

COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY (PHD)

Loyola's PhD in counseling psychology has been accredited by the American Psychologist Association (APA) since 1984. The mission of the PhD program in counseling psychology at Loyola University Chicago is to graduate scientist-practitioner-oriented health service psychologists who identify with the field of counseling psychology and who are committed to promoting social justice in all their professional activities.

Related Programs

Master's

- Community Counseling (MA) (<https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional/graduate-school/education/community-counseling-ma/>)

Doctoral

- School Psychology (PhD) (<https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional/graduate-school/education/school-psychology-phd/>)

Combined

- School Psychology (MEd/EdS) (<https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional/dual-degree-programs/school-psychology-med-eds/>)

Curriculum

The PhD in Counseling Psychology requires 69 credit hours of coursework beyond a master's degree, written and oral comprehensive examinations, a culminating portfolio and a dissertation with oral defense. Students develop an area of research expertise by engaging in research with faculty throughout their doctoral study. A 2,000 hour pre-doctoral internship is also required.

For more information about the following items, please refer to the Counseling Student Handbook 2024 (<https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional/graduate-school/education/counseling-psychology-phd/2023CPSYDOCTORALHANDBOOK.pdf>)-2025 (<https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review/?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:ce7389bd-a3b7-3a9f-8cd3-f07993bc594d>).

COURSEwork

Code	Title	Hours
Prerequisites		
Ideally, students will have completed these courses or their equivalents prior to the start of the program.		
CPSY 420	Counseling Skills	
CPSY 423	Theory Counseling & Psychotherapy	
CPSY 425	Assessment in Counseling	
CPSY 426	Group Counseling: Theory and Practice	
CPSY 433	Multicultural Counseling	
CPSY 440	Practicum	
CPSY 444	Family Therapy I	
CPSY 454	Human Development: Cognitive, Aff & Phys Bases	
CPSY 528	Clinical Appraisal and Treatment Planning	
RMTD 400	Introduction to Research Methodology	
RMTD 404	Introduction to Educational Statistics	
Psychology Core		12

Students will complete 12 credit hours towards the Psychology Core by selecting courses to fulfill each area listed below. Courses may be used to fulfill more than one area.

<i>One Course on Biological Basis of Behavior</i>		
CPSY 461	Neuropsychology	
PSYC 435	Seminar in Cognitive Neuroscience	
PSYC 552	Neuropsychology	
<i>One Course on Cognitive Basis of Behavior</i>		
PSYC 435	Seminar in Cognitive Neuroscience	
PSYC 462	Cognitive Social Psychology	
PSYC 475	Cognitive Development	
<i>One Course on Affective Basis of Behavior</i>		
CPSY 454	Human Development: Cognitive, Aff & Phys Bases	
CPSY 461	Neuropsychology	
<i>One Course on Social Basis of Behavior</i>		
PSYC 460	Social Psychological Theory	
PSYC 462	Cognitive Social Psychology	
PSYC 473	Social Development	
<i>One Course on History and Systems of Psychology</i>		
PSYC 401	History & Systems of Psychology	
<i>One Course in Advanced Integrative Knowledge</i>		
PSYC 435	Seminar in Cognitive Neuroscience	
PSYC 462	Cognitive Social Psychology	
PSYC 473	Social Development	
PSYC 475	Cognitive Development	
Counseling Psychology Core		
CPSY 424	Career Development & Counseling	3
CPSY 435	Selected Topics in Counseling	3
CPSY 527	Prevention, Advocacy, and Outreach: Community-Based	3
CPSY 529	Psychology of Immigration	3
CPSY 530	Research Seminar in Counseling Psychology	3
CPSY 531	Ethical and Legal Issues in Counseling Psychology	3
Methodology and Research Core		
CPSY 450	Research Methods in Counseling Psychology	3
RMTD 430	Psychological Measurement	3
Two additional advanced research methods or statistics courses		6
RMTD 403	Survey Research	
RMTD 406	Educational Evaluation	
RMTD 407	Introduction to Evaluation Theory	
RMTD 421	Educational Research II: Building a Body of Evidence Quantitative Method	
RMTD 422	Single Subject Design	
RMTD 432	Item Response Theory	
RMTD 440	Mixed Methods Research	
RMTD 482	Introduction to Linear Models	
RMTD 483	Multivariate Statistics	
RMTD 484	Hierarchical Linear Models	
RMTD 488	Meta-Analysis	
PSYC 493	Structural Equation Modeling	
Professional Practice Core		
CPSY 442	Doctoral Practicum (two sections)	3
CPSY 443	Clerkship	0

CPSY 482	Personality and Intellectual Assessment	3
CPSY 532	Advanced Theories in Psychotherapy	3
CPSY 533	Proseminar	0
CPSY 535	Seminar in Supervision & Consultation	3
CPSY 536	Supervision Practicum	3
CPSY 615	Internship: Counseling Psychology ¹	0
Electives		9
Three additional advanced courses in research methods/statistics, assessment, and/or college-level teaching.		
Total Hours		69

¹ Repeatable

Practicum

The Chicagoland area provides a wealth of clinical training opportunities for doctoral students in counseling psychology. Approximately half of our students seek training in university counseling centers in the city and suburbs, while the other half receives their clinical and diagnostic training in hospitals and community mental health centers. Students receive a generalist training, but through site selection can begin to acquire population-specific competencies in working with children, adolescents, families, veterans, gay/lesbian/bisexual clients, and other groups of individuals. Many of the practicum sites also contain APA-approved internship programs where trainees are provided with rigorous supervision and on-site seminars.

Comprehensive Examination

The comprehensive examination is an oral exam that provides students an opportunity to integrate all course work, individual reading, research, and applied training. The comprehensive examination committee will be composed of the student's advisor (who will chair the exam) and two counseling psychology faculty members. Comprehensive examination performance will be evaluated by the committee using a rubric published in the Student Handbook and will evaluate student's understanding of profession wide competencies and program competencies.

Culminating Portfolio

The culminating portfolio represents the final pre-internship opportunity for students to demonstrate their integrative knowledge of health service and counseling psychology. The portfolio must be completed and submitted electronically by January 31 of the year the student applies for internship. Successful completion of this portfolio is required before leaving for internship. The following documents are required:

- Approved Dissertation Proposal
- Approved Clinical Case Study
- Approved Assessment Report
- Integrative Paper
- Social Justice Intervention Paper

Dissertation

Students will define an area of research interest and propose a research program leading to a written dissertation. Oral defense of the dissertation required.

Suggested Sequence of Courses

The below sequence of courses is meant to be used as a suggested path for completing coursework. An individual student's completion of

requirements depends on course offerings in a given term as well as the start term for a major or graduate study. Students should consult their advisor for assistance with course selection.

Course	Title	Hours
Year 1		
Fall		
CPSY 443	Clerkship	0
CPSY 435	Selected Topics in Counseling	3
CPSY 450	Research Methods in Counseling Psychology	3
CPSY 532	Advanced Theories in Psychotherapy	3
CPSY 533	Proseminar	0
Psychology Core Course		3
Hours		12

Spring		
CPSY 443	Clerkship	0
CPSY 527	Prevention, Advocacy, and Outreach: Community-Based	3
CPSY 529	Psychology of Immigration	3
CPSY 533	Proseminar	0
Psychology Core Course or Research/Stat Elective		3
Hours		9

Summer		
CPSY 424 or CPSY 435	Career Development & Counseling ¹ or Selected Topics in Counseling	3
Hours		3

Year 2		
Fall		
CPSY 442	Doctoral Practicum	3
CPSY 443	Clerkship	0
CPSY 482	Personality and Intellectual Assessment	3
CPSY 531	Ethical and Legal Issues in Counseling Psychology	3
CPSY 533	Proseminar	0
RMTD 430	Psychological Measurement	3
Hours		12

Spring		
CPSY 442	Doctoral Practicum	3
CPSY 443	Clerkship	0
CPSY 533	Proseminar	0
CPSY 535	Seminar in Supervision & Consultation	3
Research/Statistics Elective		3
Psychology Core Course		3
Hours		12

Summer		
CPSY 424 or CPSY 435	Career Development & Counseling ¹ or Selected Topics in Counseling	3
Hours		3

Year 3		
Fall		
CPSY 443	Clerkship	0
CPSY 530	Research Seminar in Counseling Psychology	3

CPSY 533	Proseminar	0
CPSY 536	Supervision Practicum	3
Research/Statistics Elective		3
Comprehensive Examinations		
Hours		9
Spring		
CPSY 443	Clerkship	0
CPSY 533	Proseminar	0
Research/Statistics Elective		3
Research/Statistics Elective		3
Psychology Core Course		3
Hours		9
Year 4		
Culminating Portfolio, Dissertation, Pre-Doctoral Internship		
Hours		0
Year 5		
Culminating Portfolio, Dissertation, Pre-Doctoral Internship		
Hours		0
Total Hours		69

¹ Students may also choose to take a Psychology Core or Research Elective in this term.

Responsible Conduct of Research

All PhD students and students in thesis-based Master's degree programs must successfully complete UNIV 370 Responsible Conduct in Research and Scholarship or other approved coursework in responsible conduct of research as part of the degree requirements. It is strongly recommended that students complete this two-day training before beginning the dissertation/thesis stage of the program.

Graduate & Professional Standards and Regulations

Students in graduate and professional programs can find their Academic Policies in Graduate and Professional Academic Standards and Regulations (<https://catalog.luc.edu/academic-standards-regulations/graduate-professional/>) under their school. Any additional University Policies supersede school policies.

Learning Outcomes

- You will engage in independent scholarship on questions important to counseling psychology, and develop and evaluate interventions to promote positive human development.
- You'll be equipped to practice as a health service psychologist with competencies in research, ethical and legal standards, individual and cultural diversity, professional values and attitudes, communication and interpersonal skills, assessment, intervention, supervision, consultation and inter-professional/interdisciplinary knowledge and skills.