

Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Child Psychology

Clinical Child Psychology Graduate Program

The Clinical Child Psychology Program (CCPP) at the University of Kansas is a graduate program leading to the doctoral degree (Ph.D.) in Clinical Child Psychology. The program is housed within the Department of Clinical Child Psychology. The CCPP is accredited by the American Psychological Association's Commission on Accreditation as a clinical psychology doctoral training program with a special emphasis on children, adolescents, and families. The program has strong ties with the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Kansas School of Medicine (KUMC) and with Children's Mercy Hospital. The program does not offer a terminal Masters degree. However, students admitted to the Doctoral program without a Masters degree will obtain a MA in Clinical Child Psychology en route to the Ph.D.

The mission of the CCPP is to develop leaders in the research, dissemination, and practice of clinical science for children, youths, and their families. As such, doctoral training in the CCPP develops clinical scientists capable of conducting innovative research and developing and delivering interventions for a range of human problems, particularly those involving children and families. In service of its mission, the CCPP is designed to promote profession-wide competencies in nine specific domain areas (e.g., *Research, Assessment, Intervention, Individual and Cultural Diversity, Ethics and Legal issues*), as well as program specific competencies in two domains (*Administration/Management, and Professional Leadership and Communications*). This is accomplished through broad and general training across the substantive areas of the science of psychology (i.e., behavioral, social, cognitive, affective, and biological bases of psychology), specialized training in research methodology and statistical analytic methods, and specialized clinical training through basic and advanced practica. Subdomains of the professional competency and substantive knowledge areas are detailed in the CCPP Training Manual (<http://ccpp.ku.edu/resources/>). A particular strength of the program is the developmental perspective that pervades all core courses.

The field of psychological science is changing rapidly, with advances in our understanding, assessment, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of a range of conditions. Our goal is to train the professionals who are at the forefront of these advances in research, dissemination, education, and service. The program's didactic and practical experiences prepare graduates for the many roles open to clinical child psychologists. Graduates hold research/teaching positions in universities, medical schools, colleges, and internship programs, and direct service delivery positions in mental health centers, hospitals, and schools.

In its fulfillment of the training model of clinical psychology known as the "scientist-practitioner model," the CCPP utilizes guidance from the report of the National Conference on Scientist-Practitioner Education and Training for the Professional Practice of Psychology. This conference defined the model as "an integrative approach to science and practice wherein each must continually inform the other" in which the scientific research base is related to clinical practice, and practice elements are

inherently interrelated to research. The CCPP places an extremely high priority on the development of research skills and competencies.

Students can complete course work, practicum requirements, and research requirements for the doctoral degree in 4 years of full-time study followed by a 1-year doctoral clinical internship at an approved site, although some students take longer. Students are expected to, and indeed want to, participate maximally in research and clinical experiences to ensure the breadth of their training. An empirically-based master's thesis (if not obtained prior to admission), qualifying examination, and doctoral dissertation are formal milestones of research progress in addition to regular evaluation in courses, clinical practica, and annual faculty reviews.

The Director of Clinical Training (DCT) serves as the official Academic Advisor for all students in the program. As such, the DCT bears responsibility for assisting the student in course selection, articulating career goals, assisting with program requirements (e.g., internship applications), and designing experiences consonant with career goals.

Each student in the Clinical Child Psychology Program also selects a Research Advisor who provides individualized guidance with regard to course selection, developing and articulating career goals, and designing experiences consonant with career goals.

Admission to Graduate Studies

Admission Requirements

- All applicants must meet the requirements outlined in the Admission to Graduate Study (<https://policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/admission-to-graduate-study/>) policy.
- Bachelor's degree: A copy of official transcripts showing proof of a bachelor's degree (and any post-bachelor's coursework or degrees) from a regionally accredited institution, or a foreign university with equivalent bachelor's degree requirements is required.
- English proficiency: Proof of English proficiency (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/english-requirements/>) for non-native or non-native-like English speakers is required. There are two bands of English proficiency, including Admission and Full proficiency. For applicants to online programs, Full proficiency is required.

Graduate Admission

Admission to the CCPP is highly competitive. All completed applications are reviewed and incoming students are selected by an admissions committee chaired by the Program Director and comprising core CCPP faculty members and student representatives. Essential requirements for admission include (a) a Bachelor's degree (BA, BS) from an accredited institution, (b) a record of scholarly achievement that shows strong promise of success in course work, research, and clinical work, and (c) at least 15 credit hours in psychology coursework, including statistics and research methodology. Preferred qualifications for admission include a strong record of research experience and evidence of research productivity (e.g., presentations, posters, honors theses). Non-native speakers of English must meet English proficiency requirements (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/english-requirements/>).

The Admissions committee will use the following when determining suitability for admission: The applicant's transcripts and grade point averages (GPAs) from previous educational institutions; a professional statement of interests/goals provided by the candidate; the candidate's résumé or CV; 3 letters of recommendation from professionals who

can address the candidate's potential in a doctoral training program; and a personal statement as outlined on our admissions page (<https://ccpp.ku.edu/admissions/>). Applicants may also submit a writing sample that demonstrates their technical/professional writing skills. Highly rated applicants will be invited to interview with CCPP faculty and students prior to admissions decisions. Financial aid is available. Please visit the program's website (<https://ccpp.ku.edu/admissions/>) for information regarding student admissions, outcomes, and other data.

Submit your graduate application online (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/apply/>) including all supplemental materials. Our application deadline is December 1st or the following business day. Applications are only accepted for Fall admission.

Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Clinical Child Psychology

Course Requirements

The following courses are required for all students enrolled in the Clinical Child Psychology Ph.D. These courses are the minimum requirements for the oral comprehensive exam and must be completed by the end of the semester in which the exam is taken.

Code	Title	Hours
Psychology Core		
Completion of:		
ABSC 857	Biological Bases of Behavior	3
PSYC 870	Cognitive Development	3
ABSC/PSYC 825	Social Development	3
PSYC 805	History of Psychology	3
or EPSY 882	History and Systems of Psychology	3
ABSC/PSYC 888	Diversity Issues in Clinical Psychology	3
or EPSY 875	Understanding Cultural & Individual Differences in Professional Psychology	3
Psychopathology, Psychodiagnosis, & Psychological Assessment		
Completion of:		
ABSC/PSYC 905	Psychopathology in Children	3
ABSC/PSYC 803	Fundamentals of Psychological Assessment and Intervention with Children	3
ABSC/PSYC 811	Achievement and Intellectual Assessment in Clinical Child Psychology	3
ABSC/PSYC 812	Behavioral and Personality Assessment of Children	3
Intervention & Therapy Procedures		6
Completion of:		
ABSC/PSYC 976	Therapeutic Interventions with Children	
And one the following:		
EPSY 956	Theory of Couples and Family Counseling	
PSYC 946	Theories and Methods of Psychotherapy	
Clinical Practica		17
ABSC/PSYC 846	Practicum in Clinical Child Psychology I	
ABSC/PSYC 847	Practicum in Clinical Child Psychology II	
ABSC/PSYC 943	Advanced Practicum in Clinical Child Psychology III	

ABSC/PSYC 944	Advanced Practicum in Clinical Child Psychology IV	
Professional Standards and Ethics		4
Completion of:		
ABSC/PSYC 809	Professional Issues: Clinical Child Psychology	
And one the following:		
PSYC 975	Professional and Ethical Problems in Clinical Psychology	
EPSY 880	Ethical and Legal Issues in Psychology and Counseling	
Consultation and Supervision		3
Completion of one of the following:		
EPSY 945	Clinical Supervision and Consultation	
ABSC/PSYC 706	Special Topics in Clinical Child Psychology: _____	
Research and Statistics		
Completion of:		
PSYC 790	Statistical Methods in Psychology I	3
EPSY 810	Regression and ANOVA: General Linear Models	3
PSYC 815	Design and Analysis for Developmental Research	3
or PSYC 968	Research Methods in Clinical Psychology	
Elective Courses		11
Students develop unique plans of study in consultation with their faculty contract committee. The contract committee will work individually with the student to identify courses that will cater to the student's unique interests.		
Doctoral Dissertation		12
ABSC/PSYC 998	Doctoral Dissertation in Clinical Child Psychology	
Internship		3
ABSC/PSYC 963	Clinical Child Psychology Internship	
Total Hours		92

Research Skills and Responsible Scholarship

The University requires that every doctoral student receive training in responsible scholarship pertinent to the field of research and obtain research skills pertinent to the doctoral level of research in their field(s). These requirements must be completed by the end of the semester that the student takes the oral comprehensive exam. For students in the Clinical Child Psychology Ph.D. program, this requirement is satisfied by completion of:

1. ABSC 809 OR PSYC 809
2. PSYC 815
3. PSYC 975 OR EPSY 880
4. Completion of the online tutorial for Responsible Scholarship, IRB (HSC-L) and HIPAA data at <https://www.citiprogram.org/>. (<https://www.citiprogram.org/>)

Research Skills Training Requirement

The Research Skill requirement is fulfilled by an elective selected in consultation with the student's faculty advisor.

Professional Competencies

Students in the program must demonstrate profession-wide competencies and program-specific competencies before being approved to apply for the required Doctoral Internship. The competency assessment process includes evaluation of the student's professional artifacts (i.e., work products) as well as the student's self-evaluation of how the artifacts collectively demonstrate the professional competencies. The CCpp utilizes the Task system as its preliminary examination in research methodology, teaching, or applied/clinical area.

- demonstrate communication and leadership skills to contribute to the field of clinical child psychology.

Oral Comprehensive Exam

Upon completion of all course requirements for the Ph.D. and of the Task, with the exception of dissertation and internship, the student must pass the oral comprehensive examination.

Post Comprehensive Exam Requirements

Upon passing the comprehensive examination, the student becomes a candidate for the Ph.D. degree and is approved to proceed with their dissertation research and project. Starting the semester following successful completion of the oral comprehensive exam, students must enroll in accordance with the Office of Graduate Studies' Doctoral Candidacy Policy (<https://policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/doctoral-candidacy/>). This enrollment includes, but is not limited to, at least 1 dissertation hour every semester until graduation. See the Doctoral Candidacy policy for more information about this University level requirement.

Doctoral Dissertation

The Ph.D. dissertation must be based on an original, empirical investigation. If a student does not defend the dissertation before the end of their internship year, they must return for the semester following completion of the internship and must remain in residence until the dissertation is successfully defended and the dissertation document has been approved. The final dissertation defense includes a public presentation of the dissertation research by the candidate and concludes with a period of questioning by the students committee.

Doctoral Internship

An 11-month clinical internship at a setting accredited by the American Psychological Association is required. Students apply to accredited internships through the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (<https://appic.org/>) (APPIC) and are matched to an internship by National Matching Services, Inc. (<https://natmatch.com/psychint-landing.html>) The Ph.D. in Clinical Child Psychology may not be awarded until the internship is successfully completed.

Further details on these requirements are available in the Clinical Child Psychology Program Training Manual, available on the program's website (<https://ccpp.ku.edu/Student-Resources/>).

At the completion of this program, students will be able to:

- critically evaluate and produce empirical research.
- demonstrate and deliver evidence-based psychological services for children, adolescents, and families.
- internalize and demonstrate the professional values, attitudes, and behaviors of psychology.
- demonstrate responsiveness to individual and cultural diversity across their professional roles.