

Program Assessment Plan

American University

Academic Program: CAS: Clinical Psychology - PhD

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Contact Person for Anthony L. Riley

Assessment:

Program Mission: The APA accredited Ph.D. program in Clinical Psychology provides students who are interested in both clinical practice and research an integrated curriculum of clinical intervention and empirical laboratory analyses of a variety of clinical issues. Clinical intervention and research training include analyses of diverse populations. Classes are small and practicum based, providing students with specialized and immediate clinical supervision and assessment. Program faculty are active researchers to whom students are immediately mentored for research training in areas ranging from cognitive behavior therapy to addictive behaviors to anxiety and depression. Students leave the program as a clinical practitioner/researcher, an outcome consistent with the Boulder training model in Psychology.

Unit Website Address: <http://www.american.edu/cas/psychology/index.cfm>

Unit's Primary Department: Psychology

Learning Outcome: Research Issues

Students should be able to competently evaluate research issues.

Outcome Year: 2009-2010

2010-2011

2011-2012

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
<p>Research Review Exam: Ph.D. students' ability to evaluate research is assessed by having first year students after completion of the Psychology Research course (and, this year, students who wished to use the research assessment comprehensive to fulfill comprehensive requirements) critically evaluate a research paper in the field of psychopathology. The specific questions posed are listed below.</p> <p>1) Describe the research issue under investigation, 2) Describe the specific research methodology utilized in the paper, 3) Describe the primary variables of interest. 4) Describe the interpretation of the results in light of the original hypothesis 5) Discuss the limitations and to describe additional issues not raised by the author of the paper. 6) Generate a research question that extends the original one posed in the paper and to provide a research methodology to answer this question</p> <p>Measure Type: Quiz/ Exam</p>	<p>All students should be able to satisfactorily address each of the six questions.</p>	<p>Annual</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Faculty Advisory Group Annual Evaluation. Students are evaluated at the Annual Evaluation of Graduate Students by the Clinical Faculty Advisory Group on their research expertise (see Document file for research rating sheet) and on their rate of research progress.</p> <p>Measure Type: Other</p>	<p>All students should be making satisfactory progress in their research endeavors.</p>	<p>Annual</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Learning Outcome: Ethical Issues

Students should be able to identify and act on ethical issues in research and practice.

Outcome Year: 2009-2010
 2010-2011
 2011-2012

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
Complete of on-line training in the ethical principles of research sponsored by the NIH office of Extramural Research or the CITI on line course for research ethics. Measure Type: Other	Each doctoral student successfully completes either course before submitting the project for his/her MA proposal to the University IRB.	Annually, as students submit their MA projects to the University IRB.	Yes
Ethics Comprehensive Exam. Measure Type: Quiz/ Exam	All clinical Ph.D. students are required to pass the ethics comprehensive examination	Annual, though students can pass the exam any time before they apply for their full year clinical internships.	Yes

Learning Outcome: Clinical Issues

Students should be competent clinicians.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011
 2011-2012

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
Oral Specialty Comprehensive Exam: Students' expertise in Clinical Psychology is assessed, in part, by presenting an oral Specialty Comprehensive to two faculty members that demonstrates specialty in a technique, a specialty working with a specific population, and /or specialty with a specific assessment technique. After the presentation faculty members will then ask students question to ascertain their expertise. This comprehensive is one of the pre-requisites for internship application. Measure Type: Quiz/ Exam	All students need to pass this exam before they can apply for their clinical internships.	Each student is tested one time during their time at AU.	Yes
Faculty Advisory Group Evaluation: As part of the Annual Evaluation of Graduate Students by the Clinical Faculty Advisory Group, students' clinical expertise is reviewed on the basis of evaluations done at their practicum or externship sites. The Externship Evaluation form used for evaluating students' practicum work since 2009 is in the documents folder. Measure Type: Other	All students should be making satisfactory progress.	Annual	Yes

Learning Outcome: Students of Psychology

Students will develop a knowledge of psychology as a whole.

Outcome Year: 2011-2012

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

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Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
Licensure Exam: Those students who choose to become licensed psychology need to pass a licensure exam given nationally. Measure Type: Quiz/ Exam	All students taking the licensure exam should pass.	Students pass the exam once, though at varying times in their career development.	Yes