

HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY, DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PH.D.)

The Department of Psychology offers graduate study leading to both Master's and Doctoral degrees. Students working toward the Master of Science (MS) degree may choose a concentration in either General Psychology or Clinical Psychology. Students working towards the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Health Psychology will focus on Clinical Health Psychology or Behavioral and Community Health Sciences (BCHS).

Doctor of Philosophy

Graduate study in Health Psychology has a strong research focus on behavioral risk factors that impact health, such as stress, at-risk sexual practices, drug use, sedentary lifestyles, smoking, noncompliance with treatment regimens, etc. This program focuses on health service provision disparities in minority communities for diseases such as mental health, cardiovascular disorders, diabetes, and hypertension, as well as effective health promotion education and planning for those communities. The doctoral program in Health Psychology has two specialized areas of study: Clinical Health; and Behavioral and Community Health Sciences (BCHS). The Clinical Health specialization will prepare students to work in applied settings, such as hospitals, physical rehabilitation settings, outpatient clinics, and other health services settings as members of multidisciplinary teams. The BCHS specialization will train students to conduct research and to develop and implement community interventions. Both areas of study will emphasize research and grant-writing, as well as offer opportunities for students to develop teaching skills.

Admission Requirements

To be considered for admission to the Health Psychology Doctoral Program, an applicant must:

1. Have a minimum of 15 semester hours in psychology, including at least one course in each of the following: 1) social, personality, cognitive, or developmental psychology, 2) research methods, quantitative methods, or experimental psychology, and 3) physiological psychology. **Students applying to the Clinical Health Psychology program must have a course in abnormal psychology.
2. Submit official transcripts of undergraduate and graduate coursework.
3. Submit official GRE scores. The GRE is required for all applicants, including those with a Master's degree.
4. Complete a VSU Graduate School Application and the Psychology Department Supplemental Application, including a resume.
5. Submit a written personal statement (not to exceed three pages, double-spaced) that describes your personal background, academic experience, and future goals (professional and educational);
6. Submit three current letters of recommendation from professors, employers, and other professionals qualified to assess the applicant's ability to complete doctoral studies. At least two letters should be from professors and/or psychologists.

Students who are most competitive for unconditional admission will have:

1. A minimum graduate grade point average of 3.00 on a scale of 4.0. Applicants with post-baccalaureate work, including those with Master's degrees, must have a minimum graduate GPA of 3.5.
2. Have a minimum verbal GRE score of 153 and quantitative GRE score of 144.

Those admitted with a master's degree will undergo a credit audit to determine which credits will be accepted. If an applicant with a master's degree completed a program with a non-thesis option, they will be required to complete a thesis. The course titles for the Health Psychology curriculum are listed below. A sample course sequence and complete descriptions for all the courses in the graduate inventory can be found in Appendix A. All courses have been approved by the appropriate VSU curriculum committees.

Health Psychology Clinical Area of Study Summary

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Core for both areas of study (48 hrs.)		
PSYC 530	Ethics/Prof Standards of Pract	3
PSYC 533	Introduction to Neuroscience	3
PSYC 580	Stat Methods in Health Psyc I	3
PSYC 581	Stat Methods in Health Psyc II	3
PSYC 597	Teaching of Psychology	3
PSYC 603	Health Psychology	3
PSYC 609	History and Systems	3
PSYC 612	Resr Meth Clinical/Health Psyc	3
PSYC 701	Hlth Psyc: Psycother Meth/Inte	3
PSYC 705	Health Ed & Behavioral Science	3
PSYC 715	Social/Cultural Aspect Hth III	3
PSYC 599	Research and Thesis	6
PSYC 899	Doctoral Dissertaton	6
PSYC 899	Doctoral Dissertaton	6
Clinical Core Requirements		
PSYC 508	Psychotherapy I: Theories Psyc	3
PSYC 517	Basic Psychopathology	3
PSYC 519	Psychotherapy II: Techniques	3
PSYC 520	Psychological Assessmnt I	3
PSYC 522	Practicum I	3
PSYC 521	Psychological Assessmnt II	3
PSYC 707	Theories Superv & Consult Psyc	3
Developmental Aspects of Behavior		
PSYC 512	Human Growth And Development	3
Cognitive Aspects of Behavior		
PSYC 515	Cognitive and Affective Psych	3
Social Aspects of Behavior		
PSYC 514	Experimental Social Psychology	3
or PSYC 715	Social/Cultural Aspect Hth III	
Clinical Practicum		
PSYC 620	Clinical Practicum I	1
PSYC 621	Clinical Practicum II	2
PSYC 720	Health Psychology Practicum	3

PSYC 721 & 721	Advanced Clinical Practicum and Advanced Clinical Practicum	6
Pre-Doctoral Internship		
PSYC 900 & 900	Predoc'l Intern Clinical Psyc and Predoc'l Intern Clinical Psyc	2
Unrestricted Electives		3
Total Credit Hours		98

Health Psychology: Behavioral & Community Health Sciences Area of Study Summary

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Core (for both areas of study)		
PSYC 530	Ethics/Prof Standards of Pract	3
PSYC 533	Introduction to Neuroscience	3
PSYC 580	Stat Methods in Health Psyc I	3
PSYC 581	Stat Methods in Health Psyc II	3
PSYC 597	Teaching of Psychology	3
PSYC 603	Health Psychology	3
PSYC 609	History and Systems	3
PSYC 612	Resr Meth Clinical/Health Psyc	3
PSYC 701	Hlth Psyc: Psychother Meth/Inte	3
PSYC 705	Health Ed & Behavioral Science	3
PSYC 715	Social/Cultural Aspect Hth III	3
PSYC 599	Research and Thesis	6
PSYC 899	Doctoral Dissertaton	6
PSYC 899	Doctoral Dissertaton	6
BCHS Core Requirements (33)		
PSYC 512	Human Growth And Development	3
PSYC 532	Diagnosis/Treatment of Substan	3
PSYC 703	Assess & Eval Comm Health Prog	3
PSYC 711	Research Health Psyc -Seminar	3
PSYC 714	Epidemiology Hlth Behav/Com Ep	3
PSYC 715	Social/Cultural Aspect Hth III	3
PSYC 720	Health Psychology Practicum	3
Restricted Elective	Choose two of the four courses below	3
PSYC 713	Health Services Administration	
PSYC 725	Community Hlth Psyc Practicum	
Restricted Electives	Choose two of the three courses below	6
PSYC 514	Experimental Social Psychology	
PSYC 517	Basic Psychopathology	
PSYC 527	Personality Theory	
Restricted Elective	Choose one of the two courses below:	3
PSYC 513	Educational Psychology	
PSYC 515	Cognitive and Affective Psych	
Total Credit Hours		84