

HOW TO APPLY: FALL 2024 ADMISSIONS

DOCTOR OF PSYCHOLOGY (PsyD)

About the PsyD Program

The Western Carolina University Doctor of Psychology (PsyD) in Health Service Psychology (Combined Clinical-School) is a three-year, post-Masters professional preparation program. The PsyD program ascribes to the practitioner-scholar model of professional training, which places greater emphasis on clinical preparation as opposed to research training. The PsyD program consists of formal coursework, supervised clinical experiences, and research requirements with the goal to prepare graduates for licensure. The curriculum is designed to meet requirements for accreditation by the American Psychological Association.

The mission of the PsyD program is to prepare professional psychologists to provide culturally competent, evidence-based clinical services while adhering to the highest ethical standards. The vision of the PsyD program is to serve as a model for professional preparation in psychological practice to serve clients from rural, underserved communities.

APPLICATION REVIEW

Admission into the PsyD program is selective and satisfying the preferred admission criteria described below does not guarantee admission to the program. The PsyD Admissions Committee (PAC) will review all completed applications and invite top candidates for in-person interviews. Interviewee selection will be based on review of graduate coursework and GPA, GRE scores, quality of recommendations, and personal statement. The application review process involves holistic evaluation, including fit with mission of the program as well as academic preparation and promise.

INTERVIEW PROCESS: FALL 2024 ADMISSIONS ONLY

A select number of applicants will be invited for interviews to be held via videoconference (i.e., Zoom). The interview experience will consist of an orientation to the program, individual interviews with core PsyD training faculty, and meetings and interviews with current graduate students. More information about interviewing will be provided to students when interview invitations are extended. The PAC committee will reconvene after interviews to make final decisions regarding admissions. Below are deadlines for Fall 2024 admissions only.

DEADLINES TO REMEMBER FOR FALL 2024

Application due: **February 1**

Notification of interview invitation: **February 15**

Interview date(s): **Weeks of March 6 and March 13**

Notification of admission: **March 21**

Applicant notification of acceptance of offer of admission: **April 15**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Dr. Jonathan Campbell, *Program Director*
828.227.3332 / psyd.wcu.edu / jmcampbell@wcu.edu



ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

DOCTOR OF PSYCHOLOGY (PsyD)

Admission Requirements

At the time of enrollment in the program, applicants must have completed the following: (a) a Masters or Specialist degree in psychology or (b) a Masters degree in a related area that includes at least 18 hours of coursework in psychology. At the time of application, candidates will indicate one concentration area: Clinical or School Psychology.

Candidates who are graduates of the M.A. Clinical Psychology program or S.S.P. School Psychology program at Western Carolina University will have satisfied all course prerequisites prior to admission to the PsyD program. Candidates graduating from other Masters programs will need to submit transcripts, syllabi, and evidence of prior research conducted (e.g., thesis; published paper) for faculty review to determine if prior coursework satisfies program prerequisites; however, these materials are not needed as part of the initial application.

Application Will Include

- ▶ Transcripts from all postsecondary colleges and universities attended documenting the following criteria:
 - Cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.30 for the last 60 hours (preferred criteria)
 - Cumulative graduate GPA of 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale) or higher (preferred criteria)
- ▶ Official GRE score report from test administration within the past five years documenting GRE scores at the 50th percentile or higher on both Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning sections (preferred criteria)
- ▶ Three letters of recommendation solicited from professionals (ideally professional supervisors and psychology faculty) who can provide information about candidate's:
 - Capacity for success in a doctoral psychology program
 - Interpersonal characteristics
 - Academic preparation
 - Clinical skills

- ▶ A Curriculum Vita documenting the following criteria
 - Prior research experience (preferred criteria)
 - Educational history and Other Experiences
- ▶ Personal statement written in three (3) double-spaced pages or less describing the candidate's:
 - background and experiences in psychology,
 - interest in the PsyD program and specific concentration identified
 - academic interests that align with departmental faculty
 - career goals
 - commitment to providing psychological services to underserved and rural populations.
- ▶ To apply, visit gradapply.wcu.edu.

Curriculum

The Western Carolina University Doctor of Psychology (PsyD) in Health Service Psychology (Combined Clinical-School) is a three-year, post-Masters professional preparation program. The PsyD program ascribes to the practitioner-scholar model of professional training, which places greater emphasis on clinical preparation as opposed to research training. The PsyD program consists of formal coursework, supervised clinical experiences, and research requirements with the goal to prepare graduates for licensure. The curriculum is designed to meet requirements for accreditation by the American Psychological Association.

The program requires the completion of coursework, practicum, dissertation, and a 2,000-hour internship semester hours, plus any prerequisite hours not met through the candidate's earned Masters/ Specialist degree program. Students who complete the program and pass the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) should be eligible for licensure as a psychologist and students in the School Psychology Concentration who pass the Praxis exam should also be license eligible by state departments of instruction and eligible for National Certification as a School Psychologist (NCSP). State standards for licensure vary and it is the responsibility of candidates to be aware of state licensure laws to ensure training meets licensure standards for the state.

American Psychological Association Accreditation status: The PsyD program is "Accredited, on Contingency" by the American Psychological Association (APA), effective March 1, 2022 with expiration date of March 1, 2027.

SACS Accreditation status: Effective February 14, 2019, the program is approved by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

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