



East Carolina University®
Tomorrow starts here.

Clinical Health Psychology

APA ACCREDITED

THOMAS HARRIOT COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Clinical Health Psychology

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Department of Psychology at East Carolina University offers a concentration in clinical health psychology within the health psychology doctoral program. East Carolina University provides state-of-the-art training in health psychology from a scientist-practitioner orientation. Our program combines a lifespan approach to understanding health with an emphasis on prevention and care, from primary to tertiary, within health-care settings.

The curriculum is designed so that, with appropriate post-doctoral training, graduates will be eligible to apply for licensure as professional psychologists.

Students are trained in both research and practice, with practicum experiences in primary care, outpatient, and inpatient medical settings across medical subspecialties. For example, some program faculty provide psychological services in medical clinics, such as cardiology, family medicine, and pediatrics, accomplishing fully integrated psychosocial care with ongoing medical care.

The clinical health psychology concentration trains psychologists to become members of health-care teams in hospitals, health maintenance organizations, community mental health agencies, rehabilitation settings, and private practice. Students will develop a broad range of skills using evidence-based psychotherapy practice guidelines in order to promote wellness and reduce disease risk. The curriculum includes psychological interventions such as psychotherapy, pain and stress management, and health promotion programming.

Students will develop skills in research, collaboration, consultation, and teamwork, which are essential to successful research and practice.

This concentration will be attractive to qualified persons with an undergraduate or master's degree in psychology or a related field.

The program is accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) with the next site visit scheduled for 2019.

Examples of Clinical Health Practica Opportunities

BRODY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE/ VIDANT MEDICAL CENTER

Cardiac Psychology

Promotes an interdisciplinary, comprehensive care approach to cardiac arrhythmia patients and their families

Family Medicine

Focuses on cognitive behavior therapy programs for patients with chronic medical diseases, pain disorders, stress and psychophysiological disorders, therapeutic adherence, sleep difficulties, depression, and anxiety

General Adult Neuropsychology

Focuses on neuropsychological assessment of patients with various central nervous system disorders

ECU PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND SPECIALTY SERVICES (PASS) CLINIC

Provides specialty services for the following issues:

- Weight management
- Women's health (anxiety, depression, PTSD, coping with negative sexual experiences, infertility, pregnancy, fetal loss)
- Cognitive-behavioral psychotherapy for adults with concerns related to anxiety, depression, or substance abuse
- Psychological assessment services

CHERRY HOSPITAL, GOLDSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

Serves citizens of 38 eastern North Carolina counties in an inpatient setting for adolescents, adult acute admissions, geriatric admissions, psychiatric rehabilitation, and psychiatric medical services

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION OUTPATIENT CLINIC

Provides psychological services to military veterans through the Mental Health Clinic

REHABILITATION CENTER, VIDANT MEDICAL CENTER

Interdisciplinary assessment and treatment of patients in the acute medical center and acute rehabilitation center. This includes children, adolescents, and adults exposed to trauma, patients with cancer, chronic pain, chronic medical conditions, and pre-existing psychiatric diagnoses.

FORT BRAGG SITE

Practicum at the US Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Bragg, located in Fayetteville, N.C. The practicum is focused on operational psychology with emphasis on psychological testing and assessment, as well as interpersonal performance enhancement. Students will work with Army Special Operations Psychologists and Special Forces soldiers.

Note: not all clinics operate each semester.

Admissions

Students are admitted only in the fall semester of each academic year and are expected to attend full-time. Applicants with at least a bachelor's degree may apply. Applicants should have had sufficient preparation in psychology at the undergraduate level. This typically includes the completion or near completion of the requirements for the undergraduate major in psychology at the time of application, though it is possible that some applicants will have sufficient course work in psychology and have completed a different major. All admissions for the clinical health concentration lead to earning the PhD. The clinical health concentration does not offer a terminal MA program, but students can earn an MA en route to the PhD.

Admission to the program is competitive and based on the following requirements:

- Quality of the applicant's academic record (official transcripts)
- Undergraduate preparation in psychology
- Three letters of recommendation from former professors or supervisors (at least two from psychologists)
- Scores on the Graduate Record Examination (verbal and quantitative)
- Personal statement

There are no strict cutoffs for acceptable grade point averages (GPAs) or GRE scores (except those indicated by the Graduate School at ECU), but competitive applicants typically have GPAs above 3.5 and competitive GRE scores. Other scholarly accomplishments, particularly research experience, are desirable.

Students are offered funding in the form of teaching or research assistantships or fellowships. Offers vary but typically carry a monthly stipend and a waiver of all or a portion of tuition. More specific information is not available until offers of admission are made each spring because new grants are always being received and financial conditions change.

New applications should be submitted by **December 1** for consideration for fall admission.

WHY East Carolina University?

ECU is committed to creating an environment respectful of diversity and offering the promise of educational opportunity to all. We are training the next generation of scientist-practitioner clinical psychologists who will develop and implement evidence-based, collaborative programs and strategies that promote and improve health, decrease health disparities, and serve our communities both locally and around the world. Tomorrow starts here.

WHY Clinical Health Psychology?

- Dynamic faculty
- Excellent faculty-student ratio
- Scientist-practitioner philosophy
- Community health outreach
- Training in full continuum of health-care settings
- Connection to the Brody School of Medicine

Contact

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An equal opportunity/affirmative action university, which accommodates the needs of individuals with disabilities.