

## Psychology

*Kevin Krycka, PsyD, Graduate Program Director*

Combining strong psychotherapeutic training with philosophical reflectiveness, the existential-phenomenological therapeutic psychology program offers students an interdisciplinary focus on the qualitative, experiential study of human life. By laying the foundations for therapeutic work, the program prepares students to enter the helping professions, and/or pursue doctoral studies. It proposes a humanistic model of understanding and working with people in-depth, respecting the complexity of human experience and drawing upon the wisdom accumulated by the long tradition of the humanities. It is informed by the philosophical traditions of existentialism, phenomenology and hermeneutics, and aims to be faithful to experience by setting aside theoretical prejudgments in order to understand persons existing in their situations.

### Admission Requirements

Applicants provide the following for consideration:

- Completed Application for Graduate Admission form and a non-refundable \$55 application fee (waived for Seattle University alumni)
- Evidence of four-year equivalent bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution.
- Minimum 3.00 GPA calculated from official transcripts of all post-secondary educational institutions attended in the last 90 quarter/60 semester credits of your bachelor's degree, including any transfer credits earned during this time, and any post-baccalaureate course work. Applicants earning a bachelor's degree from a non-graded institution must submit official GRE scores in lieu of GPA.
- Evidence of completion of the following six psychology courses: introduction to psychology, statistics, research methods in a social science, growth and development, abnormal psychology, theories of personality—ordinarily the equivalent of a minor in psychology, using the MAP Prerequisite form supplied.
- Beginning understanding of existential and phenomenological philosophy/psychology. A suggested list of readings related to the orientation of the program is on file in the department and is available to interested persons
- Prior to admission, experience, either paid or volunteer, in the areas of counseling or human services (600 hours related experience) as noted in the autobiography below
- Autobiography (minimum of at least six pages) including, but not limited to, information on the applicant's present and future interests in psychology. Essay should be sufficiently specific to give concrete sense of applicant's personal, as well as vocational and intellectual development. Include account of work or volunteer experiences, influential courses or readings, interest in this program and orientation, and especially personal events and changes that furthered the interest in psychology and the therapeutic process and relationship.
- Three letters of recommendation; no forms required
- Writing sample, such as an undergraduate paper
- If English is not applicant's native language, official English proficiency scores meeting the university's entrance requirements must be submitted. See policy 2008-01 in Admissions Policies for details.
- Screened candidates will be invited for an interview, either in person or by telephone.

For a complete application packet and instructions contact graduate admissions at (206) 296-2000. For specific questions regarding the program of study, contact the department at (206) 296-5400.

**NOTE:** We regard one's personal experience in psychotherapy, either prior to entering the program and/or before graduation, as extremely valuable. While in this program, students are not allowed to do psychotherapy as private practitioners.

Master of Arts in Psychology (MAP)

## **Master of Arts in Psychology**

[Click here for objectives](#)

Degree Requirements:

This is ordinarily a full-time, two-year program; students typically carry 9 to 10 credits each quarter of their first year, 9 credits in summer quarter, and 11-12 credits each quarter in their second year.

Seventy-two credit hours, including:

### I. MAP Program Requirements

46 credits, including:

- PSYC 501 - Phenomenology of the Face
- PSYC 503 - Madness and Society
- PSYC 505 - Desperate Styles
- PSYC 523 - Issues in Psychotherapy
- PSYC 527 - Ethics and Phenomenology
- PSYC 533 - Therapeutic Communication
- PSYC 541 - World of the Clinic
- PSYC 543 - Basic Practicum in Therapeutic Psychology I
- PSYC 544 - Basic Practicum in Therapeutic Psychology II
- PSYC 545 - Basic Practicum in Therapeutic Psychology III
- PSYC 547 - Clinical Supervision I
- PSYC 548 - Clinical Supervision II
- PSYC 549 - Clinical Supervision III
- PSYC 563 - Integration Paper

### II. Other Requirements

- Approved PSYC electives (26)

NOTE:

With permission, a student may take up to six credits total from the following: graduate courses from other SU programs; independent study courses; 400-level SU undergraduate courses; graduate credit from another university. Program director approval is required to accept graduate courses from other SU programs and/or independent study courses; approval by petition is required to accept 400-level SU undergraduate courses and/or graduate credit from another university. Minimum credits required for degree: (72)

### **PSYC 501 - Phenomenology of the Face**

**3 credit hours** Introduction to existential-phenomenological philosophy and psychology for therapeutic practice. Existential phenomenology helps us ethically understand other people in face-to-face situations: the paradox that "the face" presented both reveals and conceals the meanings of the other person. Majors or permission of instructor.. (fall).

### **PSYC 503 - Madness and Society**

**3 credit hours** Introduction to disturbances labeled schizophrenia, bipolar, and borderline. Focus is on understanding the lived experience of the severely disturbed, an exploration of possible developmental roots of such styles of being and the implication for psychotherapy. Prerequisite: PSYC 505, Majors or permission of instructor. (spring)

### **PSYC 505 - Desperate Styles**

**3 credit hours** The articulation of a phenomenologically and clinically based perspective for understanding disturbed behavior, with an emphasis on neurotic (anxiety) disorder. Issues in diagnosis (e.g., the DSM-IV) and therapy will also be given considerable attention. Majors or permission of instructor. (fall)

### **PSYC 511 - Family**

**3 credit hours** Exposure to historical, social and cultural perspectives of the family and contemporary thought on the roles and relationships within the family. A look at the challenges which face the family structure today and an introduction to the current therapeutic approaches. Permission of instructor, winter.

### **PSYC 513 - Phenomenological Research**

**3 credit hours** The course is both didactic and experiential. It focuses on the development of research questions, the nature of experiential data, interviewing, approaches to analyzing data, writing research reports as well as the theory and practice of small group collaborative (dialogal) research. Graduate student or permission of instructor. (summer)  
focuses on the development of research questions, the nature of experiential data, interviewing, approaches to analyzing data, writing research reports as well as the theory and practice of small group collaborative (dialogal) research. Graduate student or permission of instructor. (summer)

### **PSYC 523 - Issues in Psychotherapy**

**3 credit hours** Exploration of dream interpretation, unconscious phenomena, transference and countertransference, the healing relationship and other key issues in psychotherapy from an experiential as well as conceptual perspective. Permission of instructor, winter.

### **PSYC 525 - Self Psychology**

**3 credit hours** The clinical writings of Heinz Kohut and his students, as well as psychotherapy with clients with so-called difficult narcissistic and borderline problems, will be discussed. Self-psychology prizes empathy, listening from within the experiential world of the client, and understanding and utilizing countertransference. Majors or permission of instructor. (spring)

### **PSYC 526 - Trauma**

**3 credit hours** This course explores current understandings of psychological trauma and approaches to its treatment. Course materials consist of readings in clinical theory, case histories, personal narratives and documentary sources. Although discussions and activities will primarily be rooted in existential and dynamic perspectives on trauma, we will examine as well cultural psychological, feminist and cognitive contributions to work with trauma survivors. The course is restricted to graduate MAP students.

### **PSYC 527 - Ethics and Phenomenology**

**3 credit hours** A search for the ethical ground for understanding pathology and therapy. A claim that Western philosophical egocentrism contributes to the narcissism of modern pathologies. A review of the philosophy of Emmanuel Levinas, suggests that the center of the true self is not in the individual self, but in the responsible concerns for others. Majors or permission of instructor. (spring)

### **PSYC 533 - Therapeutic Communication**

**3 credit hours** Principal focus is on listening to, understanding and responding to another, as well as self, in the interview process. Essentially an experiential course designed to explore the meaning of attending to relationship in therapeutic settings. Majors only, graded CR/F. (spring)

### **PSYC 535 - Phenomenology of Therapeutic Change**

**3 credit hours** Exploration of the different meanings of helping and change in a therapeutic relationship. Reflection on various models of the healer and experiential work on one's own motives, expectations and needs as therapists. Graded CR/F. (fall)

### **PSYC 541 - World of the Clinic**

**3 credit hours** This course provides a critical examination of the American mental health system. Perspectives taken include those from history, sociology, anthropology, philosophy, and psychology. Emphasis on the evolution of mental health care from the 19th to 21st centuries, and how student practicum sites fit or not within the larger mental health system, past and present. Co-requisite PSYC 543. Majors or permission of the Instructor. (fall)

### **PSYC 543 - Basic Practicum in Therapeutic Psychology I**

**6 credit hours** Offered as a series; each course provides a minimum of 200 hours on-site supervised practicum experience in agencies providing psychological service; weekly group case consultation with a faculty member, as well as individual consultation as needed. Ordinarily students are not allowed to get their practicum experience at agencies where they are working as staff. Majors only, graded CR/F. PSYC 543 (fall); PSYC 544 (winter); PSYC 545 (spring)

### **PSYC 544 - Basic Practicum in Therapeutic Psychology II**

**6 credit hours** Offered as a series; each course provides a minimum of 200 hours on-site supervised practicum experience in agencies providing psychological service; weekly group case consultation with a faculty member, as well as individual consultation as needed. Ordinarily students are not allowed to get their practicum experience at agencies where they are working as staff. Majors only, graded CR/F. PSYC 543 (fall); PSYC 544 (winter); PSYC 545 (spring)

### **PSYC 545 - Basic Practicum in Therapeutic Psychology III**

**6 credit hours** Offered as a series; each course provides a minimum of 200 hours on-site supervised practicum experience in agencies providing psychological service; weekly group case consultation with a faculty member, as well as individual consultation as needed. Ordinarily students are not allowed to get their practicum experience at agencies where they are working as staff. Majors only, graded CR/F, PSYC 543 (fall); PSYC 544 (winter); PSYC 545 (spring).

### **PSYC 547 - Clinical Supervision I**

**2 credit hours** Offered as a series taken concurrently with PSYC 543, 544, and 545; each course provides 2 hours of on-campus supervised experience of work with off-campus practicum clients. Students present clinical cases, receive feedback on their work, and write a detailed clinical analysis. Closed to non-matriculated students. Majors only, graded CR/F. PSYC 547 (fall); PSYC 548 (winter); PSYC 549 (spring).

### **PSYC 548 - Clinical Supervision II**

**2 credit hours** Offered as a series taken concurrently with PSYC 543, 544, and 545; each course provides 2 hours of on-campus supervised experience of work with off-campus practicum clients. Students present clinical cases, receive

feedback on their work, and write a detailed clinical analysis. Closed to non-matriculated students. Majors only, graded CR/F. PSYC 547 (fall); PSYC 548 (winter); PSYC 549 (spring).

### **PSYC 549 - Clinical Supervision III**

**2 credit hours** Offered as a series taken concurrently with PSYC 543, 544, and 545; each course provides 2 hours of on-campus supervised experience of work with off-campus practicum clients. Students present clinical cases, receive feedback on their work, and write a detailed clinical analysis. Closed to non-matriculated students. Majors only, graded CR/F. PSYC 547 (fall); PSYC 548 (winter); PSYC 549 (spring).

### **PSYC 551 - Hermeneutics: Interpretive Foundations of Non-Behavioral Psychology**

**3 credit hours** Philosophical study for practical decision making in therapeutic practice. A focus on the interpretive structure of human existence whereby meaning is constituted, and the philosophical ground of the activity of understanding oneself and others, which discloses itself in conversation. Majors or permission of instructor. (winter)

### **PSYC 563 - Integration Paper**

**1 credit hour** Completion of a written work on a chosen theme that integrates academic course work and practicum experience. Majors only, graded CR/F

### **PSYC 591 - Special Topics**

**1 to 3 credit hours**

### **PSYC 592 - Special Topics**

**1 to 3 credit hours**

### **PSYC 593 - Special Topics**

**1 to 3 credit hours**

### **PSYC 595 - Internship**

**1 to 3 credit hours**

**PSYC 596 - Independent Study**

**1 to 3 credit hours** A student may take up to six credits of independent study with approval.