WSU Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program  
Student Learning Outcomes

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<th>Goal #1:</th>
<th>To produce graduates who have a broad knowledge of scientific psychology.</th>
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<td>Objective 1.1:</td>
<td>Students will acquire basic knowledge of the core domains.</td>
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**Competencies Expected for this Objective:**
1. Students will master academic material concerning the biological bases of behavior.
2. Students will master academic material concerning the cognitive and affective bases of behavior.
3. Students will master academic material concerning social bases of behavior.
4. Students will master academic material concerning human development.
5. Students will master academic material concerning history and systems of psychology.

**How Outcomes are Measured and Minimum Thresholds for Achievement for these Objectives/Competencies:** Competency is assessed in a variety of ways in these courses. Most courses use some combination of tests, term papers, and class projects/presentations to assess competency. Students must earn a minimum of a B- in each of these core courses to demonstrate minimum competency. The courses that fulfill each area are as follows:


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<th>Goal #2:</th>
<th>To produce graduates who can provide evidence-based clinical services that are consistent with ethical and professional standards, including knowledge of and sensitivity to issues of diversity.</th>
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<td>Objective 2.1:</td>
<td>Students will acquire detailed knowledge about psychopathology.</td>
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**Competencies:**
1. Students will master academic material on adult psychopathology.
2. Students will master academic material on child psychopathology.

**Measurement of Outcomes and Minimum Thresholds:** Students must earn at least a B- in:
Psych 533: Adult Psychopathology.
Psych 542: Child and Adolescent Psychopathology.

**Objective 2.2:** Students will acquire detailed knowledge about evidence-based psychological interventions.

**Competencies:**
1. Students will master academic material on adult psychotherapy.
2. Students will master academic material on medical psychology.

**Measurement of Outcomes and Minimum Thresholds:** Students must earn at least a B- in:
Psych 520: Empirical Approaches to Psychotherapy.
Psych 544: Medical Psychology: Psychological and Pharmacological Interventions.

**Objective 2.3:** Students will acquire detailed knowledge about psychological assessment.

**Competencies:**
1. Students will master academic material on psychometrics.
2. Students will master academic material on personality assessment and diagnosis.
3. Students will master academic material on intellectual and neuropsychological assessment.

**Measurement of Outcomes and Minimum Thresholds:** Students must earn at least a B- in:
- Psych 514: Psychometrics.
- Psych 535: Personality Assessment and Diagnosis.
- Psych 539: Intellectual and Neuropsychological Assessment.

**Objective 2.4:** Students will demonstrate sensitivity, knowledge, and skills in regard to the role of human diversity in clinical psychology.

**Competencies:**
1. Students will master academic material on human diversity.
2. Students will successfully handle diversity issues throughout their practicum placements.

**Measurement of Outcomes and Minimum Thresholds:**
1. Students must earn at least a B- in Psych 552: Diversity Issues in Psychology.
2. Students must receive ratings of at least Satisfactory on the three Diversity items from their practicum supervisors.

**Objective 2.5:** Students will acquire the knowledge necessary to engage in ethical practice.

**Competencies:**
1. Students will master academic material on professional, ethical, and legal issues.
2. Successful handling of ethical and professional issues throughout their practicum placements.

**Measurement of Outcomes and Minimum Thresholds:**
1. Students must earn at least a B- in Psych 530: Professional, Ethical, and Legal Issues.
2. Students must receive ratings of at least Satisfactory on the Ethics and Professional Behavior items from their practicum supervisors.

**Objective 2.6:** Students will develop the skills necessary to provide a range of clinical services, including both therapy and assessment.

**Competencies:**
1. Demonstration of basic psychotherapy skills in two semesters of beginning practicum at WSU Counseling Services.
2. Demonstration of the competent practice of psychotherapy at the WSU Psychology Clinic and various externship placements, including successful implementation of empirically-supported interventions.
3. Demonstration of competent psychological assessment skills at the WSU Psychology Clinic and various externship placements, including the ability to administer, score, and interpret a range of personality and cognitive measures. Also, the ability to integrate these findings into an assessment report that clearly addresses the referral question(s).

**Measurement of Outcomes and Minimum Thresholds:**
1. Satisfactory ratings in basic psychotherapy skills during the Counseling Services Practicum.
2. Satisfactory ratings of advanced level psychotherapy skills, including the implementation of empirically-supported interventions across practicum sites.
3. Satisfactory ratings of diagnosis and assessment skills.
4. Successful completion of a year-long (or equivalent) APA-accredited doctoral internship, including a satisfactory evaluation from the Director of Training at the internship site.
**Goal #3:** To produce graduates who are capable of contributing to current knowledge in clinical psychology.

**Competency 1:** Mastery of academic material on research methodology and techniques of data analysis.

**Measurement of Outcomes and Minimum Thresholds:** Competency is assessed in a variety of ways in these courses. The requisite courses are as follows:
- Psych 511: Analysis of Variance and Experimental Design
- Psych 512: Correlation, Regression, and Quasi-Experimental Design

**Competency 2:** Successful completion of an empirical master’s thesis.

**Measurement of Outcomes and Minimum Thresholds:** Evaluation by the 3-faculty-member thesis committee and a successful public defense. At a minimum, the thesis must be clearly written, correctly follow APA style, provide an adequate review of the relevant literature, report appropriate statistical analyses, and reach reasonable conclusions. To pass the defense, the student must be able to communicate an adequate understanding of the project and answer relevant questions.

**Competency 3:** Successful completion of preliminary examination or specialty paper demonstrating breadth and depth of knowledge in scientific psychology.

**Measurement of Outcomes and Minimum Thresholds:** A 3-faculty-member committee evaluates the preliminary examination or specialty paper. The preliminary exam involves three 4-hour examinations on topics determined by the student and the committee, which is then graded by the committee members. The specialty paper is a comprehensive review article on a topic approved by the committee. The committee judges whether the paper represents a scholarly review, integration, and/or theoretical analysis of a topic area that makes a contribution to the literature. The student must also provide an oral summary of the paper to the committee and adequately answer questions about the paper during a defense.

**Competency 4:** Successful completion of an empirical doctoral dissertation.

**Measurement of Outcomes and Minimum Thresholds:** Evaluation by the 3-faculty-member dissertation committee and a successful public defense. At a minimum, the dissertation must be clearly written, correctly follow APA style, provide an adequate review of the relevant literature, report appropriate statistical analyses, and reach reasonable conclusions. To pass the defense, the student must be able to communicate an adequate understanding of the project and answer relevant questions.

**Competency 5:** Students will contribute to ongoing research in the laboratories of their mentors.

**Measurement of Outcomes and Minimum Thresholds:** Students' research contribution is assessed as a part of their annual evaluation (“Overall research skills”). Ideally, the student’s contribution results in presentations or publications, but the minimal threshold is making a contribution to the research team.