

Clinical Neuropsychology Track

Clinical Psychology Program
Department of Psychology



University
of Windsor

The Clinical Neuropsychology (CN) Track has a life-span developmental orientation within the scientist-practitioner model. Our students take courses and have research opportunities in generalist clinical psychology and clinical neuropsychology. Our required courses meet the education and training guidelines set by the Houston Conference and requirements for registration or licensure in Canada and in many places within the United States. As a result of their clinical skills and research strengths, our students often go to one of their top choices for internship placement. With recognized expertise in assessment our graduates are much sought after by medical centres, teaching hospitals, and universities.

In our program, research and clinical training go hand in hand. Student research often consists of independent projects or studies that are part of a faculty member's research program. We strongly encourage each incoming CN student to correspond with their faculty research supervisor before accepting the offer of admission. The student and research supervisor then may collaborate informally on potential research directions in the months leading up to arrival on campus. Once on campus, first-year students devote substantial time to developing and writing the master's thesis proposal and conducting the research.

Under our new training model beginning in 2017-2018, students will have their first two years of clinical practica within the neuropsychology service at the University of Windsor's Psychological Services and Research Centre (PSRC) on campus starting in the summer at the end of their first year. This experience starts with observing assessments and working with practice clients, then progressing to assisting more senior students in completing evaluations, and finally case managing those assessments with assistance from more junior students. Our clients are from the community and represent the full life-span. In their fourth year and beyond, students may wish to seek more specialized external practica or may wish to serve as peer-supervisors in the neuropsychology service. External practica are available in school settings, outpatient clinics, hospital-based neuropsychological services for children and adults, and rehabilitation centres.

Successful applicants to the Clinical Neuropsychology Track within the Clinical Program are usually aligned with a particular faculty member's lab at the time of acceptance and it is that faculty member who will serve as the student's thesis supervisor. The Clinical Neuropsychology Track Coordinator serves as the academic advisor for incoming students and usually remains as the academic advisor during the student's time in the program. It is understood that the focus of a student's research interests may change while in the program as he or she participates in didactic and training opportunities. Most often, however, students continue their thesis and dissertation research within the lab to which they were initially affiliated.

Minimum Requirements, Clinical Neuropsychology Track

Training requirements in the CN track involve four major components: course work, a comprehensive examination, clinical experience, and research. The majority, if not all, of the required courses are completed in the first three years of the program. Students often take a few additional courses in areas of particular interest in subsequent years while involved in practica or research provided they are on schedule with the program's timelines. Students must also meet the following benchmarks:

Years 1-2	Propose, develop, and defend M.A. thesis
Summer Year 3	Comprehensive examinations
Year 4	Propose dissertation
Year 5	Complete dissertation including the defense, apply for internship
Year 6	CPA-approved internship

Required Courses for Clinical Neuropsychology Students

If a student has taken a senior level undergraduate course or graduate course that essentially cover the same material as a required course, then the student may apply to waive the respective course. When a course is waived, it need not be replaced by another course.

Psychology Core Courses (8 courses)

- Historical and Philosophical Foundations of Psychology (501)
- Human Neuropsychology and Biological Bases of Behaviour (503)
- Cognitive Bases of Behaviour (505)
- Statistics for Graduate Study in Psychology I (511)
- Statistics for Graduate Study in Psychology II (512)
- Research Methods in Psychology (514)
- Theory and Research in Social Psychology (560)
- Ethical and Professional Issues in Psychology (581)

Clinical Core Courses (4 courses)

- Psychopathology (580)
- Clinical Assessment I (582)
- Clinical Assessment II (583)
- Introduction to Psychotherapy (674)

Clinical Neuropsychology Track Courses (6 courses + practica)

- Clinical Neuroanatomy and Neuropathology (529)
- Child Clinical Neuropsychology (640)
- Adult Clinical Neuropsychology (642)
- Cognitive Behaviour Therapy I (692)
- Cognitive Behaviour Therapy II (693)
- Any one of the following:
 - Neuropsychology of Developmental Disabilities (644)
 - Neuropsychological Aspects of Rehabilitation (645)
 - Neuropsychology of Aging (648)
- Clinical neuropsychology practicum within the PSRC (46-688/46-689)

Suggested Progression through the Neuropsychology Track

YEAR 1:

August

- Register for Fall Term Courses (see table)

September

- Fall semester begins.
- Attend Clinical Program Orientation and the Clinical Neuropsychology Track Orientation (held the first Friday of the term)
- Attend scholarship application workshops offered in the department and by the Faculty of Graduate Studies
- Apply for at least one major graduate scholarship (OGS, NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR)
- It is expected that students in the Clinical Neuropsychology Track will already be affiliated with a faculty member's lab. Students should begin work to identify a topic in the fall semester.

November

- Attend the practicum information session
- Register for Winter Term Courses (see table)

December

- Applications for course waivers MUST be submitted by the Friday of the first week of Winter term classes in your first year of the program. Applications received after that date will not be considered. Professional licensing bodies (e.g., College of Psychologists of Ontario) may question waived courses and impose additional requirements for registration. It is your responsibility to ensure that you will still meet criteria for registration if you waive required courses.
- Use the Practicum Application and follow Practicum Guidelines (available on Blackboard). Get approval from the Practicum Coordinator before committing to any placement. Placements must meet specific criteria to be approved.

January

- Winter semester begins.
- Applications for course waivers MUST be submitted by the Friday of the first week of the Winter term.

April

- Register for Summer Term Courses (see table)
- Notes on clinical practica expectations
 - Students are expected in this first summer to observe in the clinical setting and to work with practice clients to attain test mastery. Over the next 2 years, students should gain facility with diagnostic interviewing, test administration and interpretation, integrated report writing, and providing feedback to clients. During this time, students will Approximately 25% of the accumulated hours should involve direct client contact.
 - Students must accrue a minimum of 300 hours at the M.A. level across practica settings.
- Complete and submit your annual student progress report by the deadline. Err in the direction of including more rather than less detail about your past year's activities and plans for the coming year. Your research supervisor and the area coordinator will review your documents and your file prior to the annual area faculty meeting to discuss student progress. You will receive feedback from the area coordinator about your progress.

Summer (May – August)

- Summer practicum at PSRC

August

- Register for Year 2 Fall Term Courses (see table)

September

- Fall semester begins.
- Attend Clinical Program Orientation (held the first Friday of the term)
- Attend scholarship application workshops offered in the department and by the Faculty of Graduate Studies
- Apply for at least one major graduate scholarship (OGS, NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR)

November

- Register for Winter Term Courses (see table)

December

- If not already completed, successfully propose M.A. thesis (no more than minor revisions) by the December 15 deadline.

April

- Register for Summer Term Courses (see table)
- Complete and submit your annual student progress report by the deadline.

IMPORTANT!

- *Advancement to the Ph.D. is not automatic; advancement must be recommended by the Clinical Training Committee and depends on (a) meeting academic expectations, (b) consistent adherence to ethical and professional standards of conduct, and (c) personal suitability for clinical work.*
- *You are strongly encouraged to attend at least one conference and present at least one paper/poster per year as this increases your competitiveness for scholarships, internships, fellowships, and eventual employment.*

YEAR 3:

August

- Submit your application to convocate in October at least 4 weeks in advance of Fall convocation dates.
- The deadline for completion of all M.A. requirements is August 31st.
- Register for Year 3 Fall Term Courses (see table)

September

- Fall classes begin
- Attend Clinical Program Orientation (held the first Friday of the term)
- Attend scholarship application workshops offered in the department and by the Faculty of Graduate Studies
- Apply for at least one major graduate scholarship (OGS, NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR)

October

- Fall Convocation

November

- Register for Winter Term Courses
- Apply to present the results of your M.A. thesis at CPA, APA or other scholarly conference.
- Attend practicum information evening

January

- Attend Comprehensive Examination Meeting and begin preparing for the exam (create a study plan and schedule, gather necessary materials, begin reviewing)
- Investigate external practica and departmental supervision practica options.

February

- Apply for year 4 practica (external or supervision practicum at PSRC)

April

- Register for Summer Term Courses
- Prepare for Comprehensive Examination by reviewing materials, practice writing time-limited responses to sample questions from previous years.
- Complete and submit your annual progress report by the deadline.

May

- Complete study preparations and write the Comprehensive Examination

Summer

- Work on dissertation proposal.
- Summer practica

IMPORTANT!

- *Although ALL required course work is expected to be completed by the end of your 3rd year in the program, a course may be deferred to 4th year if a required course is cancelled and unavailable to you until 4th year.*
- *ALL Ph.D. Practicum experiences that are not specifically tied to another course number are reported and credited under 702 (Ph.D. Level Practicum).*
- *When you register for 798 (Dissertation) in any given term, you are expected to devote a significant portion of your time to dissertation work (i.e., minimum 16-20 hours per week), and to have made concrete and measurable progress on the dissertation by the end of the term. Lack of progress on the dissertation in any term for which you have registered for 798 will be noted in your annual student progress review.*

YEAR 4:

August

- Register for Year 4 Fall Courses (see table)

September

- Fall classes begin
- Attend Clinical Program Orientation
- Attend scholarship application workshops offered in the department and by the Faculty of Graduate Studies
- Apply for at least one major graduate scholarship (OGS, NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR)

November

- Register for Year 4 Winter Courses (see table)
- Attend Practicum Information Evening

April

- Complete and submit your annual progress report by the deadline. Err in the direction of including more rather than less detail about your past year's activities and plans for the coming year. Timelines for the completion of thesis or dissertation work should be carefully planned as you will be expected to adhere to them.
- Register for Summer Term Courses (see table)
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June

- Meet June 15 deadline for dissertation proposal meeting (pass with no more than minor revisions). ***If you do not meet this deadline, you will not be permitted to apply for internships in the fall.***
- Attend the Internship Application Workshop.

July

- APPIC Online application available mid-month.
- Begin preparing internship applications, update CV, contact referees, gather practicum evaluations for hours accrued under 701 and 702.

IMPORTANT!

- *All required practicum hours (300 hours at the M.A. level; and a minimum 700 hours at the Ph.D. level (includes course-related practica) should be completed by the end of your 4th year in the program. At least 25% of practicum hours should be direct client contact hours.*
- *We recommend 1500-2000 total practicum hours prior to internship (includes about 400 direct client contact hours). Strive for balance and quality in practicum experiences over quantity. Approval of practicum hours beyond minimum requirements depends on timely dissertation progress.*

YEAR 5:

August

- Continue work on internship applications, apply for transcripts, write personal essays, cover letters, and assemble any supplementary materials required by sites to which you are applying.
- Register for Year 5 Fall Courses (see table)

September

- Meet with Track Coordinator to review APPIC application material and readiness for internship
- Continue preparing internship applications, write personal essays and cover letters

October

- Complete and submit APPIC internship applications

November

- Register for Winter Courses (see table)
- Attend Practicum Information Evening

December

- Finalize internship interview schedule, make travel arrangements.

January

- Internship interviews

February

- Submit internship rankings.
- Phase I internship match results will be announced the last week of February

March

- If not matched in Phase I, submit internship rankings for Phase II if there are quality sites that meet your training needs
- Phase II internship match results will be announced last week of March.

April

- Complete and submit your annual progress report by the deadline. Err in the direction of including more rather than less detail about your past year's activities and plans for the coming year. Timelines for the completion of thesis or dissertation work should be carefully planned as you will be expected to adhere to them.
- Register for Summer Term Courses (see table)

August

- Dissertation Progress Report meeting.
- Register for Year 6 Fall Courses

IMPORTANT!

- *Sustained work on the dissertation is essential during this year. Completing internship applications, arranging internship interviews and travel, ranking sites after interviews, and possibly making up practicum hours due to interview-related absences take considerable time. Plan accordingly so that dissertation progress is not impeded.*

YEAR 6:

September

- Begin pre-doctoral internship **OR**
- Meet with Track Coordinator to review APPIC application material and readiness for internship if you did not match last year

October

- Complete and re-submit APPIC internship applications if you did not match last year.

November

- Register for Winter Courses (see table)

February

- Mid-year internship evaluation.

April

- Complete and submit your annual progress report by the deadline. Err in the direction of including more rather than less detail about your past year's activities and plans for the coming year. Timelines for the completion of thesis or dissertation work should be carefully planned as you will be expected to adhere to them.
- Register for Summer Courses (see table)

August

- Complete internship, final internship evaluation
- Expected completion of all program requirements is August 31. If not already completed, meet Faculty of Graduate Studies deadlines for successful defense of dissertation (no more than minor revisions) and deposit final document

IMPORTANT!

- *The dissertation should be successfully defended by the end of your 6th year in the program. A 7th and final year in the program is permitted but this should be held in reserve in case an extra year is required to obtain and complete the pre-doctoral internship.*
- *Letters supporting applications for post-doctoral internships/fellowships will not be written for students who have not had a successful dissertation progress report meeting.*

Summary of Expected Completion Dates of Key Clinical Program Requirements

Approved by the Clinical Training Committee, September 4, 2012

This schedule applies to all students admitted to the Clinical Psychology Program in September 2010 and subsequent years.

Program Component	Expected Completion
MA Thesis Proposal	December 15, Year 2
MA Thesis Defense	September, Year 3 <i>Exact dates vary from year to year. Check with Faculty of Graduate Studies for exact dates.</i>
Comprehensive Exam	May, Year 3 <i>Exact dates vary from year to year and are finalized early in the Winter term; check with Chair of the Comprehensive Exam Committee</i>
Required Courses	April 30, Year 4
Dissertation Proposal	June 15, Year 4
Required Practica	August 31, Year 4 <i>Permission to undertake practica beyond the minimum required hours will be approved only for students who demonstrate extremely timely dissertation progress</i>
Internship Applications	November 1, Year 5
Dissertation Progress Report Meeting	August 31, Year 5
Internship	Year 6, September-August
Dissertation Defense	August 31, Year 6

What courses am I supposed to take? When am I supposed to take those courses?

FALL	WINTER	SUMMER
Year 1		
Statistics for Graduate Study in Psychology I (511)	Statistics for Graduate Study in Psychology II (512)	Clinical Neuropsychology practicum at PSRC (688)
Psychopathology (580)	Research Methods (514)	M.A. Thesis (797)
Clinical Assessment I (582)	Clinical Assessment II (583)	
Human Neuropsychology and Biological Bases of Behaviour (503)	Introduction to Psychotherapy (674)	
M.A. Thesis (797)	M.A. Thesis (797)	
Year 2		
Ethics (581)	Clinical Neuroanatomy and Neuropathology (529; offered in alternate years)	Clinical Neuropsychology practicum at PSRC (689)
Adult Clinical Neuropsychology or Child Clinical Neuropsychology (640 or 642; students must take both and the courses alternate years)	Core course(s)	M.A. Thesis (797)
Cognitive Behaviour Therapy I (692)	Cognitive Behaviour Therapy II (693)	
Clinical Neuropsychology practicum (688)	Clinical Neuropsychology practicum (688)	
M.A. Thesis (797)	M.A. Thesis (797)	
Year 3		
Adult Clinical Neuropsychology or Child Clinical Neuropsychology (640 or 642; students must take both and the courses alternate years)	Clinical Neuroanatomy and Neuropathology (529; offered in alternate years)	Comprehensive Examination
Core course(s)	Core course(s)	Dissertation: If not done yet, confirm research advisor, topic area, and begin developing research proposal
Additional therapy course sequence (optional)	Additional therapy course sequence (optional)	External practica or supervision practica at PSRC
One advanced neuropsychology course (e.g., 644, 645, or 648)	One advanced neuropsychology course (e.g., 644, 645, or 648)	
Advanced Clinical Neuropsychology practicum (689)	Advanced Clinical Neuropsychology practicum (689)	
Year 4		
Ph.D. Clinical Practicum (702)	Ph.D. Clinical Practicum (702)	Ph.D. Clinical Practicum (702) – only if you are making timely progress on your dissertation and at the discretion of your academic and research advisors
Dissertation (798)	Dissertation (798)	Dissertation (798)
Required course(s) not yet completed	Required course(s) not yet completed	

FALL	WINTER	SUMMER
Year 5		
Ph.D. Clinical Practicum (702) – only if you are making timely progress on your dissertation and at the discretion of your academic and research advisors	Ph.D. Clinical Practicum (702) – only if you are making timely progress on your dissertation and at the discretion of your academic and research advisors	Ph.D. Clinical Practicum (702) – only if you are making timely progress on your dissertation and at the discretion of your academic and research advisors
Dissertation (798)	Dissertation (798)	Dissertation (798)
Year 6		
Pre-doctoral internship (706)	Pre-doctoral internship (706)	Pre-doctoral internship (706)
Dissertation (798) if not already successfully defended	Dissertation (798) if not already successfully defended	Dissertation (798) if not already successfully defended