

Masters in Clinical Psychology



San Francisco State University



What is the M.S. in Clinical Psychology at SFSU?

- Two years of full-time training from trained clinical supervisors, each with their own unique insights and guidance!
- Academic preparations for MFT licensure, hands-on clinical work with a wide range of clients, and exposure to different psychological frameworks & theories
- Rare two-year program that meets educational requirements for the Marriage and Family Therapy licensure for the State of California.



Our Approach

The program emphasizes theoretical and applied training from a variety of perspectives including:

- Relational (i.e., attachment and interpersonal theories)
- Developmental psychodynamic
- Family systems
- Cognitive-behavioral

All infused within an anti-racist, multicultural, and trauma-informed framework



Our Approach

Cohort model:

- 8 students who move through the program together

Clinical training begins the first year:

- Training & supervision is conducted by core faculty as well as adjunct supervisors
- Experience in the on-site Psychology Clinic and off-site community placement



Program Elements: 1st Year Coursework

Fall Semester

Psy 723 Clinical Methods: Assessment

Psy 728 Theory and Practice of Psychotherapy

Psy 729 Case conference to accompany Psychology Clinic experience

Psy 753 Seminar in Theories of Developmental & Psychotherapeutic Change I

Spring Semester

Psy 724 Clinical Issues: Drugs, Brain, and Behavior

Psy 728 Theory and Practice of Psychotherapy

Psy 729 Case conference to accompany Psychology Clinic experience

Psy 754 Seminar in Theories of Developmental & Psychotherapeutic Change II



Program Elements: 1st Year Clinical Training

- Provide individual psychotherapy to clients in the Psychology Clinic
 - ✓ Weekly individual supervision
- 8-10 hour placement at Edgewood Center for Children & Families
 - ✓ Weekly group supervision



Program Elements: 2nd Year Coursework

Fall Semester

Psy 821 Diagnosis & Advanced Psychopathology

Psy 828 Conference to Accompany Advanced Psychology Practicum

Psy 891 Seminar in Selected Problems

Spring Semester

Psy 822 Short-term and Marital & Family Systems Theory & Therapy

Psy 828 Conference to Accompany Advanced Psychology Practicum

Psy 896/898 Directed Reading & Comprehensive Written Examination



Program Elements: 2nd Year

- 20-hours a week placement in a community-based setting (which you apply for in Spring of your first year)
- A culminating experience project ("Master's Paper") that demonstrates a unique application of a clinical theory to a specific case study of your choosing.



Program Highlights

- A full-time (40+ hours per week) program
- A curriculum infused with cultural, social and racial diversity, anti-racism, and affirmative and trauma-informed clinical practices.
- Close relationships with individual faculty who have clinical & research expertise in trauma, serious mental illness, relationships, community mental health, and work with LGBTQI and BIPOC communities.
- Immediate, intensive and varied clinical training experiences



Application Information: Overview

- The program admits students only during Fall Semester
- Program needs to be completed in its full-time format
- A bachelor's degree in any field is required to enroll
- Applications due: February 1st

Application Information: Pre-requisites



- Undergraduate coursework (upper-division preferred) completed before program starts in Fall
 - Statistics (e.g., PSY 371 @ SFSU)
 - Theories of Personality (e.g., PSY 451 @ SFSU)
 - Abnormal Psychology (e.g., PSY 452 @ SFSU)

Application Information: Pre-requisites



- Ideally at least 1 year of clinical or research experience, for example:
 - Volunteer or paid experience on a hotline or warmline
 - Experience as a teacher or behavioral technician
 - Staff at a group or residential treatment facility
 - Any other position that involves provision of emotional support



5 Application Elements

1. CSU Application (Personal Information, Academic History, Supporting Information)
2. Curriculum Vitae/ Resume
3. Unofficial Transcript showing at least a 3.0 in last 60 semester units or overall
4. Three letters of recommendation (instructors, supervisors)

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5 Application Elements (cont.)



5. Personal statement: Demonstrate readiness for graduate study, emphasize the aspects of your development that were particularly significant in forming character and in creating motivations to pursue training as a clinician. Demonstrate psychologically-minded perspective of your attitudes, life and goals.

This statement is a central factor of evaluation



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the full cost of tuition for this program?

Roughly tuition will cost \$19,000 overall – this estimate does not include the cost of living, housing, etc.



Frequently Asked Questions

What types of clinical experiences do I need in order to apply for this program?

Does the one year of experience have to be before I apply?

Some prior experience in some form of the mental health field – as close to a year as possible before the start of the program. This may include working with a suicide hotline, ABA work with children and adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder, a support counselor for foster youth, working a VA hospital, etc. The ideal is that you will have some experience working with a clinically unique population that will prepare you for the work you will be doing with other populations during your time in this program.



Frequently Asked Questions

SF Bay area is super expensive: can I work part-time or full-time when I'm in the program?

We get it. However, this program is very, very intense and condensed into a two-year plan (most programs are 3 years minimum). Given this, we recommend not working and seeking financial aid instead.

Faculty



David Gard, Ph.D.
Professor



Melissa Hagan, Ph.D.
Associate Professor



Sarah Holley, Ph.D.
Professor



Diane Harris, Ph.D.
Professor



Shuyi Liu, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor



Jaclyn Wolf, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor