PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

Offered through the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences social and behavioral sciences discipline, the professional psychology program offers the graduate degrees master of arts in the field of forensic psychology and doctor of psychology (PsyD) in the field of clinical psychology.

The MA degree program is designed to address a growing need for criminal profilers, competency experts, psychological evaluators, and counselors. Students are immersed in courses ranging from the psychopathology of serial criminals and terrorist agents to the treatment of sex offenders and ethical issues involving interrogation. The forensic psychology degree program offers two tracks; the applied forensics track prepares students for careers in law enforcement or homeland security, while the applied psychology track prepares students for careers as providers of direct services to clients in organizations such as rehabilitations facilities and community action organizations, and can serve as a springboard for clinical work at the doctoral level. Students are required to complete 250 hours of externship training, tailored to their professional interests.

The PsyD program offers a substantive introduction to the basic science aspects of psychology and the skills required of a clinical psychologist. Students take a series of foundation courses outlining biological, cognitive, social, and cultural foundations; basic and more advanced clinical courses, such as psychopathology, group dynamics, assessment, psychotherapy, supervision, and consultation; and research methods, statistics, history and systems, and ethics courses. The advanced curriculum offers courses tailored within three broad tracks: adult, assessment, and child. In addition to didactic courses, students work with a diverse patient population at different public and private agencies as well as at the department’s in-house clinic. Upon completion of course work and prior to receiving the PsyD, students perform a one-year, full-time internship.

The professional psychology program also offers the graduate certificate in LGBT health policy and practice.

GRADUATE

Master's program

- Master of Arts in the field of forensic psychology (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/professional-psychology/ma-forensic-psychology)

Doctoral program

- Doctor of Psychology in the field of clinical psychology (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/professional-psychology/psyd-clinical-psychology)

CERTIFICATE

- Graduate Certificate in LGBT health policy and practice (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/professional-psychology/certificate-lgbt-health-policy-practice)

FACULTY

Professor L.J. Ingraham (Director)

Associate Professors R. Cooter, P. Gedo (Deputy Director and Director of Clinical Training), C. Marmarosh, R. Ruth

Assistant Professor R. Lopez Sharifi, J. Sexton, S. Hedlund

Adjunct Professors Y.E. Aleshina, H. Devinney, K. Marshall-Woods, K. Weise


COURSES

Explanation of Course Numbers

- Courses in the 1000s are primarily introductory undergraduate courses
- Those in the 2000s to 4000s are upper-division undergraduate courses that can also be taken for graduate credit with permission and additional work
- Those in the 6000s and 8000s are for master’s, doctoral, and professional-level students
- The 6000s are open to advanced undergraduate students with approval of the instructor and the dean or advising office

Note: PSYD courses are limited to students enrolled in the Professional Psychology program except by permission of the director. See the Department of Psychology for the degree program leading to the Doctor of Philosophy in the field of clinical psychology.

- Forensic Psychology (FORP) (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/courses/forp)
- Professional Psychology (PSYD) (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/courses/psyd)