JSU’s Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program

Program Brochure

The Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program is accredited as a program in clinical psychology by the American Psychological Association’s (APA) Committee on Accreditation.

Dr. Bryman Williams – Director of Clinical Training
Psychology Department
Updated 8/01/2015
INTRODUCTION

Jackson State University's Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program

Jackson State University (JSU) was approved by the Board of Trustees of Institutions of Higher Learning of the State of Mississippi to begin its Ph.D. program in clinical psychology in 1995 with an inaugural class of six doctoral candidates. The American Psychological Association (APA) awarded our clinical psychology program accreditation in 2001, and the first doctoral dissertation defense occurred in 2002. The program was first reaccredited in 2005, and then reaccredited in 2010.

Vision and Mission

Building on its historic mission of producing technologically-advanced, diverse, ethical, global leaders who think critically, address societal problems and compete effectively JSU has become recognized as a challenging, yet nurturing, state-of-the-art, technologically-infused intellectual community. Students and faculty engage in creative research, interdisciplinary and multi-institutional/organizational collaborative learning teams and serve the global community.

The Program supports JSU’s vision and mission by (1) expanding the scope of educational programs at the doctoral level, and (2) providing an opportunity for graduate students to ascertain a degree in a field that focuses on providing clinical- and research-related services to diverse populations in an ethical and effective manner that encompasses a depth of understanding about the multicultural, psychological, biological, and social components of mental illness. The Program is housed in the College of Liberal Arts (CLA). CLA promotes and supports significant research, innovative scholarship, and creative expression in the arts, humanities, social and behavioral sciences.

The Department of Psychology, within which the Program is located, is committed to enhancing knowledge of psychological principles and practices through scholarship, research, undergraduate service-learning, and graduate clinical training. In addition, the faculty promotes the discipline of psychology through professional service at the national and local levels.

Program Training Goals, Objectives, and Competencies

GOAL #1: To produce graduates who are skilled in the science, theory and practice of psychology.

Objective 1 – Students will acquire knowledge of psychology as a scientific discipline.

Objective 2 – Students will acquire knowledge of and skills to conduct and evaluate empirical research in professional psychology.

Objective 3 – Students will have an entry level competence in assessment and treatment approaches supported by theory and empirical practice.

GOAL #2: Students will increase awareness, knowledge, and skills in multicultural psychology.

Objective 1 – To increase the number of clinical psychologist who are knowledgeable about the impact of multiculturalism in professional psychology.

Objective 2 – To educate trainees about multicultural specific training related to the psychology of African Americans.

GOAL #3: To produce graduates who have the requisite knowledge and skills to conduct their work in accordance with ethical, legal, and professional standards in their practice and research.
Objective 1 – To increase the number of graduates who display ethical, legal, and professional behavior in their practice and research.

GOAL #4: To produce students that will engage in clinical and research experiences involving the diverse psychological, health, and service needs of ethnic minority populations.

Objective 1 – To increase the numbers of students capable of planning and conducting research that includes multiculturalism.

Objective 2 – To increase the numbers of students capable of providing psychological services to ethnic minority populations.

Participants in this program are indulged into a curriculum anchored in the cumulative body of psychological knowledge, with a firm basis in statistics, research design, and experimental methodology. The program develops a comprehensive knowledge base and teaches skills to improve the students’ ability to effectively function as an empirically-oriented clinical psychologist in diverse settings. This is accomplished through a sequence of formal clinical courses, and distinguished by in-depth exploration of multicultural issues and exposure to ethnic minority communities.

The process through which this mission will be accomplished is consistent with the goals and mission of JSU as a comprehensive and urban university. The essential components of the program are students and faculty that are committed to addressing multicultural issues and comfortable with conducting objective assessment and systematic intervention on both an individual- and community-level. The department strives to support students and faculty involved in basic and applied research while providing a challenging intellectual environment that welcomes excellence in teaching, research, and community service.

Accreditation

JSU is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to (SACS) award the bachelor’s, master’s, education specialist, Doctorate of Education, and Doctorate of Philosophy degrees. If you have questions about the university’s accreditation status or the accreditation process contact the SACS office at:

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, Georgia 30033-4907
(404) 679-4501

The Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program is accredited as a program in clinical psychology by the American Psychological Association’s (APA) Committee on Accreditation. The program will be up for reaccreditation in 2016. If you have questions about the program’s accreditation status or the accreditation process, contact the responsible APA Office:

Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation
American Psychological Association
750 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4242
Phone: 202-336-5979
Fax: 202-336-5978
E-mail: apaaccred@apa.org
Web: www.apa.org/ed.accreditation
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A major goal of our program is retention and graduation of admitted students within the prescribed time limits. 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. Applicants who have passed the initial screening are required to participate in a personal interview conducted by Doctoral Admissions Committee, interested faculty, and currently enrolled doctoral students.

Admission is very competitive. A limited number of slots (6 to 8) are available annually with entry in the fall semester only. Because of the competitive nature of the process, meeting minimal admission standards does not guarantee admission. Admission is granted jointly by the Division of Graduate Studies and the Clinical Psychology Program. Invitations to interview with the Graduate Faculty will be made to designated applicants who have passed the initial screening.

Minimum Requirements for Admission

The minimum requirement for admission is a Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with at least 21 semester hours of psychology coursework in such areas as statistics, general, abnormal, developmental, experimental, and physiological psychology. The Division of Graduate Studies requires a minimum GPA of 3.00 (4.00 scale) on the applicant’s most recent level of coursework. The applicant must provide official transcripts of all post-secondary academic work sent from institutions directly to the Admissions Committee.

The program does not use specific GRE cut-off scores in the admissions process, however, submission of GRE scores prior to the application deadline is required. The GRE subject test in Psychology is not required. The applicant must provide an official copy of GRE test scores sent from ETS directly to the Admissions Committee.

The applicant must complete the Program Application and a vita must be submitted to the Admissions Committee. Three letters of recommendation from individuals qualified to assess the applicant’s academic and professional potential must be submitted directly to the Admissions Committee. 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. Please send no more than four letters. All letters must be accompanied by the Evaluation and Recommendation Form. An acceptable score on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) must be submitted, if applicable.

Throughout the screening, interview, and evaluation phases all admissions data (applicant files, other publicly available documents and interview data) are evaluated for evidence indicating a situation where admission to the program places the applicant or program faculty at risk for conflict with the Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code Of Conduct (APA, 2002).

CURRICULUM AND DEGREE COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

Curriculum

In order to fulfill the training model upon which the program is based and the multicultural focus in which it is grounded, students must first show respect for cultural and individual differences as well as demonstrating a multicultural approach to their work. Again, courses and applied experience are both used to teach and reinforce these ideas, especially as they pertain to gender, ethnicity, age, disability,
religion, and sexual preference. This multicultural awareness should come across both in the
appropriate fieldwork and in the research in which students engage. They must demonstrate the ability
to write literature reviews, with references to resources in cross-cultural and multicultural psychology
where appropriate. Building upon existing literature, students are required to know how to perform
their own original research, including its methodology, data collection, and analysis. To complete this
analysis, students must show they can apply major statistical tests and procedures as part of research
activities. Course work covers the content of statistical testing and how to interpret meaningfully the
results. Such functionality must be demonstrated for any research question or questions the student
undertakes, including that of his/her dissertation project.

The Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program is a full-time, on-campus program requiring a
minimum of five years of post-baccalaureate study, including the completion of dissertation research
and a one-year, full-time pre-doctoral internship. A minimum residency requirement of three years must
be met. A student is expected to complete all requirements for the degree and graduate within eight
years of the date of first registration. Students must satisfactorily complete all of the required courses
listed below. In addition, they must successfully complete the Graduate Area Comprehensive
Examination (GACE), Clinical Competency Examination, and Dissertation Research. Each of these
components is discussed in the following sections of this handbook.

Required Courses

The curriculum is presented in a model course sequence. While the courses generally are offered in the
sequence shown below, exceptions can occur. Some courses may be offered during the summer
sessions, for instance. Students, in conjunction with their advisors and the DCT, may plan an
individualized course sequence that will best meet their educational goals and timetable. In doing so,
however, care should be exercised to ensure that all prerequisites and co-requisites are met. It should
be emphasized that students should seek guidance and approval from appropriate faculty members
before making such adjustments.

The program requires 18 hours of General Core Courses, 16 hours of Research Core Courses, 21
hours of Clinical Core Courses, 9 hours of Multicultural/Diversity Core Courses, 20 hours of Practica and
Externship Courses, 9 hours of Elective Courses, 9 hours of Dissertation Credit, and a one year internship
in an APPIC-approved setting (during which the student registers for at least 2 hours of Internship
credit). The required courses, arranged in a model sequence, are presented on the following pages.
# Program Model Course

## YEAR 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FALL</th>
<th>SPRING</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSY 731 (3) Advanced Statistics I</td>
<td>PSY 732 (3) Advanced Statistics II</td>
<td>PSY 750 (3) Ethics in Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 710 (3) Theories of Personality</td>
<td>PSY 730 (3) Research Methods</td>
<td>PSY --- (3) Elective (varies)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 740 (3) Psychopathology</td>
<td>PSY 743 (3) Personality Assessment</td>
<td>PSY 711 (3) Learning &amp; Cognition</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 742 (3) Cognitive Assessment</td>
<td>PSY 751 (3) Psychotherapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 700-01 (1) Research Seminar</td>
<td>PSY 700-02 (1) APA Research Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total: 13 credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total: 13 credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total: 3 to 9 credits</strong></td>
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## YEAR 2

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<th>FALL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSY 713 (3) Biological Psychology</td>
<td>PSY 712 (3) Adv. Develop. Psych.</td>
<td>PSY 762 (3) Clinical Practicum III</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 761 (3) Clinical Practicum I</td>
<td>PSY 734 (3) Psychometrics</td>
<td>PSY --- (3) Elective (course varies)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 733 (3) Multivariate Methods I</td>
<td>PSY 761 (3) Clinical Practicum II</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 735 (1) Research Practicum I</td>
<td>PSY 752 (3) Behavior Therapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY --- (3) Elective (course varies)</td>
<td>PSY 736 (1) Research Practicum II</td>
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<td><strong>Total: 13 credits</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 714 (3) Social &amp; Cognitive Bases of Behavior</td>
<td>PSY 721 (3) Psych. African Americans</td>
<td>PSY 790 (3) Dissertation Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 720 (3) Cross-Cultural Psych.</td>
<td>PSY 765 (3) Externship II</td>
<td>PSY --- (3) Elective (course varies)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 715 (3) History &amp; Systems</td>
<td>PSY 753 (3) Group Therapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 764 (3) Externship I</td>
<td>PSY --- (3) Elective (course varies)</td>
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<td><strong>Total: 12 credits</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 766 (3) Externship III</td>
<td>PSY 790 (3) Dissertation Research</td>
<td>PSY 790 (3) Dissertation Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 790 (3) Dissertation Research</td>
<td>PSY --- (3) Elective (course varies)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 770 (3) Advanced Seminar</td>
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<td><strong>Total: 9 credits</strong></td>
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### YEAR 5

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSY 799 (1) Internship*</td>
<td>PSY 799 (1) Internship*</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 790 (3) Dissertation Research</td>
<td>PSY --- (3) Elective (course varies)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total: 1 – 9 credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total: 1 – 9 credits</strong></td>
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* Predoctoral internship must be at an APA-accredited APPIC-member training site.

### COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

#### a. General Core (18 hrs)
- PSY 710 Theories of Personality (3 hrs): *consideration of the major theoretical orientations concerning personality and the evidential basis for each.*
- PSY 711 Learning and Cognition (3 hrs): *Research and theory in human and animal learning, memory, and cognition.*
- PSY 712 Advanced Developmental Psychology (3 hrs): *A study of the biological, social, and cultural factors affecting human development. Cross-cultural perspectives will be emphasized.*
- PSY 713 Biological Psychology (3 hrs): *Physiological bases of learning and motivation; nervous system structure, function, and disorder in relation to behavior.*
- PSY 715 History and Systems (3 hrs): *Historical evolution of psychology from philosophical antecedents to the development of major systems and theories.*

#### b. Research Core (17 hrs)
- PSY 731 Advanced Statistics I (3 hrs): *Elements of probability theory, discrete and continuous random variables and their distributions, principles of estimation, hypothesis testing, introduction to regression and analysis of variance, computer applications.*
- PSY 732 Advanced Statistics II (3 hrs): *Advance topics in regression and analysis of variance, analysis of covariance, non-parametric procedures, and computer applications.*
- PSY 730 Research Methods (3 hrs): *An in-depth study of research methodology with*
emphasize on scientific thinking. The course covers basic within- and between-group experimental designs, mixed designs, single subject experiments, non-experimental research (correlational methods, case studies, meta-analysis) and program evaluation. Research ethics are stressed. Further, students are required to begin developing a topic for their second year paper.

- PSY 734 Psychometrics (3 hrs): Theories of measurement; evaluation of psychological assessment processes; test construction, validation, uses, problems, and social implications.
- PSY 700-01 Research Seminar (1 hr): Review and discussion of ongoing departmental research project; literature review of research topics of interest. The seminar is intended to assist the student in developing research ideas for implementation.
- PSY 700-02 APA Research Writing (1 hr): designed to enhance students’ ability to write technical documents (e.g., 2nd Year Paper, dissertation, manuscripts) and prepare manuscripts for submission to nationally recognized, peer-reviewed journals.
- PSY 733 Multivariate Methods I (3 hrs): Multivariate analysis of variance and covariance, canonical correlation, factor analysis, discriminant analysis, selected advanced topics.

C. Clinical Core (21 hrs)

- PSY 750 Ethics in Psychology (3 hrs): Professional and ethical issues affecting the practice of psychology. Focus will be on the development of sound ethical and professional standards in psychology practice, teaching, and research.
- PSY 740 Psychopathology (3 hrs): Etiology, epidemiology, and dynamics of behavior and personality disorders, theory, research, diagnosis and treatment. Introduction to DSM IV-TR as a diagnostic tool.
- PSY 751 Psychotherapy (3 hrs): Critical examination of principles, techniques, research, and theoretical models in psychotherapy.
- PSY 742 Cognitive Assessment (3 hrs): Administration and interpretation of major intelligence tests and other cognitive instruments. Interpretation and report writing are emphasized.
- PSY 743 Personality Assessment (3 hrs): Theoretical, conceptual and methodological aspects of objectives and projective personality assessment, integration of results into the written psychological test report.
- PSY 752 Behavior Therapy (3 hrs): Principles of behavior modification and their application in psychotherapy.
- PSY 753 Group Therapy (3 hrs): Therapeutic procedures for small clinical groups, dynamics of clinical groups.

D. Multicultural/Diversity Core (9 hrs)

- PSY 720 Cross-Cultural Psychology (3 hrs): An examination of research and practice regarding assessment and treatment of culturally diverse populations with particular emphasis on the cultural context of symptoms and causes of psychological disorders.
- PSY 722 Psychology in the Urban Environment (3 hrs): The city as an environment, personal space and territoriality, crowding, noise, crime, drugs, and other urban hazards. Special problems of minorities in urban setting.
- PSY 723 Psychology of Gender (3 hrs): Research and theory regarding gender differences and similarities.
- PSY 721 Psychology of African-Americans (3 hrs): A study of the psychological literature pertaining to the cultural, social, and political realities of African-Americans; a critical
Analysis of the development of Black Psychology and its contributions to clinical psychology.

e. Practica and Externships (20 hrs)
   - PSY 760 Clinical Practicum I (3 hrs): Supervised training experience in interviewing and cognitive assessment.
   - PSY 761 Clinical Practicum II (3 hrs): Supervised training and experience in personality assessment and psychotherapeutic procedures.
   - PSY 762 Clinical Practicum III (3 hrs): Supervised training and experience in psychodiagnostics and psychotherapy. This course requires a minimum of ten clock hours per week. The student is expected to become competent in interviewing, assessment, therapy, and case conceptualization.
   - PSY 735 Research Practicum I (variable credits 1 – 6 hrs): Supervised experience conducting a psychological research project. The student will review literature, conceptualize a research problem, formulate a research hypothesis and design a study to test it, execute the study, analyze the data, and write the second year paper.

f. Electives (minimum of 9 hrs) The student must take at least 3 of the following 12 courses:
   - PSY 771 Human Sexuality (3 hrs): Biological, psychological, social, and cultural bases of human sexuality. Diagnosis and treatment of sexual dysfunctions and disorders.
   - PSY 774 Group Processes (3 hrs): Large- and small-group dynamics, theory and research concerning minority/majority group relations.
   - PSY 772 Health Psychology (3 hrs): Psychological, social, and cultural factors related to physical and mental disorders; impact of life-style on health; significance of cultural values in diagnosis and treatment; clinical psychology in community health settings.
   - PSY 741 Psychopathology of Childhood and Adolescence (3 hrs): Patterns of maladjustment in childhood and adolescence with attention to the emotional, motivational, and intellectual consequence of cultural deprivation.
   - PSY 775 Marital and Family Therapy (3 hrs): A study of psychotherapeutic practice and theory applied in the treatment of families and couples.
   - PSY 744 Neuropsychological Assessment (3 hrs): Administration and interpretation of selected neuropsychological tests and batteries.
   - PSY 745 Forensic Psychology (3 hrs): Competency to stand trial, criminal responsibility, expert witnesses, jury dynamics, and other applications of psychology within the legal system.
   - PSY 775 Psychopharmacology (3 hrs): Physiological, psychological, and behavioral effects of psychoactive drugs with attention to those prescribed for psychiatric disorders. Role of the clinical psychologist in approaches combining drugs and psychotherapy.
   - PSY 777 Multivariate Methods II (3 hrs): Structural-equation models, log-linear models, and
selected advanced topics based on student needs and interests.

- PSY 770 Advanced Seminar (3 hrs): Evidenced-based information regarding entry into professional practice; theories of clinical supervision and supervisory roles; internship application and interview process; dissertation completion; clinical competency development.


h. Internship (2 hrs): PSY 799 Internship (variable credits 1 – 6 hrs): Internship in an APPIC-approved mental health setting. Prerequisite: All coursework, second year paper, clinical-competency examination, and dissertation proposal.

**RESEARCH AND CLINICAL MILESTONES**

**The Second Year Paper**

The Second Year Paper is scientific and empirical in nature and is derived from a true experimental, quasi-experimental, correlational, quantitative, or other research design. The paper on which this project is based includes components and content consistent with that of a published empirical manuscript. Satisfaction of the second-year paper guidelines is an educational endeavor as well as a developmental milestone. Moreover, this program requirement functions as an appropriate mechanism to prepare students for the challenges involved in the completion of a doctoral dissertation. Thus, completion of the scientific second year research project and scholarly second-year paper serves as sufficient preparation for the development of a doctoral dissertation proposal, the timely completion of the dissertation research, and the successful defense of the dissertation study. This paper should comply with the style rules of the sixth edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (referred to as the APA Manual). The development of the second-year project, the structure along with content of the second-year paper, and the future guidelines for meeting second-year paper requirements.

**Dissertation Research**

Each student is required to successfully complete a dissertation that focuses on a practical or theoretical area of clinical psychology. Traditionally, the dissertation represents an independent research project that demonstrates the student’s ability to survey, integrate, and evaluate literature relevant to the student’s project; to develop and implement a research strategy designed to investigate a question, problem, or hypothesis; and to organize, clearly communicate, and defend, in both written and oral form, results and their implications.

The Division of Graduate Studies will not accept or approve a dissertation without corresponding documentation that the research was reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Board prior to the start of the project.

**Clinical Training Requirements: Practicum and Externships**

The practicum and externship experiences are intended to provide the student with assessment and intervention experience prior to internship. Placements are within a variety of community treatment
settings and involve work with a diversity of clients and clinical problems.

Students register for Clinical Practica and also for faculty supervision. Agency placements and faculty supervision assignments for Externship are made by the DCT, who oversees the practica and externship process. Students must successfully complete practica training prior to completing the Clinical Competency Examination. Students required to repeat practica courses will also be required to work closely with their clinical supervisor by meeting on a biweekly basis. No student will begin a practicum if on probation for any reason, except with approval from the DCT for the specific purpose of retaking a previously failed practicum.

Predoctoral Internship

A major applied component of doctoral training is the predoctoral internship. All students, without exception, are required to successfully complete a 2,000-hour predoctoral internship. The predoctoral internship typically lasts about 12 months. Students that need more than the required amount of time to complete an internship must meet with the DCT and internship training director.

The student is primarily responsible for completing the predoctoral internship process, but he/she will receive a considerable amount of guidance from the DCT and other faculty. Students must only apply to APA-accredited predoctoral internships.

For more information contact:

Bryman Williams, Ph.D.
Director of Clinical Training
JSU Department of Psychology
1400 J. R. Lynch Street / Box 17500
Jackson, Mississippi 39217-350
Email: bryman.e.williams@jsums.edu
601-979-2371