness in Women”

“Risk and Protective Factors Associated with Suicide and Depression among African-American Males.”

DISSERTATION EXTENSION

Students must register for PSD 7302 dissertation (0.5 units) and pay tuition for each quarter until the dissertation is defended. PSD 7302 may be taken a maximum of three times for credit (1.5 units). The student must continue to retake PSD 7302 until the dissertation is successfully defended, but will not receive more than 1.5 units in total.

ADVANCEMENT TO CANDIDACY

In order to advance to candidacy prior to internship, each student must have satisfactorily completed all coursework, all practica, the Comprehensive Written Examination, the Clinical Proficiency Examination, and the clinical dissertation proposal defense. The student may then enter into an approved internship after completing 144 academic units.

INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOTHERAPY

All students in the PsyD program are required to complete at least 50 hours of individual psychotherapy within an 18-month time period after matriculation into the PsyD program and prior to beginning internship. Psychotherapy must be with a licensed therapist. Students do not receive academic credit for psychotherapy.



DOCTOR OF PSYCHOLOGY (PsyD) CURRICULUM

PREREQUISITES

These courses or their approved equivalents are prerequisites to the PsyD program. All prerequisite courses must be completed prior to attending first-year PsyD courses, with official transcripts documenting successful completion on file in the registrar's office. Prerequisite courses completed after the awarding of the bachelor's degree must have a grade of B- or better. Prerequisite courses may be taken from an institution that is regionally accredited or has other recognized accreditation.

Introduction to Psychology	Diversity-related Course
Statistics	Theories of Personality

The following is the full-time curriculum with four years of academic work. All courses are 3 quarter units unless otherwise indicated.

COURSES

Year 1

- PSD 7007 Clinical Interviewing Skills I
- PSD 7008 Clinical Interviewing Skills II
- PSD 7015 Adult Psychopathology I
- PSD 7016 Adult Psychopathology II
- PSD 7035 1 Ethnographic Placement¹ (6 total)
- PSD 7046 Group Process 1 (3 total)
- PSD 7047 Multicultural Awareness in Professional Psychology¹ (6 total)
- PSD 7104 Social and Cultural Bases of Behavior
- PSD 7122 Psychodynamic Theory and Its Application to Diverse Populations
- PSD 7123 Cognitive Behavioral Theory and Its Application to Diverse Populations
- PSD 7141 Ethical and Legal Issues in Professional Psychology

Year 2

- PSD 7135 Beginning Practicum¹ (6 total)
- PSD 7146 Advanced Group Process¹ (3 total)
- PSD 7147 Multicultural Proficiency in Professional Psychology¹ (3 total)
- PSD 7003 History and Systems of Professional Psychology
- PSD 7151 Research Methods and Statistics I
- PSD 7250 Research Methods and Statistics II
- PSD 7225 Lifespan Development I: Child and Adolescent
- PSD 7226 Lifespan Development II: Adulthood and Aging
- PSD 7107 Biological Bases of Behavior
- PSD 7108 Cognitive and Affective Bases of Behavior
- PSD 7124 Family Systems Theory and Its Application to Diverse Populations
- PSD 7114 Psychometrics: The Basics of Assessment

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Year 3

PSD 7131 Psychology of Addiction
PSD 7115 Assessment I/Intellectual/Cognitive Assessment and Lab (4)
PSD 7116 Assessment II/Personality Assessment I and Lab (4)
PSD 7117 Assessment III/Personality Assessment II and Lab (4)
PSD 7118 Assessment Practicum (0 - 3)
PSD 7160 Psychopharmacology
PSD 7251 Qualitative Research: Critical Review
PSD 7252 Clinical Dissertation Proposal I (2)
PSD 7253 Clinical Dissertation Proposal II (2)
PSD 7254 Clinical Dissertation Proposal III (1)
Comprehensive Written Examination² (0)

Year 4

PSD 7025 Child and Adolescent Issues: Psychopathology and Treatment
PSD 7215 Consultation in Professional Psychology
PSD 7230 Fundamentals of Clinical Supervision
PSD 7235 Practicum III¹ (9 total)
PSD 7245 Contemporary Issues in Professional Psychology¹ (3 total)
PSD 7302 Dissertation Completion¹ (1.5 - 2)
Electives (Accrued across all years, typically starting in Year 2) (17)
Clinical Proficiency Examination (0)
Advancement to Candidacy (0)

Total academic units **144**

Year 5

PSD 7400 Internship (36)
Dissertation Defense (0)

Total units required **180**

1 This is a repeatable course and must be taken multiple times to total the number of units indicated.

2 Students in good standing who have passed the comprehensive written examination will be awarded an MA degree in Clinical Psychology after satisfactorily completing specified first- and, second-, and third-year courses. This degree is non-terminal and non-licensable. Students who have been awarded a MA degree in psychology will not receive a non-terminal degree from JFK University.

3 The maximum number of credits that apply to the degree is 1.5, but students are required continue to enroll in this course and pay tuition until the dissertation is successfully defended.

