Master of Science (MS) in Clinical Psychology with a specialization in Forensic

Effective July 10, 2017
Master of Science (MS) in Clinical Psychology with a specialization in Forensic

The Forensic specialization presents master’s learners with a theoretical and practical foundation of the clinical psychology profession, with particular emphasis on psychology and the law, techniques in forensic practice, and issues and trends in forensic psychology. The specialization curriculum focuses on competencies aimed at conducting forensic assessments and research with forensic programs and populations, including incarcerated and recently released offenders.

Personal Suitability and Fitness for the Profession
Capella embraces the principles and guidelines set forth by the Council of Chairs of Training Councils (CCTC) related to professional psychology programs in that the faculty, training staff, supervisors, and administrators in the MS Clinical Psychology degree program have a professional, ethical, and potentially legal obligation to ensure, insofar as possible, that all learners have the competence to manage professional relationships in an effective and appropriate manner and that they possess the emotional maturity, interpersonal stability, and intellectual judgment required to work with vulnerable populations. Personal suitability and fitness for the profession includes but is not limited to demonstration of sufficient interpersonal and professional competence; self-awareness, self-reflection, and self-evaluation; openness to processes of supervision; and resolution of issues or problems that interfere with professional development or functioning in a satisfactory manner. Throughout the graduate training of each learner, faculty and staff are responsible for educating and assessing learners with regard to their personal suitability and fitness for the profession.
**Career Information**

### RELATED EMPLOYMENT SETTINGS TO EXPLORE

- Federal, state, and municipal government agencies  
  - Department of Corrections
- Department of probation and parole courts
- Self-employed (contract with attorneys)
- Community college
- Land-based or online college or university

### RELATED JOB TITLES TO EXPLORE*†

- Forensic  
  - Analyst
  - Interviewer
- Researcher  
  - Assessment specialist
  - Case worker
- Consultant  
  - Adjunct or part-time faculty
  - Instructor

### SPECIALIZATION OUTCOMES

- Analyze Research related to clinical and forensic psychology
- Apply Ethical principles related to practice in academics, research, and the practice of forensic psychology
- Evaluate the importance of Diversity through mastery of multicultural competencies in scholarly work, particularly as they relate to forensic populations
- Apply theory and research findings into the practice of Forensic Psychology
- Communicate in scholarly writing and through the use of any technologies using the professional standards of the discipline

*These are examples intended to serve as a general guide. Because many factors determine what position an individual may attain, Capella cannot guarantee that a graduate will secure any specific job title.

†Capella University cannot guarantee licensure, certification, or endorsement. State regulations vary regarding professional licensure and salary benefits. It is the learners’ responsibility to understand and comply with requirements for their states.
## Curriculum

### Core Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSY5002</td>
<td>Foundations of Theory and Practice for Master’s Psychology Learners*</td>
<td>5 quarter credits OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY5005</td>
<td>Foundations of Theory and Practice for Master’s Psychology Learners*</td>
<td>5 quarter credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY6095</td>
<td>Theories of Counseling and Psychotherapy</td>
<td>5 quarter credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY6210</td>
<td>Introduction to Psychopathology</td>
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</tr>
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<td>PSY7610</td>
<td>Tests and Measurements</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY7860</td>
<td>Survey of Research Methods</td>
<td>5 quarter credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Learners who may need additional support developing graduate-level academic and professional writing skills are placed in PSY5005.

### Specialization Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSY8340†</td>
<td>Psychology and the Law</td>
<td>5 quarter credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY8350†</td>
<td>Techniques of Forensic Practice</td>
<td>5 quarter credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY8360†</td>
<td>Current Issues and Trends in Forensic Practice</td>
<td>5 quarter credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY7864</td>
<td>Quantitative Design and Analysis</td>
<td>5 quarter credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY7543†</td>
<td>Ethics and Multicultural Issues in Psychology</td>
<td>5 quarter credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY6092†</td>
<td>Counseling Skills and Procedures</td>
<td>5 quarter credits</td>
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†Denotes courses that have prerequisite(s). Refer to the course descriptions for further details.

This specialization does not prepare graduates for licensure as a psychologist, counselor, or therapist.

The courses in this program may require live web conferencing activities and/or learner audio/video recordings. Learners who require assistive technology or alternative communication methods to participate in these activities should contact Disability Services to request accommodations.
Core Course Descriptions

**PSY5002  Foundations of Theory and Practice for Master's Psychology Learners**

In this course, learners acquire the ability to navigate the Capella courseroom and use the resources that support academic success, including the library and writing center. Learners identify and practice the academic requirements (including APA style and formatting) necessary to successfully complete the Master's degree program in their chosen specialization; review their specialization's requirements, associated professional roles and organizations, and ethics and professional standards; and articulate a professional identity based on master's-level psychology or counseling training. **For MS in Psychology and MS in Clinical Psychology learners only. Learners may earn credit for either PSY5002 or PSY5005, but not both. Must be taken during the learner's first quarter. Cannot be fulfilled by transfer.**

**PSY5005  Foundations of Theory and Practice for Master's Psychology Learners**

In this course, learners acquire the ability to navigate the Capella courseroom and use the resources that support academic success, including the library and writing center. Learners identify and practice the academic requirements (including APA style and formatting) necessary to successfully complete the Master's degree program in their chosen specialization; review their specialization's requirements, associated professional roles and organizations, and ethics and professional standards; and articulate a professional identity based on master's-level psychology or counseling training. **For MS in Psychology and MS in Clinical Psychology learners only. Learners may earn credit for either PSY5002 or PSY5005, but not both. Must be taken during the learner's first quarter. Cannot be fulfilled by transfer.**

**PSY6095  Theories of Counseling and Psychotherapy**

This course provides an overview of foundational counseling and psychotherapy theories and research-based practice. Throughout the course, learners examine various schools of therapeutic intervention; their underlying theoretical assumptions; and their historical, cultural, and ethical context, with an emphasis on the application of current theory in a variety of clinical populations.

**PSY6210  Introduction to Psychopathology**

In this course, learners examine the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of various forms of psychopathology throughout the lifespan. Learners review the etiology of psychopathology; examine theories and research of psychopathology; and explore current methods of psychological interviewing, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment. Learners also discuss the politics of mental disorders, emerging diagnoses, and ethical and multicultural issues associated with psychopathology.

**PSY7610  Tests and Measurements**

This course focuses on essential concepts, principles, applications, and social and theoretical issues of psychological testing. Learners gain understanding in the construction of tests; analyze the development and use of tests in measuring aptitudes, achievement, attitudes, interests, and personality; and identify underlying theories of various tests. Learners analyze the characteristics desired in psychological and educational tests, with particular emphasis on reliability and validity, and examine best practices and professional standards for educational and psychological testing, including test bias and fairness. In addition, learners study the role of technology in delivery, administration, scoring, and interpretation of tests.

**PSY7860  Survey of Research Methods**

Learners in this course critically evaluate research in order to gain an understanding of the scientific methods of inquiry and the ethical considerations of research. Learners focus on becoming educated consumers and creators of research. Learners also use their research design skills to analyze and apply research methodologies, validity, reliability and other components of scientific research related to their field of interest.
Specialization Course Descriptions

PSY6092  Counseling Skills and Procedures  5 QUARTER CREDITS
This course provides an introduction to the fundamental skills and core conditions associated with effective counseling practice, from development of the therapeutic alliance through termination. *For MS in Clinical Psychology learners only.*

PSY7543  Ethics and Multicultural Issues in Psychology  5 QUARTER CREDITS
In this course, learners analyze multicultural perspectives and factors such as ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and gender, and their influences on the ethical behavior of psychology professionals. Learners evaluate and articulate multicultural issues within the context of different settings and practice applying ethical reasoning principles and standards within their profession. *Prerequisite(s): PSY5002 or PSY5005 or PSY8002.*

PSY7864  Quantitative Design and Analysis  5 QUARTER CREDITS
In this course, learners investigate the fundamental concepts needed to conduct quantitative research. Learners examine and apply quantitative research techniques; appropriate applications of quantitative research; research design, measurement, and analysis, and their associated interdependencies; variable types and levels of measurement; sampling; descriptive and inferential statistics; and hypothesis testing. Learners define the strengths and limitations of descriptive statistics, analyze the quantitative scales of measurement, review the logic of probability and null hypothesis testing, and leverage technology when applicable. Learners also determine the steps necessary to ensure human subjects protection, and consider methodological adaptations when conducting research with vulnerable and diverse populations.

PSY8340  Psychology and the Law  5 QUARTER CREDITS
This course emphasizes the fundamental theoretical, empirical, and ethical bases of forensic psychology and prepares learners for the advanced practical training covered in PSY8350 and PSY8360. Learners focus on developing forensic assessment methodology skills and study psychology's role in the judicial system, the differences between clinical and forensic psychological practice, and parameters of ethical practice in forensic psychology. Other topics include basic functions of forensic practice in civil, criminal, juvenile, and family law contexts and basic principles of testimony. *Prerequisite(s): PSY6210.*

PSY8350  Techniques of Forensic Practice  5 QUARTER CREDITS
The primary focus of PSY8350 is on the methodology and mechanics for performing different forensic activities including training in methodology. The course also focuses on practical applications and skill-building in different forensic practice areas. The course presents forensic evaluation methodologies including competency to stand trial, insanity defense, child custody, fitness to parent, mitigating defenses, and recidivism. Evaluating malingering and understanding the guidelines for ethical practice are emphasized throughout the course. *Prerequisite(s): PSY8340.*

PSY8360  Current Issues and Trends in Forensic Practice  5 QUARTER CREDITS
Learners in this course analyze current forensic psychology issues and examine appropriate application of scientific methods to forensic situations. Topics include eye-witness identification, legal decision making, forensic assessment and reporting, criminal defenses, profiling, polygraphy, risk assessment, jury composition, scientific jury selection, and other selected topics of interest to both the psychology and legal fields. *Prerequisite(s): PSY6210, PSY8340, PSY8350.*
Recommended Course Sequence

This recommended course sequence assumes learners take two courses per quarter. Some learners elect to take fewer or more based on workload and the amount of time available for graduate study.

**YEAR 1 COURSES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q1</th>
<th>PSY5002</th>
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<td>Q2</td>
<td>PSY6210</td>
<td>Introduction to Psychopathology</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PSY7610</td>
<td>Tests and Measurements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q3</td>
<td>PSY8340</td>
<td>Psychology and the Law</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PSY6090</td>
<td>Counseling Skills and Procedures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q4</td>
<td>PSY7860</td>
<td>Survey of Research Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PSY8350</td>
<td>Techniques of Forensic Practice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**YEAR 2 COURSES**

| Q5      | PSY7543            | Ethics and Multicultural Issues                                                   |
|         | PSY8360            | Issues and Trends in Forensic Practice                                             |
| Q6      | PSY7860            | Survey of Research Methods                                                         |
|         | PSY8350            | Techniques of Forensic Practice                                                    |

*Learners who may need additional support developing graduate-level academic and professional writing skills are placed in PSY5005.*
Financial Aid

Capella University offers assistance to learners who qualify and would like to secure educational funding to help finance their academic program. A number of options are available, given the diverse needs and backgrounds of prospective learners. Options include:

- Federal Direct Stafford Loan Program
- Federal Direct PLUS Loan Program
- Non-federal loans through preferred lenders and financial institutions
- Capella scholarships
- External scholarships
- Veterans’ educational benefits and U.S. armed forces discounts
- Corporate and higher education alliances
- Employer tuition reimbursement

Regarding loan programs, interest rates for Stafford student loans are low compared to other types of consumer loans, and repayment can be deferred until after graduation. In compliance with federal and state laws, Capella University has established policies for all learners regarding satisfactory academic progress, which is necessary for financial aid eligibility.

Digital course materials covered by the quarterly resource kit fee offer advantages such as immediate mobile access to books; fast, easy full-text search of materials; digital note-taking; and peer collaboration through note sharing.

There are many financial aid options available to help you offset tuition costs.

Contact an enrollment counselor at 1.888.CAPELLA (227.3552) to discuss your financial aid opportunities.

Tuition and Fees

This tuition estimate is effective July 10, 2017, and is subject to change. For current pricing, visit the Capella University website at www.capella.edu.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TUITION/FEES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition per credit</td>
<td>$485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource kit per quarter</td>
<td>$160</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Academic Leadership

Andrea Miller, PhD
Dean

Andrea Miller is the dean of the Department of Psychology in the Harold Abel School of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Capella University. Dr. Miller has worked as a member of the Capella undergraduate psychology department since 2010 and has taught online since 2005. Her professional background includes work as a psychologist in the public schools and as a psychologist and supervisor for non-profit clinics. She specializes in working with children and families as well as individuals of all ages with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. Dr. Miller is licensed as a psychologist in three states, licensed as a specialist in school psychology, and a human services board certified practitioner. She is active in psychological associations and served as President of the Georgia Psychological Association from 2013–2014. Dr. Miller holds PhD in Counseling Psychology from Texas Woman’s University and a BA in Psychology from the University of Michigan.

Bethany Lohr, PhD, LP
Faculty Chair

Dr. Lohr joined Capella in 2011 as a part-time professor in the master’s programs in Clinical and Counseling Psychology, and in 2012 became a full-time member of the Core Faculty and Colloquia Lead. Dr. Lohr became chair of the MS and PsyD programs in Clinical Psychology in 2014. She earned her Master’s and PhD degrees in Clinical Psychology with a subspecialty in Behavioral Medicine from the University of Georgia in 1997, and did her internship at Harvard Medical School, specializing in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Behavioral Medicine. Prior to her role as a Capella faculty member, Dr. Lohr ran a private practice in a rural area while always continuing to teach in higher education. She has had numerous experiences and training in various settings, including forensic work, physical rehabilitation, community mental health, and hospitals and schools. Her research interests and publications include aspects of psychopathology, health psychology, and CBT. Dr. Lohr is a very evidence-based practitioner with a strong theoretical orientation in CBT. She has provided cognitive behavioral therapy to individuals, couples, and groups of all ages. She also has training and experience in administering a wide range of psychological assessments, and is licensed as a psychologist in the states of Alabama and Tennessee. Dr. Lohr has been involved in her State Psychological Associations, serving as President and Disaster Response Coordinator, and feels strongly about the importance of advocacy in our role as psychologists. Among her favorite activities with Capella are the learning and networking with students and faculty that occurs at residencies.
Move Forward with Capella University

WORKING SCHOLARS
Capella provides an online, flexible learning environment for working adults who are also determined scholars. That connection between academic and professional work infuses the entire Capella experience—from the faculty we recruit to the course projects you complete. The theories discussed in the courseroom are designed to develop working knowledge for everyday situations.

AN ACCREDITED UNIVERSITY
Our accreditation* is an assurance to students, employers, and the public that Capella University meets or exceeds established standards for quality of faculty, curriculum, and learner services. It is also an important factor in the ability to transfer credits among higher education institutions. Regional accreditation, the type held by Capella, is the most common type for major public, state, and private institutions in the United States.

VALUING YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE
Adults bring a wealth of experience and learning to their education. Capella courses are designed to bring out your perspectives just as you gain from others’ ideas. Your knowledge can also be worth time and money: An enrollment counselor can help you estimate how much of your prior learning may apply toward your Capella degree program.

Important Information about the educational debt, earnings, and completion rates of students who attended this program: http://capellaresults.com/assets/includes/gainfulemployment/cta/GE/GE15/masters/MS_Clinical_Psy_Forensics_gedt.html.

*ACCREDITATION
Capella University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.

HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION
https://www.hlcommission.org
800.621.7440

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