



JFK SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY

DOCTOR OF PSYCHOLOGY (PSYD) IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

Make a Difference in the Mental Wellness of Diverse Communities

If you are interested in a career in the mental health field — rich in opportunities to make positive contributions to diverse communities — the Doctor of Psychology (PsyD) at the John F. Kennedy School of Psychology at National University can help you reach your goals. This program is for students seeking the highest level of training to become direct service providers in the field of clinical psychology. Our graduates are prepared for the multiple roles that contemporary psychologists fill to serve their communities, including psychotherapist, assessor, consultant, educator, supervisor, and scholar.

Program Highlights:

- Professional education and training with a multicultural emphasis, promoting expertise in working with diverse clients
- Personalized mentorship by a dedicated faculty, in small classes and seminars, with a distinctive curriculum
- Specialized field training, with highly qualified supervisors, in a wide variety of clinical settings
- Available elective concentrations in Neuropsychology, Integrated Health Psychology, Sport Psychology, and Correctional and Forensic Psychology

Our mission is to train practitioner-scholars who will provide comprehensive and culturally sensitive services to a variety of communities. This mission is embraced by our diverse faculty, staff, and student community. Our focus on multicultural and diversity competence sets us apart from other PsyD programs.

Our diverse and dedicated faculty are experts in working with diverse populations, as well as the specific subject matter of their courses. Our faculty members include leaders within APA and other professional organizations, pioneers in fields such as cultural, LGBTQ+, and disability psychology, and distinguished writers. Our program maintains a 12 to 1 core faculty to student ratio, ensuring that our class sizes are small and that students establish relationships with mentors that continue throughout their doctoral program and beyond. All PsyD students have faculty advisors to help them navigate the program and develop their professional identities.

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Our program is on the quarter system, and students attend courses in fall, winter, spring, and summer. Students may choose to complete their courses on either a full-time plan (in which their coursework takes four years to complete, followed by one-year internship) or a customized part-time plan. All new students begin the program in the fall quarter.

Our distinctive curriculum is cumulative, sequential, and graded in complexity. The curricular flow is built around our three Integrative Professional Seminar (IPS) courses. These small seminar courses run from fall through spring and support students in integrating academic knowledge, self-examination, and training experiences in the field. Students start the program with courses in clinical skills, psychopathology, theory, law, and ethics in preparation to begin clinical work. They continue with sequences of courses in psychological testing, research, and the foundations of psychological science, as well as a course in psychopharmacology. Toward the end of the program, students take courses in other areas of professional psychology: advocacy, consultation, and supervision. From the summer of their first year, students begin taking elective courses. Our program offers a wide variety of electives, and provides students the option to complete one of four concentrations. All concentrations include both coursework and hands-on clinical training that is tailored to the specific area of focus.

Integrated Healthcare Concentration is for students who are interested in working with clients with chronic health conditions and whose problems are exacerbated by psychosocial factors. Students learn to work in interprofessional teams in medical settings.

Neuropsychology Concentration provides training in neuropsychological assessment and rehabilitation and helps to prepare students for internships, postdoctoral fellowships, and careers in neuropsychological or in medical settings.

Correctional/Forensic Concentration students learn provide to assessment and psychotherapy services for incarcerated populations and to work on interprofessional teams within correctional settings, public and community welfare agencies, and the criminal justice system.

Clinical Sports Psychology Concentration is for students enrolled in the Dual Degree (MA Sport Psychology and PsyD, see below) or students who already have a master's degree in sport psychology. Students learn how to integrate mental skills and performance enhancement techniques with psychotherapy and behavioral interventions.

Students take two major qualifying exams during the course of the program: the Comprehensive Exam (a multiple-choice examination) that assesses all domains of the curriculum in the first half of the program and the Clinical Proficiency Exam (an oral examination based on a clinical case report) that assesses students' clinical knowledge and skills. Successful completion of the Comprehensive Exam qualifies students to receive their non-terminal master's degree (MA) in clinical psychology.

Training experiences are at the heart of our program. While taking their first-year courses, students will complete one year of training at an ethnographic fieldwork site, developing their cultural sensitivity and self-awareness. This is followed by one year in a beginning clinical practicum site, at first doing psychotherapy, then one year in an advanced clinical practicum site, doing psychotherapy and psychological testing. Most students also participate in a one-to-three quarter psychological testing practicum and most choose to complete an externship placement in their final year of coursework. Our training sites provide expert supervision in a wide variety of settings, working with diverse communities.

Clinical dissertation projects are completed by all students in areas of interest they choose. In keeping with the mission of the PsyD program, all dissertation projects must bear relevance to diversity and to clinical work. Students are prepared for this project by our sequence of research courses, supported in the design of their projects by our dissertation proposal sequence, and facilitated in the completion of their projects by the faculty members on their dissertation committees.

CLINICAL AND SPORT PSYCHOLOGY DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM

Students with career interests in both clinical and sport psychology may enroll in our dual degree program, which involves one year of online coursework in our sport psychology program before beginning the PsyD program. Dual degree program graduates earn both an MA in Sport Psychology and a PsyD in Clinical Psychology and are qualified to do sport psychology consultation, as well as clinical work.

LICENSURE

Completion of the PsyD degree from the John F. Kennedy School of Psychology at National University enables graduates to apply for licensure as a psychologist. The specific additional requirements for licensure examinations, postdoctoral work, specific coursework requirements, and program accreditation vary state by state. Please contact the relevant state Board of Psychology for detailed information about psychology licensure requirements.

ACCREDITATION

National University is accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission. Our PsyD program was created at John F. Kennedy University in 1996 and initially received APA accreditation in 2002. Our program maintained its APA accreditation throughout all subsequent years of operation. In January 2020, our PsyD program, with its existing faculty, staff, curriculum, and mission, became part of the John F. Kennedy School of Psychology at National University. Because of this, APA required that the program submit a new self-study and undergo a new site visit to establish its accreditation under its new housing institution. This process is currently underway. Given our program's 18 years of continuous APA accreditation, we are confident that we will be able to reestablish APA accreditation of our program in ample time for that accreditation to apply to the fall 2021 and later cohorts; however, the outcome and time frame of our APA accreditation process cannot be guaranteed.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS AND MATERIALS

Applicants must have a minimum GPA of at least 3.0 from their undergraduate degree-granting institution, or at least 3.5 from an accredited graduate institution. Applicants must have successfully completed at least four college psychology courses at the time of application. There are also four required prerequisite courses that must be completed prior to beginning the program: (1) Introductory Psychology or Developmental Psychology/Human Development, (2) Abnormal Psychology or Theories of Personality, (3) Statistics, and (4) a diversity-related course.

Applications for admission to the Doctor of Psychology (PsyD) at the John F. Kennedy School of Psychology at National University are made through PSYCAS, APA's centralized online application service for graduate psychology. Applications for admission to the program are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year.

Applicants must complete all online forms in PSYCAS, and through this system submit: official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended, an up-to-date curriculum vitae (resume), a sample academic paper, a personal statement, and three letters of recommendation.

All applications are reviewed by program staff and faculty, and promising applicants are invited to an interview conducted by faculty. Applicants are typically notified whether they have been admitted to the program within two weeks of being interviewed.