Master of Science in Clinical Psychology

The Master of Science (MS) in Clinical Psychology is designed to be responsive to the needs of a variety of Alaska mental health service settings and to meet prerequisites for licensing requirements at the master’s level in psychology for the State of Alaska. The MS allows graduates to pursue either the licensed psychological associate (LPA) license or the licensed professional counselor (LPC) license. Please go to UAA's Authorization by State (https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/academics/office-of-academic-affairs/provost_office/uaa-state-authorization/authorization.csh.html/) website for information about licensure or certification in a state other than Alaska.

The goal of the program is to provide students with a well-rounded education that includes an evidence-based background in the best practices applicable to community mental health settings. The curriculum addresses local behavioral health needs in a context that is culturally-sensitive and community-focused.

Admission Requirements

- Complete the Admissions Requirements for Graduate Degrees (http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/academicpoliciesprocesses/admissions/graduate/).
- Complete all application requirements by March 1 for fall admission. This is the only opportunity for program admission each year. Forms and instructions are available on the Psychology Department website (https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/academics/college-of-arts-and-sciences/departments/psychology/academic-programs/graduate/masters.csh.html/).
- Complete adequate prerequisite coursework for either the Clinical Track or the Behavior Analysis track:
  - The Clinical Track prepares students who plan to seek employment in agencies that provide counseling or master’s level clinical psychology services or in private practice providing counseling or master’s level clinical psychology services. Prerequisites for the Clinical Track: undergraduate training in general psychology, statistics and research methods, learning or applied behavior analysis, abnormal psychology, behavioral neuroscience, clinical psychology, and psychological testing. Examples of UAA courses that meet these requirements are PSY A111, PSY A200 or PSY A468, PSY A260 and PSY A261, PSY A345, PSY A370, PSY A425, and PSY A473. Alternative courses and/or experiences will be considered. Applicants without an undergraduate degree in psychology must have met all prerequisites before admission. Applicants with an undergraduate degree in psychology who have not met all prerequisites may be admitted provisionally; prerequisites must be completed successfully within the first year of admission to the program.
  - The Behavior Analysis track prepares students who plan to seek employment in agencies that provide behavior-analytic services. Prerequisites for the behavior analysis track include: undergraduate training in psychology, social work, education, justice, human services, or related fields. Students should have completed coursework in human development, learning, statistics and research methods, abnormal psychology, and behavioral neuroscience. Examples of UAA courses that meet these requirements are PSY A200 or PSY A468, PSY A260 and PSY A261, PSY A345, and PSY A370. Alternative courses and/or experiences will be considered. Applicants who have not met all prerequisites may be admitted provisionally; prerequisites must be completed successfully within the first year of admission to the program.
  - Submit a letter of intent describing the applicant’s interest and purpose in pursuing the MS in Clinical Psychology. The letter should address the reasons why the degree is being sought at this point in the applicant’s professional development. See instructions on the electronic application.
  - Submit three professional letters of reference that address the applicant’s suitability for the program.
  - Complete disclosure Items and accompanying letter of explanation (if required) on the electronic application.
  - Submit a resume or curriculum vitae that documents the applicant’s vocational and professional experiences, academic achievements, research accomplishments, special projects, recognitions, and other information relevant to the applicant’s qualifications for the program.
  - Department approval for admission to graduate study is contingent on the applicant’s qualifications, interests, and available space.

Graduation Requirements

- Complete the General University Requirements for Graduate Degrees (http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/graduateprograms/degerequirements/). Students must meet all applicable university requirements and achieve a minimum grade of B in all coursework applied to the degree. Students in the clinical track are required to comply with the American Psychological Association (APA) ethical guidelines throughout the program. Students in the behavior analysis track are required to comply with the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) Professional and Ethical Compliance Code throughout the program. Violation can result in immediate dismissal from the program.
- Complete the following program requirements:

Program Requirements for Clinical Track

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSY A604</td>
<td>Biological and Pharmacological Bases of Behavior</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY A611</td>
<td>Ethics and Professional Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY A612</td>
<td>Human Development in a Cultural Context</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY A622</td>
<td>Multicultural Psychopathology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY A623</td>
<td>Intervention I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY A624</td>
<td>Group Therapy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY A626</td>
<td>Family Therapy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PSY A627  Community-Based Intervention Skills  3
PSY A633  Tests and Measurement in Multicultural Context  3
PSY A639  Research Methods  3
PSY A654  Cultural Issues in Psychotherapy  3
PSY A665  Psychotherapy Practicum  3
PSY A670  Psychotherapy Internship (must complete 6 credit hours)  6
PSY A681  Substances of Abuse in Alaska  1
PSY A682  Clinical Interventions for Substance Abuse  1
PSY A683  Substance Abuse Assessment and Treatment Planning  1

Complete one of the following options:  3-6

Non-thesis Option:  3

  Complete one of the following: 1
  PSY A631  Cognitive Behavior Therapy
  PSY A638  Child Clinical Psychology
  PSY A690  Advanced Topics in Psychology
  PSY A698  Individual Research

Thesis Option:  6

  PSY A699  Thesis

Total  48-51

1 Courses not in the list of electives may apply with advisor approval.

A minimum of 48 credits is required for the degree.

Program Requirements for Behavior Analysis Track

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSY A600</td>
<td>Strategies of Behavior Change</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY A604</td>
<td>Biological and Pharmacological Bases of Behavior</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY A610</td>
<td>Single Subject Research Designs</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>PSY A611B</td>
<td>Ethics for Behavior Analysts</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY A612</td>
<td>Human Development in a Cultural Context</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY A613</td>
<td>Behavioral Assessment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY A623</td>
<td>Intervention I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY A647</td>
<td>Behavioral Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY A655</td>
<td>Interventions for Challenging Behavior</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY A667</td>
<td>Organizational Behavior Management</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY A668 &amp; A668L</td>
<td>Learning and Behavior and Learning and Behavior Laboratory</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY A695B</td>
<td>Applied Behavior Analysis Practicum (must complete 6 credit hours)</td>
<td>6</td>
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Complete one of the following options:  8-9

Non-thesis Option:

  Complete 8-9 credits from the list of electives below.

Thesis Option:

  PSY A699  Thesis 1
  Complete 2-3 credits from the list of electives below. 2

Electives for Non-thesis & Thesis Options:  3

  PSY A622  Multicultural Psychopathology
  PSY A639  Research Methods
  PSY A654  Cultural Issues in Psychotherapy
  PSY A678  Advanced Applications of Behavior Analysis
  PSY A681  Substances of Abuse in Alaska
  PSY A682  Clinical Interventions for Substance Abuse
  PSY A683  Substance Abuse Assessment and Treatment Planning
  PSY A690  Advanced Topics in Psychology
  PSY A698  Individual Research 2

Total  48-49

1 Students must earn a total of 6 credits of PSY A699.
2 Students in the thesis option may not take PSY A698 as an elective.
3 Courses not in the list of electives may apply with advisor approval.

A minimum of 48 credits is required for the degree.

Program Student Learning Outcomes

Students graduating with a Master of Science in Clinical Psychology will be able to:

  • Apply a broad knowledge of contemporary psychology, with special emphasis on clinical psychology or behavior analysis.
  • Demonstrate acceptable skills in research analysis (including writing and mastery of APA style).
  • Demonstrate competence in basic clinical skills in psychology or behavior analysis sufficient to practice under general supervision.