

# Clinical Psychology MA

## G - Assessment Skills

### Goal Description:

Students will acquire developmentally appropriate proficiencies in personality and intellectual/achievement assessment.

**Providing Department:** Clinical Psychology MA

**Progress:** Ongoing

### RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS

#### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

### LO - Assessment

#### Learning Objective Description:

Students demonstrate developmentally appropriate competencies in the administration, scoring, and interpretation of personality and intelligence tests.

#### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

### ICF Assessment

#### Indicator Description:

Students demonstrate competency to administer, score, and interpret personality and educational tests for children and adults. Indicators of competency include (a) successfully completing two assessment courses (PSYC 5396, Personality Assessment; PSYC 5395, Assessment of Intelligence and Achievement), and (b) successfully passing the Assessment Capstone examination. For the Assessment Capstone examination, the students are given the beginning of an assessment report, including referral reason, background information, tests administered and the raw data resulting from those tests. The student's task is to complete the rest of the report by interpreting and reporting the test results, providing a DSM diagnosis and recommendations stemming from findings.

Using the new grading rubric (see attached), which is provided to students prior to the exam, faculty evaluate the students' performance in key clinical competencies: referral question, informed consent, assessment and diagnosis, treatment planning and implementation, ethical and multicultural considerations and case analysis. Faculty ratings on each item can range from Below Expectations (BE), Marginal (M), Meets Expectations (ME), and Exceeds Expectations (EE).

Attached Files

 [Capstone Assessment Grading Rubric.docx](#)

#### Criterion Description:

100% of students will pass PSYC 5396 and PSYC 5395 with a grade of B or better.

100% of students will pass the Assessment Capstone examination with a rating of Meets Expectations or better on 22/28 items with no ratings of Below Expectations, and no more than 5 ratings of Marginal.

#### Findings Description:

100% of students taking PSYC 5396 and PSYC 5395 passed with a grade of B or better.

Due to significant changes in course sequencing that extended the program to 3 years, no student took the Assessment capstone in AY 22-23. Annual administration will resume in spring 2024.

### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

#### A - Assessment

##### Action Description:

None at this time (due to no capstone in spring 2023).

## G - Psychotherapy Skills

##### Goal Description:

Students develop effective psychotherapy skills consistent with their level of training.

**Providing Department:** Clinical Psychology MA

**Progress:** Ongoing

### RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS

#### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

##### LO Psychotherapy Skills

##### Learning Objective Description:

Students demonstrate developmentally appropriate competencies in psychotherapy and intervention skills.

#### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

##### ICF Psychotherapy Skills

##### Indicator Description:

Student competencies with respect to psychotherapy skills are assessed in a capstone Psychotherapy Case examination, which requires students to present a case study of a client they treated during their Practicum II/III experience. Using the grading rubric (see attached), which is provided to students prior to the exam, two faculty evaluate the students' performance in key clinical competencies: referral question, informed consent, assessment and diagnosis, treatment planning and implementation, ethical and multicultural considerations and case analysis. Faculty ratings on each item can range from Below Expectations (BE), Marginal (M), Meets Expectations (ME), and Exceeds Expectations (EE).

##### Criterion Description:

100% of students will pass the Psychotherapy Case Study Capstone with combined faculty ratings of "Meets Expectations" or better on 18/22 items with no Below Expectation ratings, as assessed by the attached rubric.

#### Attached Files

 [Capstone Psychotherapy Rubric](#)

##### Findings Description:

Due to significant changes in course sequencing that extended the program to 3 years, no student took the Psychotherapy capstone in AY 22-23. Annual administration will resume in spring 2024.

### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

#### A - Psychotherapy Skills

##### Action Description:

None at this time (due to no capstone in spring 2023).

## Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

### Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):

#### Closing Summary

The MA Clinical Psychology program remains committed to seeking accreditation from the American Psychological Association (APA), which is expected to begin in 2024. The changes currently being implemented to the practicum training sequence are designed to enhance clinical training and increase the likelihood of successful accreditation. In addition, Tevera, an online tracking system for practicum placement and documentation, was piloted for the MA program in the spring of 2022 and will be used for tracking in spring 2023 Practicum I, as well as the external placement process for students the following year.

To meet APA Standards of Accreditation criteria, the MA Clinical Psychology program must add foundational training in Emotion. Although we originally intended to develop an Emotions course, after further discussion the decision was made to combine instruction in Cognition and Emotions into one course. This is a common practice in many doctoral psychology programs, thus improving chances that the course will be accepted for credit if an MA students continues on in a doctoral program. This move also preserves the clinical electives for the non-thesis concentration, which will more effectively prepare students who plan to practice professionally in the field immediately after graduation.

In the coming year, program faculty will also consider the possible addition of another training goal/objective/ICF addressing scientific competency.

#### **Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:**

Last year marked the beginning of the new MA Clinical Psychology practicum sequence, with second-year students beginning to see psychotherapy clients at the SHSU Counseling Center in the spring. Tevera was effectively used in Practicum I to track hours and deliver practicum evaluations to students.

The Emotions and Cognition course proposal was submitted and approved by CHSS and is expected to be reviewed by THECB in fall 2023. The course will become part of the MA Clinical Psychology curriculum sequence with the 2024-2025 catalog.

The MA committee voted to add another training goal/LO/ICF for scientific competency to the upcoming assessment cycle.

## **New Plan for Continuous Improvement**

#### **Closing Summary:**

As a gap year for clinical training and capstone administration related to sequence reorganization, no findings or actions are reported for AY 2022-2023.

In the next assessment cycle, however, all MA Clinical Psychology students in their 3rd year of training will take both parts of the Comprehensive exam. In addition, the program will add a 3rd goal/LO/ICF to address a potential gap in requirements for APA Accreditation, specifically scientific competence. Students will demonstrate scientific competence through (a) successful completion of 3 courses (PSYC 5387, Advanced Statistics; PSYC 5388 Experimental Design; PSYC 5394 Psychometrics) and (b) either completion of a thesis or passing a written essay exam (administered at end of 2nd year, concurrently with the MA Experimental Psychology comprehensive exams).