



Irving K. Barber Faculty of
Arts and Social Sciences

Clinical Psychology



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Okanagan Campus

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

THEORETICAL ORIENTATION, PHILOSOPHY & MISSION

Our mission is to prepare students to be registered psychologists, trained in the provision of evidence-based assessment and treatment with the ability to critically consume and produce scientific research, committed to the promotion of health and well-being through cognitive and behaviour change in careers that can include research, teaching and clinical practice.

Our program offers a PhD with a Major Area of Study in the area of Clinical Psychology. All students complete training in the areas of psychopathology, research methodologies, assessment, treatment, ethics, program evaluation, and consultation-liaison services. In addition, our clinical psychology program provides educational and training experiences where students can develop an Emphasis in Neuropsychology, Health Psychology, or Child Psychology, as well as an Experience or Exposure in Forensic Psychology.

In keeping with the motto of the University of British Columbia – Tuum Est (It is Yours) – the philosophy of the Clinical Psychology Program in the Department of Psychology is characterized by a commitment to attracting and supporting those who have the drive to shape a better world. In fulfilling these responsibilities, we endeavour to ensure that our students are not only knowledgeable and competent to deliver clinical services and conduct basic and translational creative research, but that they can progress a culture of innovation, transformation, and impact.

PROGRAM GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Goal 1: To produce graduates with broad and general training in the science of psychology that incorporates the biopsychosocial model.

TRAINING OBJECTIVES FOR GOAL 1

Objective 1.1: Students will acquire basic knowledge of the core domains of the science of psychology, including the biological, social, cognitive-affective bases of behaviour, human development, and history and systems.

Objective 1.2: Students will acquire research knowledge and skills.

Objective 1.3: Students will acquire knowledge and increased sensitivity regarding cultural and individual diversity.

Goal 2: To produce graduates who demonstrate knowledge and skills in the practice of clinical psychology with the ability to integrate science and practice.

TRAINING OBJECTIVES FOR GOAL 2

Objective 2.1: Students will acquire knowledge related to psychopathology.

Objective 2.2: Students will acquire knowledge and skills related to clinical assessment.

Objective 2.3: Students will acquire knowledge and skills related to therapeutic intervention.

Objective 2.4: Students will acquire knowledge and skills related to professionalism and ethical conduct and practice as psychologists.

Objective 2.5: Students will demonstrate knowledge of the supervision and consultation literatures and gain exposure and beginning practice in clinical supervision and consultation.

Determination of goal attainment is achieved through course grades, practicum evaluations, comprehensive exams, and thesis and dissertation.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

All graduate students in Clinical Psychology receive financial support for up to six years through teaching assistantships (two years for MA; four years for PhD). Current wages* for graduate TA's range from \$14,542.56 (MA) to \$15,091.84 (PhD) per academic year. Okanagan Graduate Research Scholarships (OGRS) for incoming students are also assessed, based on merit/eligibility (up to \$5,000 for MA; \$8,000 for PhD for 2023-24). In addition, continuing MA and PhD students may receive OGRS, based on various criteria. Graduate students are also expected to apply for national-level scholarships related to their research areas (e.g., SSHRC, CIHR, NSERC). Graduate students may also hold paid research assistantships, depending upon a given supervisor's research funding.

**GTA wages as of September 2023. Annual graduate GTA wages are governed by the most-recently ratified collective agreement of the BCGEU.*

Please also see the university's Minimum Funding Policy for PhD students here: gradstudies.ok.ubc.ca/tuition-awards-and-finance/minimum-funding-policy/.

OTHER FUNDING

Our graduate students may also qualify for other internal or external scholarships, awards, or bursaries. Some graduate students pursue financial assistance via various student loan and/or grant programs. More funding information can be found through the link here:

gradstudies.ok.ubc.ca/tuition-awards-and-finance/

TRAINING RESOURCES

In addition to classroom-based learning, our in-house Psychology Clinic (established in 2015) has a state-of-the-art video-recording system, electronic health records software, assessment and treatment library and materials, and dedicated workspaces for graduate student clinicians.

PRACTICUM PLACEMENTS

Clinical practicums are supervised by Registered Psychologists from our clinical area core faculty, adjuncts and lecturers. 2023-2024 practica include:

- Comprehensive Psychological Assessment (Initial & Advanced, In-house Clinic)
- Psychological Intervention (Advanced General, In-house Clinic)
- Problematic Substance Use Treatment (Advanced General, In-house Clinic)
- Acquired Brain Injury-Neuropsychology (Advanced Specialty-Inpatient, Kelowna General Hospital)
- Adolescent Psychiatric Clinic (Advanced Specialty, Inpatient, Kelowna General Hospital)
- Mental Health Assessment, Interior Health (Advanced General - Outpatient/Community)
- Disability Resource Centre (Advanced Specialty, UBCO Campus)
- Walk In Mental Health Service (Advanced General, In-house Clinic)
- Tertiary Residential Neuropsychiatry Elective (Advanced Specialty, Multiple Sites)
- Assessment & Treatment of Pain (Advanced Specialty, In-house Clinic)

- Child and Youth Assessment (Advanced Specialty, In-house Clinic)
- Acquired Brain Injury Transitional Neurorehabilitation (Advanced Specialty, Community)

Practicum offerings depend upon both demand and supervisory availability. Previous clinical rotations have included advanced specialty in-house and community-based practica in adult Health assessment and treatment (anxiety, PTSD, healthy weight, chronic pain); Forensic assessments (youth and adult); and Neuropsychiatric assessment and treatment (adult in-patient).

ADMISSIONS

Our program and its admission requirements are governed by UBC Okanagan's College of Graduate Studies (CoGS). Students should have research interests in line with their prospective faculty supervisors. MA applicants* normally have an honours degree (or undergraduate degree and research experience) in psychology or a related area, and courses in statistics and research methods. MA applicants must hold the academic equivalent of a four-year baccalaureate with:

- a minimum A- average (80% at UBC) in third-year level courses and above;
- four-year baccalaureate degree, or academic equivalent, which does not meet the requirements above, with significant formal training and relevant professional experience;

A complete application to CoGS consists of:

- a general application (via online system);
- application fee;
- CV or resumé;
- three confidential reference letters (two from academic referees; one may be academic or professional);
- one official set of all post-secondary academic records in original language and certified translation (or attested, certified copies of originals). Official, academic records must be received in official university envelopes, sealed, and endorsed by issuing institution;

- evidence of English proficiency where applicable (TOEFL, IELTS, or MELAB);
- a letter of intent describing the applicant's research interests and plans.

Applicants are expected to contact 2-3 prospective supervisors prior to applying to ascertain availability and potential match. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to remote-based interviews as part of the selection process.

Offers of admission are conditional upon clearance of a relevant Criminal Background Check (required).

Application materials must be submitted by December 1.

*MA applicants must intend to continue on to the PhD.

**We do not have cut-offs for criteria. However, students typically have GPAs above 85%, research experience, and strong interpersonal skills.

Frequently asked questions regarding applications and admissions may be found here:
psych.ok.ubc.ca/graduate/student-resources-admissions-faq/

ADMISSIONS DATA

Our first cohort began in September 2013. Since then, we have received significantly increasing numbers of applications each year. The Clinical Psychology program typically admits four to five students each September.

To date, the program's attrition rate is less than 1%.

For more information, visit "Student Admissions, Outcomes and Other Data": psych.ok.ubc.ca/graduate/psychology/admissions-data/

AGE, GENDER AND SELF-REPORTED DIVERSITY OF CURRENT STUDENTS

The current age distribution of our Clinical students is 24-38 years old. Approximately 22% of our students are male. In addition, about 44% of our Clinical Psychology students self-identify as belonging to one or more diverse groups (i.e. visible minority, person with a disability, LGBTQ), and 11% self-identify as Aboriginal.

We continuously seek to increase the diversity of our student body.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The minimum requirements for the MA are 42 credits as follows:

- a 12-credit thesis;
- 6 credits of graduate-level statistics and methodology, normally taken in the first year;
- 6 credits in Professional Practice: Assessment;
- 6 credits in Individual Differences;
- 6 credits in Professional Practice: Intervention;
- 3 credits in Ethics and Professional Standards;
- 3 credits (100 direct client hours) of Practicum.

The minimum requirements for PhD are as follows:

- 6 credits of graduate-level statistics and methodology;
- 3 credits from each of the following cognate areas in Psychology: biological, cognitive, affective, and social;
- 6 credits from each of the following areas: Individual Differences, Professional Practice - Assessment, Professional Practice - Intervention;
- 3 credits in the historical and scientific foundations of general Psychology;
- 3 credits in each of the following areas: Ethics and Professional Standards and Program Evaluation;

- 1 credit in Clinical Supervision
- minimum of 300 direct client hours of program approved Practicum (approximately 9 credits)
- successful completion of the required comprehensive exams;
- Clinical Psychology Practicum as needed to reach competency and progress to the next level of training;
- successful defence of the doctoral dissertation;
- development of an acceptable level of clinical skill; and
- successful completion of a one-year internship in a CPA or APA-accredited or equivalent, approved site.

Note: Limited coursework that was completed for a directly relevant Master's degree may be eligible to be counted towards the PhD coursework requirements. To date, most students entering at the PhD level are required to complete additional courses or other work because of deficiencies in their preparatory background.

SUPPORTS FOR STUDENTS

HEALTH OR EMOTIONAL DIFFICULTIES

UBC Okanagan's Health and Wellness Centre provides treatment and consultation for any student health concerns, and offers health information and referrals to services for physical, emotional, or sexual/reproductive health.

COUNSELLING

UBC Okanagan's Health and Wellness Centre provides counselling services for students to examine and explore behaviours, relationships, feelings or thoughts, which cause concern or challenges in a student's life. Whether problems are primarily impacting personal, social or academic life, counsellors can help students to strengthen the ability to cope and provide a valuable source of support.

CONCERNS OF FAIRNESS

The mandate of the Ombuds Office is to ensure that students are treated fairly in every aspect of their university life. It is a safe and confidential place where students can get assistance and guidance on existing resources and processes, and help in resolving conflicts related to fairness.

DISABILITY RESOURCES

The Disability Resource Centre is available for students who may require disability-related accommodations to meet course objectives.

EQUITY AND INCLUSION

The expectation is that every student, staff and faculty member at UBC Okanagan is able to study and work in an environment that is free from human rights-based discrimination and harassment. The Equity and Inclusion Office will provide assistance related to an issue of equity, discrimination or harassment.

SAFEWALK AND CAMPUS SECURITY

This is a service for you if you do not feel safe walking alone at night or are unsure how to get somewhere on campus.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE OFFICE

A safe and confidential place for UBC students, staff and faculty who have experienced sexual violence regardless of when or where it took place. Just want to talk? They are here to listen and help individuals explore options. They can help find a safe place to stay, explain reporting options (UBC or police), accompany individuals to the hospital, or offer support with academic accommodations. Individuals have the right to choose what happens next, and they will support your decision.

INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS OFFICE

If you or someone you know has experienced sexual assault or some other form of sexual misconduct by a UBC community member and you want the Independent Investigations Office at UBC to investigate, please contact them. Investigations are conducted in a trauma informed, confidential and respectful manner in accordance with the principles of procedural fairness.

GRADUATE OUTCOMES

Our program launched in 2013. In 2017-2018, our first senior doctoral student completed an internship at a CPA-accredited site and successfully completed the doctoral program in 2018.

To date, twenty-one of our doctoral students have completed internships at CPA- and/or APA-accredited sites.

Of our twenty-one graduates to date, eleven have since completed the process for full registration as a clinical psychologist.

ACCREDITATION STATUS

Our Clinical Psychology doctoral program was accredited by the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) in the 2017-2018 academic year, for a period of four years. We achieved reaccreditation for six years, in the 2021-22 academic year. Our next self study will be due to CPA in December 2027.

CPA Accreditation/Head Office
141 Laurier Avenue West, Suite 702
Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5J3
Toll free (in Canada): 1.888.472.0657
Fax: 613.237.1674
Email: accreditation@cpa.ca
Web: cpa.ca/accreditation



WHY CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY AT OUR CAMPUS?

- Young, flexible, outstanding training program with dynamic and supportive faculty;
- Funding for all incoming students through teaching assistantships, with an excellent record of external SSHRC and CIHR student funding;
- In-house training in the Psychology Clinic includes state-of-the-art video recording and electronic health records software systems;
- 75% of clinical training supervised by Core Clinical Faculty;
- Opportunities for unique, diverse and integrated external practica;
- Internship preparation course to assist in successfully obtaining a CPA or APA-accredited or equivalent internship.

WHY UBC OKANAGAN?

The University of British Columbia (UBC) is a global centre for research and teaching, consistently ranked among the top 50 best universities in the world. UBC's Okanagan campus, situated in the dynamic city of Kelowna, BC, opened in 2005. The 151-hectare campus is surrounded by forest, lakes, mountains and vineyards. Our campus is situated in the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Syilx Okanagan Peoples. The nsyilxcən name for where the campus is located is kl̓əpəq̓l̓iwaʔ s. We are an intimate learning community consisting of more than 11,978 students from Canada and 115 other countries. In 2020/2021, our campus had 1,332 active research projects and \$47 million in academic research funding, UBC's Okanagan campus is a respected centre of learning, teaching, innovation and research.

Our Clinical program strives to be one that is culturally responsive, inclusive, and equitable in how we train our students, conduct our research, and how we care for people.

CORE CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY FACULTY - REGISTERED PSYCHOLOGISTS

Jessica Driscoll, PhD, R.Psych #2231

Faculty Lecturer and Clinical Psychologist

Susan Holtzman, PhD, R.Psych #2006

Research interests: Health psychology; adjustment to chronic illness; stress and coping; close relationships; caregiving; depression; chronic pain; organ transplantation; daily process methodologies; pathways through which the social environment can influence physical and emotional well-being in healthy and chronically ill populations.

Maya Libben, PhD, R.Psych #2167

Research interests: Cognitive neuroscience; psychopathology; schizophrenia; psycholinguistics; bilingualism; transitive inference; figurative language processing; eating disorders; uses behavioural and neurophysiological methods to examine language, attention and memory in clinical and non-clinical populations.

Lesley Lutes, PhD, R.Psych #2205

Research interests: Obesity intervention and prevention; developing alternatives to standard clinical treatments for obesity and associated health conditions; examining theoretically-based alternative treatment approaches in different populations; utilizing different treatment modalities and technologies; and examining alternative interventionist models for treatment delivery. *Dr. Lutes is the Director of Clinical Training.*

Harry Miller, PhD, R.Psych #1205

Research interests: Assessment of memory with traumatic brain injury; peripheral vascular disease and cognition; emotional function post-stroke; effects of alcohol use on recovery from brain injury. *Dr. Miller is the Director of the in-house Psychology Clinic and Associate Director of Clinical Training.*

Jamie Piercy, PhD, R.Psych #2507

Research interests: Developmental neuropsychology; prematurity and neuropsychological outcomes; genetics; psychosocial functioning in adolescents with chronic diseases. *Dr. Piercy is the Associate Director of the in-house Psychology Clinic.*

Zach Walsh, PhD, R.Psych #2011

Research interests: Cannabis use—medical and non-medical, substance use, hallucinogens, harm reduction, personality disorder, partner violence, aggression, third-stream/mindfulness behaviour therapies, drug policy.

Michael Woodworth, PhD, R.Psych #1765

Research interests: Psychopathy; violent offending; deception detection; computer-mediated communication; assessment and treatment of forensic populations; memory and psychiatric issues primarily within a legal context.

Christopher Wilson, PhD, R.Psych #1181

Faculty Lecturer and Clinical Psychologist

Clinical core faculty and lecturers are registered in the province of British Columbia.

COMPLEMENTARY CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY FACULTY

Jan Cioe, PhD, R.Psych #505

Research interests: Human sexuality; forensic psychology; recovery of function from cortical lesions.

Paul Davies, PhD

Research interests: Intergroup relations; specifically, stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination; diverse forms of social identity threat; how perception of stereotypes can influence levels of prejudice and discrimination that target stigmatized individuals.

Liane Gabora, PhD

Research interests: Creativity; concepts, especially how they combine and adapt to new contexts; origins of modern cognition; cultural evolution; computer models of the above.

Jessica Loughheed, PhD

Research Interests: Adolescent emotional development; parent-adolescent relationships; interpersonal emotion dynamics; internalizing symptoms; externalizing symptoms.

Elena Nicoladis, PhD

Research Interests: Bilingual first language learning; second language learning; gestures. *Dr. Nicoladis is the Head of the Psychology Department.*

Brian O'Connor, PhD

Research Interests: Statistics; normal and abnormal personality; especially psychometrics, factor analysis, item response theory, dimensional models of personality and psychopathology, software for statistical procedures.

Carolyn Szostak, PhD

Research interests: Rural mental health; barriers to accessing mental health services by adults 50 years and older in rural communities; media and mental health-related stigma; the role of media in combating stigmatizing attitudes about mental health disorders and suicide.

Leanne Ten Brinke, PhD

Research Interests: Deception; lie detection; nonverbal behaviour; psychopathy; power and influence; leadership. *Dr. ten Brinke is the Director of the Psychological Science graduate program.*

Derrick Wirtz, PhD

Research interests: Subjective well-being; happiness; the good life; cultural psychology; flourishing and thriving; positive emotions; everyday beliefs, judgments and choices; pedagogical innovation in the teaching of psychology.

Complementary faculty may teach required courses within the Clinical Psychology program. Complementary faculty may also supervise Clinical Psychology graduate students' research in consultation with Clinical faculty mentors.

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY ADJUNCT FACULTY

Pamela Black, PhD, R.Psych #2717

Consulting Clinical Psychologist, Interior Health

Erwin Concepcion, PhD, L. Psych #LP2485 (Minnesota, USA)

Adjunct Faculty and Licensed Psychologist,
Minnesota Department of Human Services

Taryn Fay-McClymont, PhD, R.Psych # 2843

Pediatric Neuropsychologist, Private Practice

Kimberly Kreklewetz, PhD, R.Psych #1941

Clinical Psychologist (Private Practice)

Damian Leitner, PhD, R. Psych #2781

Neuropsychologist, Interior Health

Steve Sigmond, MA, R.Psych #432

Adjunct Faculty and Clinical Psychologist, Youth Forensic
Psychiatric Services

Alison Spadafora, PhD, R.Psych #1963

Adjunct Faculty and Clinical Psychologist, Interior Health

Clinical adjunct faculty may teach core courses and/or supervise in-house and community-based practicums for our Clinical Psychology students.

Clinical adjunct faculty are registered in the province of British Columbia, except where indicated.

View our Psychology department's faculty listings & contact information here: psych.ok.ubc.ca/about/contact/

Contact us

250.807.9237 | psych.gradstudies.ok@ubc.ca | psych.ok.ubc.ca/graduate/



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