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INTRODUCTION

This Handbook is intended to assist students in progressing toward the Master of Arts in Psychology: Clinical Counseling Program at The Citadel. The Handbook does not replace the official catalog, but supplements that document with a detailed presentation of both the Program and the faculty's expectations of students.

Students are expected to be familiar with the contents of the Handbook in order to gain maximum benefit from their studies and make expeditious progress towards the degree. The Handbook is the primary reference source for the Clinical Counseling Program, and consists of a description of the curriculum, sequence of courses, comprehensive examination, field placement requirements, and core competencies. Additionally, important information regarding academic policies, support services, and expectations of students among others are described. The information in the Handbook represents a distillation of ideas and procedures based on the faculty's experience and suggestions from the Community Advisory Committee of practicing professionals and former students. A good measure of responsibility for completing The Program rests with students during their studies at The Citadel. Students are assigned a faculty advisor who should be consulted at least once each academic year to review progress toward the degree. It is the responsibility of the student to maintain contact with their advisor throughout the course of study.

The Master of Arts in Psychology: Clinical Counseling

The Citadel’s Clinical Counseling Program offers a master's degree in psychology for those interested in becoming professional counselors in community agencies, including college counseling centers, hospitals, mental health, and social services agencies. The Program is accredited by the State Department of Education in South Carolina, the Masters in Psychology and Counseling Accreditation Council (MPCAC), and is a member of the Council of Applied Masters Programs in Psychology (CAMPP). The curriculum is consistent with requirements for a license as a Professional Counselor (LPC) in South Carolina.

History

In the mid 1970's The Citadel gained approval from the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education to initiate graduate study in the area of counseling. The early intent was to provide a first rate program in the area of school counseling with particular emphasis on the secondary school. A need for counselors in elementary schools as well as in agencies outside of the school structure subsequently was identified. As a result, the original design in the area of counseling was altered and three tracks were developed and implemented within the Department of Education: Secondary School Counseling; Elementary School Counseling; and Clinical Counseling. The Clinical Counseling program subsequently was changed to the Community Counseling program to address the need for counselors in community agencies.
In 1993, the Community Counseling program was relocated from the Department of Education to the Department of Psychology. An extensive review of curriculum, accreditation standards, community needs, and employment issues was undertaken. It was determined that the title Clinical Counseling more accurately depicted the nature of the program and of services that students and graduates were providing to individuals in the community. Major curriculum changes were made during the 1994-1995 academic year to preserve the license eligibility of graduates and to conform to training standards set forth by CAMPP and endorsed by the NAMP. In 1997, the program degree was changed from a Master of Education to a Master of Arts in Psychology. The program was initially accredited by Masters in Psychology Accreditation council (MPAC) and reaccredited by MPCAC (council changed its name) in 2012.

Enrollment

The most desirable approach to obtaining a graduate degree in psychology is full-time resident study with 9 credit hours per semester. Full-time study allows the student to focus time and energy on the important tasks of professional and personal development required to become a competent counselor. We recognize that students may have family and/or employment responsibilities that preclude full-time study, and many do complete the Program on a part-time basis with 3 to 6 credit hours per semester. Either form of enrollment requires that students become actively involved in the rigors of graduate education, and meet all academic requirements regardless of the nature of their other obligations.

Philosophical Perspective

The Citadel’s program has been developed by following the practices of other institutions, the guidelines/publications of professional organizations such as the Council of Applied Masters Programs in Psychology, the American Psychological Association, and the American Counseling Association. In addition, the program faculty has drawn heavily upon the research literature and their own professional experience.

The Department of Psychology espouses a philosophical perspective of training and practice that stresses an empirical and applied approach to addressing psychosocial problems of clients. Most faculty members are engaged in clinical practice, research efforts, or both. Faculty members’ activities are guided by a scientist-practitioner model, which emphasizes a scholarly approach to applications of psychology.

The mission of the Program at The Citadel is to prepare students to become scholarly practitioners of psychological counseling in a variety of community agencies. The Program’s training model emphasizes the application of theories of human development, psychopathology, and behavior change to psychosocial problems. The training model blends didactic and practice-based experiences that facilitate the acquisition of an empirical approach to assessment, goal development, intervention, and evaluation of services. The Program advocates a scholarly perspective that integrates the development of professional competencies with a compassionate
and ethical orientation to clinical work.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Clinical Counseling curriculum provides instruction in the theory and practice of counseling from a psychological perspective. The emphasis of the program is to prepare students as counselors in community agencies. The program addresses the development of counseling skills in a variety of modalities, including individual, family and group. Students who successfully complete this program and take Career Counseling as an elective will meet the educational requirements for licensure as a Professional Counselor in South Carolina. Those students seeking licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist will need to take coursework elsewhere. While some graduates have pursued doctoral study, the program is designed as a terminal degree program.

The curriculum focuses on theoretical, practical, and legal/ethical issues that are essential for good clinical practice. Courses focus on creating a knowledge base for:

1. the process of human development, especially how each person is influenced by and influences several systems (e.g., family of origin, culture) with an emphasis on how "disabling" or dysfunctional patterns arise and are reinforced;

2. basic foundations of psychology, including biological, learned, social/cultural, and individual bases and influences on behavior, cognition, and emotions;

3. methods of acquiring and contributing to knowledge in counseling, including assessment and diagnostic procedures, statistics/research, use of published literature to inform clinical practice, and critical thinking;

4. the process of counseling, with focus on applying theories of behavior change, effective approaches to treatment, and professional issues affecting the counseling process; the contemporary practice of counseling and psychotherapy covering the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of the broad range of clinical problems seen in clients, couples, families, children;

5. cultural and lifestyle factors that may impact the development and treatment of clinical problems; and

6. ethical and legal issues that are common in human services activities, with particular attention to the ethical and legal responsibilities of the counselor in terms of the client, the client’s family/relationships, the employing agency, the profession, and society in general.

All students receive supervised experiences as counselors in at least two community settings during their field placement courses, practicum and internship. Students select from a list
of approved sites within the Tri-county area. All field experiences are monitored jointly by
Citadel faculty and an approved on-site supervisor.

Additionally, students have the opportunity to gain additional knowledge in many specific
areas of counseling by taking elective courses and selecting specific clinical placements (e.g.
substance abuse, interventions with children, etc.).

Curriculum

Coursework has been developed according to guidelines set forth by the Council of
Applied Masters Programs in Psychology. The curriculum reflects current knowledge and
perspectives concerning the counseling and human development needs of a diverse multicultural
society. Curricular experiences and demonstrated knowledge and skill competence in each of
nine common core areas are required of all students in the program.

1. HUMAN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT. The student will learn about characteristics
and needs of individuals at developmental levels across the life span. Courses focus on
normal and abnormal behavior, theories of personality development, learning theory, and
both biological and environmental (familial/cultural) influences on individual development.

2. SOCIAL AND CULTURAL FOUNDATIONS. The student will become aware of
principles of social psychology and their application to understanding societal, ethnic, gender,
life-style, and cultural issues impacting the individual. Attention is directed toward attitude
development, social stereotypes, societal changes and trends, human roles, societal
subgroups, cultural norms, interpersonal interactions, differing lifestyles, and understanding
of counseling issues as they apply to culturally diverse clients.

3. HELPING RELATIONSHIPS. Coursework facilitates an understanding of philosophic and
theoretical perspectives on the helping process and fundamental/advanced skills of
assessment, diagnosis, and intervention. Students are exposed to theoretical and practical
issues associated with several major counseling and personality theories and learn the process
of assessing and treating a range of presenting problems based on principles of these theories.
Additionally, courses focus on the process of facilitating change through the process of
counseling from assessment through termination. Such coursework addresses treatment
planning, selection of intervention, and evaluation of treatment efficacy.

4. GROUP. The student will become familiar with group development, dynamics, and theories.
Students receive instruction group counseling interventions and skills.

5. APPRAISAL. Students become familiar with the philosophical and statistical properties of
measurement instruments and are expected to develop an understanding of the advantages
and limitations of assessment approaches. Coursework is designed to enhance student
sensitivity to social and ethical issues in assessment, and facilitate the use of an integrative
approach for applying the results of assessment to diagnosis, case conceptualization, and the clinical decision-making process.

6. RESEARCH AND EVALUATION. Students are instructed in basic research design and statistical methods. Students will learn descriptive and inferential statistics essential for understanding quantitative research studies. Coursework facilitates the student's ability to critically evaluate research studies and provides a foundation for students to complete their own research projects. Ethical issues related to research are also addressed.

7. PSYCHOPATHOLOGY. Coursework focuses on an understanding of the major mental disorders, with particular attention given to differential and overlapping symptoms within and across major the classifications. Students learn to recognize the emotional, behavioral, and cognitive manifestations of major mental illnesses. Models of assessment are matched with specific diagnostic symptom patterns. Continuity and overlap of normal and deviant behavior are addressed, along with epidemiological and etiological information.

8. DIAGNOSTICS OF PSYCHOPATHOLOGY. Coursework addresses the process of assessment and diagnosis of major mental illnesses and personality disorders described in the major diagnostic classification systems. Particular attention is given to utilizing the results of the assessment process to develop a conceptual formulation of the problem behaviors, cognitions, and emotions including their development and maintaining conditions within a functional analytic model. This model then allows for the development of treatment plans, intervention strategies, and their evaluation.

9. PROFESSIONAL ORIENTATION. The student learns the roles and functions related to the profession of counseling. Students are instructed in ethical and legal standards and the process of ethical decision-making. Licensing, credentialing, membership in professional organizations, and involvement in the development of the profession are also discussed in courses.

An additional area of instruction is available through elective coursework in The Citadel's Department of Education and is required for students interested in obtaining licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor (though it is not a required area for the Master of Arts degree):

CAREER AND LIFESTYLE DEVELOPMENT. Coursework provides an understanding of career development and related life factors by addressing career development theories and decision-making models, career-related information resources, program development and evaluation, interrelationships among work, family, life roles, and multicultural issues related to career choice, assessment and counseling procedures, and ethical considerations in career counseling.
Clinical Instruction

The Program includes courses that provide clinical instruction beginning with simulated exercises with other students and professional actors and progressing to training at practicum and internship sites. These courses and practical field experiences focus on the development of psychological counseling skills under the supervision of faculty and field placement supervisors. This clinical counseling instruction builds upon the core areas listed above.

Course Progression

The MA in Psychology: Clinical Counseling is awarded after successful completion of 54 semester hours. It is the mission of this program to prepare students to function as scholarly-practitioners. In order to achieve this goal, the program is divided into a progressive sequence of three blocks of courses.

The first core block focuses on training students as scholars, and consists of courses designed to enhance student understanding of individual differences, theories of development and behavior change, and professional roles and functions from a scholarly perspective. To that end, courses address biological and environmental factors influencing normal and abnormal human development, theories of personality and counseling, learning theory and application, social/multicultural influences on behavior, assessment and diagnosis, scientific approaches to understanding human behavior, and ethical/professional issues.

All courses emphasize an empirical approach toward the acquisition and evaluation of knowledge. Students completing this core of courses should have a firm theoretical grasp of normal and abnormal development and of factors influencing such development. They should understand the major theories of personality and behavior change, and ways of measuring these constructs. Students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge of foundations of psychology and counseling, basic assessment skills, and good communication and listening skills. Additionally, students will appreciate the importance and utility of the scientific method for advancing knowledge and clinical practice. Finally, students will have a firm grasp of ethical/legal and other issues essential to professional practice.

Block I -- Core Courses
PSYC-500 Human Growth and Development
PSYC-501 Principles of Cognitive and Behavioral Change
PSYC-507 General Psychopathology
PSYC-508 Counseling and Personality Theories
PSYC-514 Ethics and Mental Health Law
PSYC-523 Statistics and Research Design
PSYC-526 Clinical-Counseling I: Basic (prerequisites or concurrent registration: 500, 501, 507, 508)
PSYC-549 Foundations of Psychometrics
PSYC-553 Introduction to Family Dynamics
PSYC-561 Cultural Issues in Psychological Practice
Following a demonstration of competency in the content of core courses as indicated by a passing score on a comprehensive examination, students will move on to the second block of advanced courses. These courses prepare students to be practitioners and specifically address the diagnostic process and interventions designed to facilitate behavioral, cognitive and affective functioning. Students will be exposed to theory and practice of group and individual counseling. They will learn about the process of counseling from diagnostic assessment and treatment planning through selection/evaluation of intervention strategies and termination. Students also learn about psychopharmacologic approaches to treatment. Through electives, students may choose to address theory and practice of substance abuse treatment and the treatment of children/adolescents. The courses in this advanced clinical block are applied, and blend didactic and experiential components to facilitate the development of therapeutic skills. Students should take PSYC-643 and PSYC-643 in the same semester. If not, PSYC-643 must be taken prior to PSYC-644.

Block II -- Advanced Clinical Courses
PSYC-611 Clinical and Professional Issues in Counseling
PSYC-643 Contemporary Psychological Assessment and Psychotherapy
PSYC-644 Clinical Counseling II: Advanced
PSYC-645 Clinical Counseling III: Group Processes

The final block of courses consists of two field experiences. The practicum and internship courses reflect the culmination of the program and provide students with structured, supervised experiences with actual clients in community agencies. It is during these experiences that students are able to integrate and apply their coursework to actual clinical problems by conducting psychosocial and/or diagnostic assessments and implementing intervention strategies. Students are expected to develop an awareness of their professional strengths and weaknesses, a personal style of counseling, and a repertoire of professional behavior. These field experience courses require the integration of clinical knowledge and skill and enrollment is by instructor permission only.

Block III -- Field Placements
PSYC-629 Practicum
PSYC-651/652 Internship: Clinical Counseling (total of six credit hours)

Students are required to take a minimum of one elective. This course may be taken at any point during the course of study. Electives should be selected in consultation with the student's advisor and should relate to future career goals.

Selected Electives (others are acceptable with approval from the advisor)
PSYC-555 Alcohol and Substance Abuse
PSYC-557 Counseling and Psychotherapy for Couples
PSYC-602 Social and Biological Basis of Child and Adolescent Behavior
HESS-548 Psychology of Sport and Motivation
EDUC-550 Career Counseling (required if seeking licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor)
Course descriptions can be found in the latest version of the Graduate Catalog which may be obtained from the Citadel Graduate office in Bond Hall.

PROGRAM PROGRESS

Program of Studies

Included in the Forms section of this Handbook is a copy of a Program of Studies. This form functions as a worksheet to ensure that students complete all requirements of the program. Students are expected to review the form with their advisor on a regular basis to plan and track their progress.

Time to complete program

Scheduling of courses in the Program is designed to accommodate full time and part time students. Those completing four courses per semester will require approximately 2-1/2 years to complete the requirements for the MA degree while students completing three courses per semester will require approximately three years. Students completing two courses per semester will require approximately 3-1/2 years to complete all requirements. Most students complete the program in approximately 3-1/2 years. Students have a maximum of 5 years to complete all requirements. Students unable to complete all requirements within five years of registering for their first Clinical Counseling course will be released from the program.

Leave of Absence

Requests for leaves of absence are granted for a variety of reasons. Leaves should be discussed with the advisor and then formally requested in writing to the Program Director. Students who do not enroll in classes for two consecutive semesters without having notified their advisor or program coordinator of plans for an extended leave of absence will be assumed to have withdrawn and will be dropped from enrollment.

Comprehensive Examination

Students are required to take the exam during the semester in which they complete their core course block or the subsequent semester, no extensions are permitted. A request to take the examination is made with the student’s advisor and should be discussed during the semester prior to taking the examination. Students will not be permitted to enroll in advanced clinical courses until they have successfully completed the comprehensive examination. Students who do not pass the examination upon first administration will not be permitted to enroll in advanced clinical courses. They must retake the examination (an alternate form) during the subsequent semester. Students who do not pass the examination upon second administration or who choose not to retake the exam in the subsequent semester will be released from the program.
No exceptions will be made to this requirement

The comprehensive examination requires students to define and apply relevant concepts learned in the core sequence. Success in the core courses does not insure that students will perform well on the exam. Students are encouraged to prepare for the exam by reviewing the material in the core courses with a decided focus on the application and integration of terms, concepts, and principles. Instructors of each core course provide key words and essay questions that form the basis of the exam. A study guide is available to assist with preparation for the exam and can be found on the website.

Practicum and Internship

Students complete two field placement experiences, first during the Practicum (PSYC629) and then Internship (PSYC651/652). The Practicum consists of 150 hours at a community agency, and the Internship involves 600 hours of work. Students must formally request permission from their advisor to enroll in both the Practicum (PSYC-629) and Internship (PSYC-651/652) during the semester prior to that in which they plan to register for the field placements. Permission will be granted to students who have completed all prerequisite courses satisfactorily, who are evaluated by Clinical Counseling faculty as being ready for fieldwork, and who have arranged placement in an approved community agency. The Program faculty reserve the right to refuse to approve a site for a particular student who may be judged to require specific types of supervision and field placement training either not available at the site in question or available to a greater degree at another site.

Students should discuss their readiness for field placement training with their advisor during the semester before they plan to enroll in the course. Annual evaluations by faculty are intended to provide opportunities to assess and enhance readiness for clinical work well before the field placement experience. Students have the responsibility to contact field placement sites of interest for practicum and internship. Students must obtain a signed agreement with their proposed practicum/internship site supervisor that will be turned in to their advisor for approval to enroll in the course. The appropriate forms can be found on the program’s website www.citadel.edu/academics/psyc/maclinical.

Students should note that field placement supervisors have the right to terminate their contractual relationship if the student is evaluated as being unprepared for the clinical experience. In this event, the site supervisor will refer the student back to The Citadel to develop a plan for professional/clinical/academic remediation. Such remediation may involve retaking prerequisite courses including the Practicum, completing assignments outside of a class to improve clinical skills, or engaging in personal therapy. Should remediation efforts be unsuccessful, students may be recommended for release from the program.

Students interested in completing their field placement at a site that is not on our approved list must have that site reviewed by Dr. Sawyer, Field Placement Site Coordinator, or
Dr. Johnson, Program Director well in advance of placement. In addition, an agency representative must sign the appropriate agreement forms signifying an ability to meet all expected site responsibilities.

Students have the opportunity to meet with representatives of field placement sites at the Field Placement Site Expos which are held each fall and spring. The site representatives describe their agencies including the services provided, types of clients, and expectations of the students. Students will be informed well in advance of the Site Expo dates and times and are expected to attend.

Additional Issues Regarding Practicum/Internship

Students must have attained at least a grade of B in PSYC643 (Contemporary Psychological Assessment and Psychotherapy), PSYC645 (Clinical-Counseling II: Advanced), and PSYC645 (Clinical-Counseling III: Group Processes) to be permitted to advance to practicum. Students who receive a C or lower in any advanced course and whose overall academic performance is within an acceptable level based upon CGC requirements (see the Graduate Catalog) may be permitted a second opportunity to successfully complete the course (i.e., attain a grade of B or better). If the student is successful, he or she can be approved for practicum. If the student is unsuccessful on the second attempt, he or she will be released from the program. Any student receiving a C or lower in PSYC643 or PSYC644 whose overall academic performance is below CGC standards will be subject to sanctions as listed in the Graduate Catalog.

Students are not permitted to complete practicum or internship at a site where they have been, or are currently, employed. Students are not permitted to arrange their internship at the same agency as that at which they completed their practicum.

Students must obtain approval to register for practicum/internship during the semester before they intend to complete these courses. Therefore, they should consult with their advisors at this time. Students also will arrange their field placement during the semester before they anticipate enrolling in the course. Approval must be obtained from the faculty advisor and/or program director. Approval will be based upon successful completion of prerequisite coursework. Additionally, students must have a signed agreement with their selected placement site in order for approval to be given.

Students must obtain liability insurance prior to beginning their practicum/internship. The Northamerican Association of Masters in Psychology offers student insurance (405-329-3030 to receive information on NAMP and insurance). Insurance also is available from the American Counseling Association (1-800-347-6647) for a reasonable rate to student members of the ACA. Students will be required to provide proof of insurance before being approved to begin working with clients on practicum/internship.

Students are responsible for documenting their hours during the practicum and internship.
This documentation will be reviewed regularly during the practicum/internship.

**Employment during Practicum/Internship**

Many students are employed full time while taking the core and advanced courses. However, the transition to the Practicum and Internship requires a greater time commitment that precludes full time employment. Students should plan on spending at least 16 hours/week during the Practicum and 20 hours/week during the internship. Those working full time must carefully plan for this transition as it is unlikely that field placement sites can provide sufficient hours beyond the normal weekday hours. When placement sites do offer hours at night and on weekends, the nature of the training experience is compromised by limited exposure to a host of leaning opportunities occurring during regular hours.

**Practicum/Internship Timetable**

The following dates are intended to serve as a guide for deciding on a field placement site. The times are structured so that a decision on a site occurs during the fall or spring term when advisors are most available. Students going on Internship have priority for sites over those desiring a Practicum site.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Time For Spring Placement</th>
<th>Time For Fall Placement:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identify 3 sites</td>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>April 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete interviews for the sites</td>
<td>November 15</td>
<td>April 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply/renew for insurance coverage</td>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>May 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secure Agreement contract</td>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>May 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Practicum Requirements**

To enroll in the Practicum course, students must complete each Advanced course with a grade of B or better and be considered personally and professionally ready for the practical field experience. The practicum requires students to work in a community agency of their choice for approximately 15 hours/week. There, they provide individual, family, and/or group counseling under the supervision of a mental health professional who has at least a master’s degree in a mental health discipline. Students complete a minimum of 150 hours of work at the agency consisting of 75 hours of direct counseling experience (individual or family), 25 hours of group experience, and 50 hours of other types of experience (supervision, observing others conducting counseling, in-service training, paper work, etc.).

Students in practicum also attend a three-hour per week seminar course conducted on
campus by a faculty member. These seminars involve group discussion of counseling issues, logistics of conducting counseling in a community agency, and identification of challenges to beginning counselors. Additionally, the course instructor individually evaluates audio/video tapes of student counseling sessions.

The practicum course is offered only during Fall and Spring semesters. Students must complete all required coursework (except PSYC611) prior to taking practicum. Only electives can be taken along with practicum. Students who are not successful in their first attempt at practicum (i.e., receive a grade of IP/F) may be permitted to retake the course, following discussion with their practicum course instructor and with approval of the Program Director (Dr. Johnson) and Department Head (Dr. Nida). Students who are not successful after repeating the practicum course will be released from the program.

Internship Requirements

To enroll in the Internship course, students must have successfully completed the Practicum and be considered personally and professionally ready for the rigors of the internship experience. The internship requires students to work in a community agency under supervision of a mental health professional who has at least a masters’ degree in a mental health discipline. Students complete a minimum of 600 hours of work at the agency consisting of 240 hours of direct counseling experience (individual or family), including 25 hours of group experience. Internship may be completed in one semester (approximately 40 hours/week at the agency). However, students are strongly advised to complete the internship over two semesters (approximately 20 hours/week). Many agencies will not be capable of accommodating interns for one semester only.

Students in internship also complete a once per month seminar course conducted by a faculty member. Seminars involve group discussion of counseling issues, logistics of conducting counseling in a community agency, and identification of challenges to beginning counselors. Additionally, the course instructor individually evaluates audio/video tapes of student counseling sessions.

The full internship is six academic credit hours. It has been broken down into two separate “courses” (PSYC651 and PSYC652) in order to accommodate the needs of students who plan to complete the internship over the course of two or more semesters. Students may register for PSYC651 and PSYC652 in the same semester or may register in successive semesters. Students are responsible for assessing the degree to which sites can provide adequate direct contact hours to meet course requirements in the desired time frame. Students have a maximum of one year in which to complete all internship requirements. Students who fail to complete the requirements in one year will receive a failing grade for the course.

Students must complete the internship course successfully (i.e., receive a grade of P) in order to complete the program. Students who are not successful in their first attempt at
internship (i.e., receive a grade of IP/F) **may** be permitted to retake the course, following discussion with their internship course instructor and with approval of the Program Director (Dr. Johnson) and Department Head (Dr. Nida). Students who are not successful after repeating the internship course will be released from the program.

**Clinical Case Presentation**

The final requirement for graduation from the Clinical Counseling program is successful presentation of a case seen during the internship experience to a committee consisting of two faculty members and a field placement supervisor. Students will be required to provide a written case formulation, treatment plan, and summary of treatment provided. In addition, students will submit an objective record of a counseling session (audio or videotape) with a client selected from their caseload on the internship site (with appropriate permission from the client). Students will be asked questions about their approach by the committee and will be expected to support their course of action in the treatment of the client. Students are to schedule and select faculty members for the clinical case presentation while they are completing internship and at least 2 weeks before actually presenting their case. Panel members should be provided all case study materials at least 2 weeks prior to the case presentation.

**Academic Policies**

Faculty advisors and the program director monitor student grades each semester. Students who receive 3 C-letter grades (including C+) will be dismissed from the program. Students should consult the official Citadel Graduate College catalog for academic policies and appeal information (POLICY INFORMATION: Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures, p.15).

Students in the Program are working toward a professional degree in counseling and psychology. Both the American Psychological Association and the American Counseling Association have published guidelines concerning ethical behavior, delivery of services, and treatment of research subjects. All students, college, and field supervisors are expected to become familiar with, and abide by, these guidelines. Students who fail to conform to the profession’s ethical standards are subject to release from the program.

Students should be familiar with the Department Guidelines concerning plagiarism. Copies of these guidelines can be obtained from the Psychology Department Secretary. The Citadel also endorses a student honor system and students are expected to abide by that honor code as outlined in the **Academic Integrity Policy** of the Graduate Catalog. Failure to conform to these standards will result in disciplinary actions and/or dismissal. Less severe examples of unprofessional behavior may result in meetings with the faculty advisor, Program Director and/or Department Head to discuss student retention. Students are also expected to be intolerant of violations of these guidelines in their peers and to report such violations to the course professor,
the Program Director, or the Head of the Department of Psychology. The program expects students to behave in a manner consistent with ethical principles of the profession.

Support Services

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation act of 1973, individuals with disabilities are guaranteed certain protections and rights to equal access of programs and services. The Citadel is committed to providing equal access opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Students with disabilities who are in need of academic adjustments and accommodations are required to contact the Academic Support Center on campus (Thompson Hall, Room 107 or 953-1820) to register for services and coordinate all appropriate academic adjustments and accommodations. Students with disabilities who choose not to declare their disability and register with the center waive their rights to academic adjustments and accommodations.

Evaluation of Students

Students are expected to seek out feedback from faculty in order to monitor areas of progress and target areas in need of development. Students are evaluated once each year by program faculty and will receive written notice of this feedback. Students are encouraged to discuss this feedback with their advisors. Students may be asked to meet with their advisors to initiate plans for remediating problems.

Expectations for Professional Behavior

Professional behavior is part of adequate performance as a clinical counselor, and students are expected to act in a professional manner throughout their studies. Professionalism is an important component in the evaluation of students and as implications for recommendations for field placement sites and employment. A variety of behavioral parameters make up the domain of "professionalism", including those listed below.

Attendance: Our goal is to prepare students to function as scholar-practitioners, and the MA degree is awarded upon the mastery of a corpus of knowledge and the demonstration of effective clinical counseling skills. Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes in their entirety. The Catalog of the Citadel Graduate College delineates a general policy regarding class attendance. Unless stated differently in the course syllabi, this attendance policy is in effect and course instructors can fail a student who misses more than 3 classes for any reason. If possible, students should inform the professor prior to the class of their intention to miss a class. Students not returning to class after a “break”, without permission from the instructor, will be marked absent for the entire class.
Many courses concentrate on skill development in order to prepare students to be practitioners. These courses incorporate a variety of practical exercises including demonstrations, role-playing, and group meetings outside of regular class time to facilitate diagnostic and therapeutic skill development. In these courses, a policy of **no class absences**, except for extreme circumstances, has been adopted by the Clinical Counseling Program faculty to ensure that the learning experience is not compromised. Absences that occur under extreme circumstances will still be evaluated by the instructor to determine if the goals of the course have been compromised at which time the instructor, with approval by the department head, may give the student a “W” for the course, thus requiring the student to repeat the course. This no absence policy also applies to the practicum and internship courses that involve field placements. Courses that fall under the no absence policy are as follows: PSYC 526, PSYC 643, PSYC 644, PSYC 629, PSYC 651, PSYC 652.

**Punctuality:** Students are expected to be on time for class and to remain for the entire period. Punctuality also refers to timeliness in completing assignments. Students are expected to complete their coursework in the allotted timeframe. Demonstration of responsible attendance and punctuality in an academic setting suggests that students possess adequate personal management/organizational skills to operate appropriately in future professional roles. Repeated attendance and/or punctuality difficulties will be documented and such documentation will be placed in the student’s file. Such repetitive attendance or punctuality problems may impact faculty decisions regarding a student’s annual evaluation, a student’s readiness to register for field placement training, or a faculty member’s willingness to provide letters of recommendation or references.

**Preparation:** Students are expected to have completed all the reading prior to the class time. Such preparation should be demonstrated by the student in terms of active class participation, responding to inquiries by the professor, etc. In addition, students are expected to meet deadlines and accept the course consequences of failure to do so.

**Demeanor:** This is a multifaceted behavioral parameter, which includes how a student welcomes and responds to feedback (openness to critical exploration versus defensive, challenging), students' in-class behavior, and overall presentation of self as an individual who is transitioning from the role of student to that, ultimately, of professional counselor.

**Skills in Accepting Feedback:** Individualized feedback will be the primary vehicle for growth as a student and future counselor. Adopting a defensive posture to feedback will impede development in many important areas. Feedback is given to help students improve skills so that they can be effective in their clinical roles. Faculty members expect students to receive feedback with an attitude of acceptance and motivation toward change.
Core Student Competencies

Coursework in the Clinical Counseling Program is designed to facilitate student development in eight primary areas of competency. These competencies, described below, are identified as skills critical for development of effective professional and ethical applied practice and will be used as the basis of students’ annual faculty evaluation in the program.

1. **Effective mastery of comprehensive curriculum**

   The clinical counseling program is designed to provide a comprehensive overview and general understanding of factors that contribute to mental health problems, theories and diagnostic skills used to conceptualize etiology and intervene with these problems, and techniques utilized by counselors to address these problems. In addition, multicultural considerations and ethical guidelines for clinical counseling are addressed across the curriculum. Students are expected to master the content of all classes and to retain this knowledge so that it can be integrated and applied effectively.

2. **Define problems through assessment and diagnosis**

   Competencies in assessment are defined, in part, as the determination of target/domains for intervention, the selection of appropriate measures and techniques, and the evaluation of empirical data to determine the success of interventions. Coursework in Applied Measurement Techniques, Basic Counseling Techniques, General Psychopathology, Contemporary Psychological Assessment and Psychotherapy, Advanced Techniques, and Clinical and Professional Issues are designed to develop and enhance assessment skills. Students have the opportunity to apply these assessment skills in clinical situations during the Practicum and Internship using both standardized and non-standardized assessment techniques.

3. **Effective implementation of clinical counseling**

   The overall mission of the Clinical Counseling Program is to educate students in the effective implementation of clinical counseling. To that end, the curriculum is organized into three discrete blocks of courses: beginning, advanced, and experience-based. In the first block of ten courses, basic clinical counseling skills are taught and evaluated through Basic Counseling Techniques. Following mastery of a comprehensive exam, the student moves to the second, advanced block of courses. In this second block, clinical counseling skills are taught and evaluated through the sequence of Clinical-Counseling II and III and Contemporary Psychological Assessment and Psychotherapy courses. These courses build on clinical competencies learned in basic counseling (rapport building, session management, problem exploration, problem receiving, and basic problem intervention) to develop skills in group and advanced counseling interventions. The Practicum provides opportunities for shaping of clinical counseling skills using knowledge bases from all courses via feedback received in individual and group supervision. Students completing Internship are expected to exhibit a higher level of
independence and initiative in seeking supervision, which is available as needed but structured once per month.

Clinical-Counseling II: Advanced also employs role-playing, though during this course the role-play extends throughout the semester. Two to three videotapes capturing different phases of treatment and depicting the implementation of different interventions are submitted for evaluation by the professor. While basic skills continue to be assessed, evaluation is more directly focused on implementation of specific interventions (e.g., problem solving, cognitive restructuring, self-monitoring). Performance in the simulated sessions is evaluated on the basis of how skillfully the technique is applied as well as in terms of the appropriateness of the technique (i.e., was the technique one that is supported by research). In addition, extensive written feedback is provided over components of your performance and you will meet individually with the faculty instructor. The student must achieve a final grade of “B” or better to be allowed to progress from this course into the Practicum.

4. Integration of science and practice

Students are taught the process of critical evaluation of research design in order to develop skills in discriminative consumption of research as professionals. Students also are expected to understand the issues presented in research so that you can apply them to clinical counseling situations. Critical evaluation of research is presented and expected in several courses, including Statistics, Human Development, and Principles of Cognitive and Behavior Change. Integration of research and practice is emphasized in General Psychopathology, Clinical-Counseling II: Advanced, Clinical-Counseling III: Group Processes, Practicum and Internship.

5. Establish theoretical foundations of practice

The curriculum develops students’ ability to organize clinical data in a meaningful conceptualization that relies on a theoretical and empirical framework. The formal attributes of traditional personality theories and their empirically supported constructs are considered for their contributions to clinical practice. The development of assessment, conceptualization and counseling competencies is emphasized in Counseling and Personality Theories, Human Growth and Development, and Principles of Cognitive and Behavioral Change. These competencies are reinforced and expanded through further coursework in Basic Counseling Techniques, Introduction to Family Dynamics, Group Therapy, Contemporary Assessment and Psychotherapy and Advanced Counseling Techniques. The comprehensive exam requires a demonstration of the ability to utilize various theoretical constructs and their empirical foundations to formulate approaches to assessment and intervention. The case studies completed in Contemporary Assessment and Psychotherapy, Advanced Counseling Techniques, Practicum, and Internship provide more specific practice in the refinement of these skills with simulated and actual clients.
6. **Effective communication of knowledge to others**

   Competencies in effective oral and written expression are critical for students given that their future profession will place demands on them in both areas. Students are expected to demonstrate skills in integration of information, organization of delivery, and clarity in expression of ideas. Exposure to technical writing through research and experiences in developing papers and presentations for course and case study requirements are expected to strengthen skills in communication. Scholarly papers and oral presentations are required in many courses. Students who demonstrate technical problems in their writing will be referred to the Writing Center for specific instruction on written communication.

7. **Demonstrate ethical and professional conduct**

   The Clinical Counseling Program recognizes the importance of understanding ethical principles and developing strategies for evaluating and resolving ethical dilemmas and devotes considerable focus to helping students develop ethical competence. The Ethics course is designed to develop student competencies in understanding and applying ethical principles (e.g., confidentiality, boundaries with clients, competence and provision of appropriate standards of treatment, and awareness of role behaviors that may constitute negligence/malpractice). Developing competencies in ethical standards of conduct also receive significant focus in Applied Measurement Techniques, Multicultural Awareness and Counseling, and applied courses (Basic, Group, and Advanced Counseling, Practicum and Internship). Throughout the program, responsible and effective behaviors are taught and monitored. Feedback is provided to strengthen student understanding of how their behavior might be consistent or inconsistent with ethical values.

8. **Demonstrate personal adjustment skills sufficient to meet academic and personal objectives**

   Faculty view the process of counseling as one in which we contract with people to help them to develop skills to lead richer and more productive lives. Therefore, students are expected to develop their own skills to deal effectively with tasks and people. Students are expected to demonstrate competencies in operating in a structured environment, where program and coursework deadlines exist, and in accepting consequences for failure to do so. Competencies in successfully meeting deadlines are identified as reflective of skills in goal setting, organization, management of resources (e.g., time), responsibility, and ability to conform to boundaries of an organization. Given the importance of boundaries in clinical work, establishment of clear boundaries with others is emphasized in the program, reflective of competencies in independent functioning, social skills, and a respect for the needs of others. While students are given feedback by faculty on an on-going basis, they also are expected to incorporate this information into goals for self-evaluation.
M.A. in (General) Psychology

The Department of Psychology does not administer a master's degree program in general psychology, and it does not admit students specifically for the purpose of pursuing this degree. However, The Citadel is authorized to award a master's degree in general psychology to formally recognize students in the Ed.S. program in School Psychology for their progress toward that degree. On rare occasions this degree may also be considered as an alternative for a Clinical Counseling student who has encountered exceptional circumstances. Specifically, the M.A. in general psychology can be awarded when a Clinical Counseling student has completed 39 graduate hours in Psychology courses, including PSYC 599 (Thesis). The awarding of this degree is subject to all of the stated requirements in the Citadel Graduate College catalog. A Clinical Counseling student may be considered for a recommendation to pursue the general M.A. if the following conditions are met:

1. The student has successfully completed all ten of the core courses in the Clinical Counseling program,
2. The student has passed the morning section of the Comprehensive Examination which includes definitions and applications of concepts from the core courses,
3. A faculty member has agreed to supervise the student's thesis and at least one Clinical Counseling faculty member has agreed to serve on the thesis committee,
4. the student has documented that agreement by submitting the appropriate form (signed by the student, the thesis supervisor, one Clinical Counseling committee member, and the Clinical Counseling Program Director) to the Department Head with a timeline for completion. The thesis can describe an empirical project or consist of a non-empirical presentation that is suitable for publication in a psychological journal or presentation at a psychological meeting.

The M.A. degree is in general psychology and does not satisfy any qualification for practice as an LPC in the state of South Carolina.

Impaired Student Policy

This policy provides procedural guidelines in the event that a student’s behavior interferes with his/her ability to function competently. It applies to all full or part time students in the Clinical Counseling Program at The Citadel. Student impairment is defined as interference in the academic or professional functioning of the student due to but not limited to serious emotional/psychological disorders, chemical abuse or dependence, sexual intimacy with clients or patients, conviction of a felony, or negligent, unethical, or unprofessional conduct. When a student exhibits signs/symptoms indicative of possible impairment which may interfere with his/her academic/professional functioning, the Program will initiate steps to assess the presence and degree of impairment and to effect remediation when necessary. The student will be informed of any allegations of such impairment and be given the opportunity to address the
allegations. Concerns regarding an impaired student may be presented by members of the faculty/staff of The Citadel, field placement supervisors, or students. These concerns should be presented to the student’s advisor and Program Director.

When the student’s behavior problems are potentially serious enough to jeopardize client/patient welfare at a field placement site, to damage the reputation of The Citadel and/or to warrant serious disciplinary action (such as limitation of clinical activity, suspension, or termination), the allegation will be reported immediately to both the Program director and Chairman of the Department. If, at any time, the student’s supervisor or Program Director believes a student is too impaired to continue assigned duties, they may immediately suspend the student from his/her duties and classroom activities until the Program Director and Department Chairman can be contacted.

When the student’s behavior problems are significant but not to the degree described above, the Program Director will informally review the allegations with the student, discuss with him/her the problem behaviors, and recommend to the student a plan for remediation when correction of behavior is necessary. When in the opinion of the Program Director, the informal plan for remediation is successful; the matter will be considered resolved. When in the opinion of the Program Director, the informal plan for remediation is not successful, written documentation of the problem and the need for formal remediation will be review with the student.

Recommendations regarding formal remediation may include, but are not limited to:
• Recommendation for psychosocial counseling/therapy to be conducted by a professional who does not teach at The Citadel. If counseling or psychotherapy is recommended as a requirement for remaining in the program, the student’s advisor or, if requested by the student, another Clinical Counseling Program faculty member must be permitted to establish communication with the student’s counselor/psychologist to ensure that specific difficulties and/or areas are addressed and appropriately resolved such that future professional development is likely. Such communication would be then shared with the Clinical Counseling program faculty only to the extent necessary to provide information regarding the student's progress toward appropriate remediation and to plan, if necessary, specific educational and training aspects to enhance the student's professional development in light of noted problems.
  • Recommendation of a leave of absence
  • Recommendation of a career shift
  • Termination from the program

DEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION

Each student must register for an e-mail address with The Citadel’s Information and Technology Services (ITS – 953-HELP). Students may register their own email address, or obtain a citadel e-mail address. All students will then be included on the clinical_counseling@citadel.edu distribution list. Students are expected to check their e-mail regularly for communication from faculty for information of interest including important
program-related meetings, course offerings, employment and volunteer opportunities, and upcoming educational meetings (e.g., workshops). This distribution list also can be used by students to communicate with their peers.

Electronic communication is an essential aspect of contemporary role function as a professional. While it is recognized that this may constitute a significant expense for some students who may not currently have such capability, the necessity of becoming familiar with electronic communication is deemed necessary for the professional development of future counselors. There are many options available, including on-campus labs to facilitate students’ ability to function in a professional environment that makes heavy use of computers.

If any student has a physical disability that makes it impossible to comply with electronic communication requirements (e.g., blindness/visual impairment, inability to type due to physical limitations, etc.), such a documented disability should be brought to the attention of the Program Director. In collaboration with The Citadel Office of Access Services, Instruction and Support, attempts will be made to assist the student in attaining accommodations in order to comply with this requirement.

In a similar vein, faculty members also rely on information provided to the Citadel Graduate College regarding phone number and address to communicate with students. Students who change their address or phone number must contact the Citadel Graduate College to ensure prompt communication. Updating information with the College appropriately reflects an investment and responsibility in managing events to maintain open lines of communication in professional life. This is a skill that has direct relevance for an individual’s ability to negotiate responsible avenues of communication with clients (e.g., you can be reached where you have given information to others to contact you). Failure to receive essential information because of address or phone number changes does not constitute an acceptable excuse for being unaware of this essential information.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Program Director

The Clinical Counseling program is administered by the Department of Psychology. The program director has the overall responsibility for the operation of the program. In terms of contact with students, the director’s functions include:

1. providing general information to new applicants,
2. receiving suggestions for program improvement,
3. meeting with advisory council,
4. coordinating orientation programs for new students,
5. acting upon student special requests and requests for waivers from normal procedure after discussion by student with advisor,
6. processing student complaints and appeals,
7. determining program scheduling and assignment of courses,
8. coordinating faculty meetings for students experiencing academic difficulties or emotional problems affecting program completion,
9. approving transfer of courses,
10. collaborating with The Citadel Placement Office to apprise students of employment opportunities.

Faculty Advisor

Each student will be assigned a faculty advisor, and students are responsible for maintaining regular contact with their advisors. The advisor's responsibilities include:

1. program of study planning and approval,
2. monitoring student academic progress each semester,
3. evaluating clinical and professional development
4. approving electives,
5. determining readiness for practicum/internship,
6. and approving practicum/internship placement.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Licensure and Certification**

Many students desire to obtain licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) or Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT). The practice of professional counseling in a private, for-fee practice is controlled by the Board of Examiners of Counselors and Therapists, which is responsible for awarding these licenses.

Students initiate the licensure process upon completion of their degree by submitting an
application form and a request to take the licensing exam. Students should contact the licensing board prior to graduation for specific requirements and an application form so that they can be ready to submit their application immediately after completion of their degree. The exam is given in April and October of each year. Students should be aware that they must submit their application form at least 2 - 3 months in advance of the testing date. Following successful completion of the examination and submission of a supervision plan, the graduate receives the designation Licensed Professional Counselor Intern (LPCI). The LPCI works under supervision and must complete a total of 2000 clinical hours to include 150 supervision hours over a two year period. Upon successful completion of the supervised work, the LPCI receives full licensure as a professional counselor. Students should contact the licensing board directly for specific information regarding academic requirements for licensure and application materials:

Department of Labor, License and Regulations
Board of Examiners for Counselors
110 Centerview Drive
Columbia, SC  29210
803-896-4300
www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Counselors/

Professional Associations

Students are encouraged to become student members of the Northamerican Association of Masters in Psychology (applications available in the Department of Psychology office and website is linked to the CCP website). NAMP promotes education for both individuals who are training or were trained at the masters level in psychology and consumers/potential consumers of psychological services. NAMP advocates for recognition of those who have obtained a masters degree in psychology with professional organizations (e.g., APA) and legislators. NAMP sponsors an annual conference. Additionally, affordable student liability insurance is available to NAMP members.

Students also are encouraged to become members of the American Counseling Association (ACA; applications available in the Department Psychology office). Student members of ACA receive valuable information related to current issues in the counseling field through their membership in this organization.

Student Representatives

The Clinical Counseling Program student body will elect three representatives at the beginning of each fall semester. These students will meet regularly with the faculty throughout the year in discussions concerning academic, institutional and social concerns. These representatives provide a resource for advanced student-beginning student mentor relationships, organize social events and study groups, and keep the student body updated on academic issues.
Any student can email (CCP@citadel.edu) or meet with representatives with ideas, concerns, or for support.

Student Associations

Psi Chi

Psi Chi is the National Honor Society in Psychology, founded in 1929 for the purpose of encouraging, stimulating, and maintaining excellence in scholarship and advancing the science of psychology. Membership is open to graduate students who are making study of psychology one of their major interests and who meet the minimum qualifications. Psi Chi is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS) and is an affiliate of the American Psychological Association (APA) and the American Psychological Society (APS).

Psi Chi serves two major goals. The first of these is the Society's obligation to provide academic recognition to its inductees by the mere fact of membership. The second goal is addressed by the dedication of the Society's local chapters to nurture students' academic accomplishments by offering a climate congenial to students' professional growth and development. To that end, The Citadel's chapter of Psi Chi sponsors programs that enhance the regular curriculum. To qualify for acceptance into Psi Chi graduate students must have completed a minimum of 12 hours in psychology courses and achieved a minimum grade point average of 3.7 (overall as well as in psychology courses). Dr. Chip Taylor is the faculty advisor for Psi Chi and can be contacted for application materials.

Employment Opportunities

The Citadel has a very active job placement service, headed by Brent Stewart (953-1617). This office can assist you in developing a resume, identifying potential employment opportunities, and setting up employment interviews. In addition, program faculty maintain good relationships with public and private agencies in the tri-county area and often are informed directly of job openings. When available, information on job opportunities is posted outside the Psychology Department Office.
Psychology Department Faculty

Department Head: Steven Nida, Ph.D.

Program Director: William G. Johnson, Ph.D., ABPP (advisor)

Field Placement Site Coordinator: Genelle K. Sawyer, Ph.D. (advisor)

Comprehensive Exam Coordinator: Lloyd A. Taylor, Ph.D. (advisor)

Julie A. Lipovsky, Ph.D., ABPP (advisor)

Additional Faculty:
Alfred J. Finch, Jr., Ph.D., ABPP
Timothy A. Hanchon, M.A.
Kerry S. Lassiter, Ph.D.
T. Darrin Matthews, Ph.D.
P. Michael Politano, Ph.D.
Conway F. Saylor, Ph.D., ABPP
Planning Your Program of Studies

Name:

*Note: Some courses have prerequisites. Be sure to check with your advisor and the catalog before registering. Also courses must have minimal enrollments in order to be offered.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Block I- Core Courses</th>
<th>Indicate semester completed or when you plan to register.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC-500 Human Growth and Development</td>
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<td>PSYC-507 General Psychopathology</td>
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<td>PSYC-526 Clinical Counseling I: Basic</td>
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<td>PSYC-501 Cognitive &amp; Behavioral Change</td>
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<td>PSYC-514 Ethics and Mental Health Law</td>
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<td>PSYC-523 Statistics and Research Design</td>
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<td>PSYC-508 Counseling and Personality Theories</td>
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<td>PSYC-553 Introduction to Family Dynamics</td>
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<td>PSYC-561 Cultural Issues in Psychological Practice</td>
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<td>PSYC-549 Foundations of Psychometrics</td>
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<th>Block II- Advanced Courses</th>
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<td>PSYC-645 Clinical Counseling: Group</td>
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<td>PSYC-611 Clinical and Professional Issues in Counseling</td>
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<td>PSYC-643 Contemporary Psych Assessment &amp; Therapy</td>
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<td>PSYC-629 Practicum</td>
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<td>PSYC-651/652 Internship: Clinical Counseling</td>
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*note that PSYC 611 is a summer only class and is not required before starting practicum
### Planned Schedule for Clinical Counseling Coursework

#### CORE COURSES

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#### ADVANCED COURSES

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<th>PSYC645-Clinical Counseling: Group</th>
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#### FIELD PLACEMENTS COURSES

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#### ELECTIVES

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