**JSU CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY DOCTORAL PROGRAM**

**Program Application**

**Program Philosophy and Goals**

Students in this clinical psychology doctoral program will matriculate within a curriculum anchored in a cumulative body of psychological knowledge, with a firm basis in statistics, research design, and experimental methodology. The program provides students with a comprehensive knowledge base and improves their ability to effectively function as an empirically-oriented clinical psychologist in diverse settings. This is accomplished through the use of a curriculum that provides students with an in-depth exploration of multicultural issues and exposure to diverse populations.

The Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program at Jackson State University (JSU) has the four following goals:

1. To produce graduates who are skilled in the science, theory and practice of psychology.
2. To increase students’ awareness, knowledge, and skills in multicultural psychology.
3. To reduce graduates who have the requisite knowledge and skills to conduct their work in accordance with ethical, legal, and professional students in their practice and research.
4. To produce students that will engage in clinical and research experiences involving the diverse psychological, health, and service needs of ethnic minority populations.

The program goals are consistent with that of Jackson State University as a comprehensive, urban university. The psychology department supports students and faculty involved in basic and applied research while providing a challenging intellectual environment that welcomes excellence in teaching, research, and community service.

**Application to the Division of Graduate Studies**

The first step in the application process is to apply to JSU’s Division of Graduate Studies at the following web link: <http://www.jsums.edu/graduateschool/prospective-students-home/>. The *General Admission Requirements* section of the web link will contain all necessary application materials.

**Program Admission Process**

A major goal of this program is retention and graduation of students within the prescribed five years. This is best accomplished by selecting applicants who have the educational foundation, motivation, and personality characteristics required to successfully complete an intensive and rigorous doctoral program.

Admission to the program is very competitive. Due to accreditation standards, a limited number of slots (about 7) are available each year. Please note that simply meeting the minimal application standards does not guarantee admission into the program. Invitations to be interviewed by the graduate faculty are extended to applicants that pass the initial screening process, which is conducted by the entire graduate faculty. Shortly after the interview process is complete, the interviewed applicants will be notified about the status of their application.

**Minimum Requirements for Admission**

1. The minimum requirement for admission is a Bachelor's Degree from a regionally-accredited institution with at least 24 semester hours of psychology coursework in domains such as abnormal, developmental, experimental or research methods, learning or cognition, personality, psychophysiology, statistics, and social psychology.
2. JSU’s Graduate School requires a minimum GPA of 3.00 (4-point scale), which should be reflective of the applicant’s most recent degree. The applicant must provide official transcripts of all post-secondary academic work sent from institutions directly to the Director of Clinical Training.
3. The applicant must provide an official copy of GRE test scores (sent from ETS directly to the univeristy). The program does not use specific GRE cut-off scores in the admissions process, however, submission of GRE scores are part of the application process. The GRE subject test in Psychology is accepted but not required. GRE scores older than five years are not accepted.
4. Submission of the program application, curriculum vita, GRE scores, and letters of recommendation.
5. A minimum of three letters of recommendation from individuals qualified to assess the applicant’s academic and professional potential must be submitted directly to the graduate faculty. Two letters should be written by faculty members or faculty mentors that can attest to your academic performance and ability to perform as a student in a doctoral level program. The third letter may be written by qualified individuals who have supervised any previous clinical or research work. Please do not submit more than four letters of recommendation. All letters must be accompanied by the Recommendation Form, which is found at the following web link: <http://www.jsums.edu/graduateschool/files/2012/08/generic-form.pdf>
6. An acceptable score on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) must be submitted, if applicable.

**Ethical Issues**

Throughout the screening, interview, and evaluation phases of this process, all admissions data (i.e., applicant files, other publicly available documents, and interview data) are evaluated based on APA’s Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct (APA, 2010).

**Evaluation Domains**

The graduate faulty will evaluate each prospective doctoral applicant utilizing the following criteria, at a minimum:

1. Academic aptitude for doctoral-level studies;
2. Understanding & appreciation of diversity issues;
3. Understanding & appreciation of the program’s requirements;
4. Professional and training experiences in a clinical setting;
5. Past academic performance;
6. Research experience (i.e., publication, symposia, poster presentation, etc.);
7. Characterological suitability to perform as a clinician;
8. Goodness of fit with program goals;
9. Verbal communication, writing and interpersonal skills;
10. Professional demeanor, and;
11. Additional clarification of issues observed in the application materials, if necessary.

**Notice Regarding Background Checks**

Criminal background checks are not currently required as part of the admission process to this program. However, various agencies that provide the practicum, externship, and pre-doctoral internship training opportunities typcally require a criminal background check prior to placement. These agencies are external to the University and may set or revise placement policies at any time. Because the program curriculum includes providing clinical services, a background check with negative findings could result in a student’s dismissal from the program.

**Privacy Rights**

All applicants have certain privacy rights defined by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. You can get more information at <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>

**Applicant Consent**

*“I have read the information noted above and hereby agree to participate in the admissions screening, evaluation, interview, and selection process.”*

Print Name:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Demographic Information**

**Last Name**: **First Name**: **Middle Initial**:

**Address 1**:

**Address 2**:

**City**: **State**: **Zip Code**:

**Cell Phone**: **Home Phone**: **e-mail**:

**Gender**: \_\_\_ Male \_\_\_ Female \_\_\_ Other

**Date of Birth**: **Place of Birth**: **SSN**:

**Are you a Mississippi resident**? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

**Are you a United States citizen**? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

1. **Academic Background**

***GRE Scores* (Report the highest score earned on each subtest):**

\_\_\_\_\_ Verbal \_\_\_\_\_ Quantitative \_\_\_\_\_ Analytical

***Undergraduate Studies History***

1. **College 1:** **City**: **State**: **Degree**:

**Major**: **GPA**: **Dates**:

1. **College 2**: **City**: **State**: **Degree**:

**Major**: **GPA**: **Dates**:

1. **College 3**: **City**: **State**: **Degree**:

**Major**: **GPA**: **Dates**:

***Graduate Studies History***

**A.** **College 1**: **City**: **State**: **Degree**:

**Major**: **GPA**: **Dates**:

**B.** **College 2**: **City**: **State**: **Degree**:

**Major**: **GPA**: **Dates**:

**C.** **College 3**: **City**: **State**: **Degree**:

**Major**: **GPA**: **Dates**:

1. **Clinical Experience**
2. List employment history in clinical settings (clinics, hospitals, social service agencies, etc.).

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| Employer | Job Title | Hours  per week | Start  Date | End  Date |
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1. List clinical training experiences in clinical settings (clinics, hospitals, social service agencies, etc.).

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| Employer | Job Title | Hours per week | Start  Date | End  Date |
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1. *Licensure/Certification:* Please list any current licenses or certifications in mental health fields:
2. **Title**: **Number**: **State**:
3. **Title**: **Number**: **State**:
4. **Research and Teaching Experience**
5. List research experience (laboratories, faculty research, etc.).

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Employer | Job Title | Hours per week | Start  Date | End  Date |
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1. List teaching experience.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Position | Course  Title | School | Date |
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1. **Publication/Presentation/Symposium History**
2. List the complete reference(s) of publications in refereed national or international journals in which you are listed as an author or co-author.
3. List the complete reference(s) of any publications in refereed regional or state journals in which you are listed as an author or co-author.
4. List the complete reference(s) of any published book chapter, manual, or abstract in which you are listed as an author or co-author.
5. List the complete reference(s) of any authored and co-authored poster presentations at conferences/conventions/etc.
6. List the complete reference(s) of any symposia, workshops, and seminars you have conducted at conferences/conventions/etc.
7. List any notable accomplishments and awards you have received.
8. **Personal Essays**: The responses (11-font size) should not exceed the length of the box.
9. Please provide an autobiographical statement. (Answer this question as if someone had asked you, *“Tell us something about yourself.”*)
10. Describe the kind of career in psychology would you like to have, and in what setting would you like to work.
11. Describe how did you first become interested in psychology, and why did you decide to make it your career.
12. Describe your: *a) Research experience and b) Research interests.*
13. Describe your: *a) Clinical experience and b) Clinical interests.*
14. Please identify which faculty members you would like to gain research and/or clinical experience and why.
15. How do you envision that this clinical program will meet your training goals and interests?
16. Specifically explain the strengths and weaknesses in your application? Also, identify any special qualifications or experiences that you believe are noteworthy?
17. If applicable, please explain why you unsuccessfully completed a past graduate program.
18. **Professional Conduct:** The responses (11-font size) should not exceed the length of the box.
19. Has any type of disciplinary action ever been taken against you by a supervisor, educational or training institution, health care institution, professional association, or licensing/certification board?

O Yes O No If yes, please explain:

1. Are there any complaints currently pending against you by a formal governing body?

O Yes O No If yes, please explain:

1. Have you ever been requested to withdraw/resign from a clinical/research placement/job?

O Yes O No If yes, please explain:

1. Have you ever been requested or forced to resign from a graduate training program, internship/practicum site, and/or employer?

O Yes O No If yes, please explain:

1. Have you ever been placed on probationary status, suspended, and/or dismissed by a graduate training program, internship/practicum site, and/or employer?

O Yes O No If yes, please explain:

1. **References**

List the names and contact information of the persons that will submit your letters of recommendation. A total of three letters of recommendation from individuals qualified to assess the applicant’s academic and professional potential must be submitted directly to the program. Each letter must be accompanied by the program-specific Recommendation Form completed by the letter writer, which can be accessed at: <http://www.jsums.edu/graduateschool/files/2012/08/generic-form.pdf> A minimum of two letters must be written by faculty members or faculty mentors familiar with your academic performance; the third letter may be written by qualified individuals who have supervised any previous clinical or research work. No more than four letters of recommendation will be accepted.

1. *Recommender #1*

**Name**: **Phone**: **e-mail**:

1. *Recommender #2*

**Name**: **Phone**: **e-mail**:

1. *Recommender #3*

**Name**: **Phone**: **e-mail**:

1. *Recommender #4 (Optional)*

**Name**: **Phone**: **e-mail**:

1. **Deadline and Review Process**

All application materials must be submitted by January 15th of each year (Fall admission only). Shortly after this date, the graduate faculty will begin the initial review of all complete applications. Incomplete applications may not be reviewed after this date. After thoroughly reviewing the applications, the graduate faculty will develop a list of applicants that will be invited to be interviewed by the graduate faculty. Shortly after the interview process is completed, applicants will be submitted acceptance letters. See the web link below for the *Student Selection Process*: <http://www.jsums.edu/psychology/ph-d-in-clinical-psychology-student-admission-outcomes-and-other-data/forms/>

Jackson State University is committed to the principles of equal education opportunity, equal employment, and affirmative action. The University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, handicap, age, religion, national origin, veteran status, or on any other illegal basis.

**Applicant Consent**

*“I hereby affirm that to the best of my knowledge all information furnished on this form is complete and accurate. I understand that withholding information requested or giving false information may make me ineligible for admission to or continuation in the clinical psychology doctoral program at Jackson State University.”*

**Print Name**:

**Signature**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Date**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Please enclose all application materials (i.e., program application, official transcripts, letters of recommendation, curriculum vitae, supporting documentation, etc.) in one application packet, which the applicant should send directly to the address noted below. All letters of recommendation should be placed in a sealed envelope with letter writer’s signature written on the seal portion of the letter to show that the letter has not been opened. The letter writer does have the option to send the letter directly to the psychology department, however. Official transcripts should also be sealed. Any opened letters of recommendation will be voided and returned to the applicant.

Send to: Attention: Dr. Bryman Williams

Director of Clinical Training

Jackson State University – Psychology Department

P.O. Box 17550

Jackson, MS 39217-0350