

# MASTER OF ARTS HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY

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**California State University, Dominguez Hills**

**Department of Psychology**

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### **Thank you for choosing the MA in Psychology Program at CSUDH!**

*Note: Admission into programs leading to licensure and credentialing does not guarantee that students will obtain a license or credential. Licensure and credentialing requirements are set by agencies that are not controlled by or affiliated with the CSU and requirements can change at any time. For example, licensure or credentialing requirements can include evidence of the right to work in the United States (e.g., social security number or tax-payer identification number) or successfully passing a criminal background check. Students are responsible for determining whether they can meet licensure or credentialing requirements. The CSU will not refund tuition, fees, or any associated costs, to students who determine subsequent to admission that they cannot meet licensure or credentialing requirements. Information concerning licensure and credentialing requirements are available from Karen Carpenter, 1000 E Victoria St, Carson, CA 90747 310-243-3353*



## Master of Arts in Psychology

At CSUDH, we offer two tracks for our MA in Psychology – Clinical and Health. Both options provide students with a solid academic background by giving them an opportunity to complete advanced coursework and further develop their research skills by working closely with a faculty mentor on a research project or thesis. A wide variety of practicum sites are available for students to learn about direct service provision to clients, employees, and patients for students pursuing the clinical psychology option. The MA in Psychology program is designed for students who want to strengthen their academic record in preparation for applying to doctoral programs. Others choose to begin careers in industry, mental health, community agency and education settings.

### Health Psychology Option (MAHP)

The Health Psychology Option will provide students with a solid academic background in health psychology. This specialized track is designed to meet the professional needs of college graduates who plan careers in community health and other health care settings such as rehabilitation centers, primary care centers and hospices. In addition, students enrolled in the Health Psychology Option will learn how to promote wellness in individuals and within organizations, and how to evaluate the effectiveness of prevention and treatment programs. The goal of concentrated study in health psychology is to provide the student with an understanding of the relationships among biological, psychological, and social factors as they interact to influence mental and physical health. This goal is accomplished through an integrated program of coursework and research training. Students can earn up to 3 units of credit per semester for directed research (PSY 598) and thesis research (PSY 599). Our graduate students have been very successful securing funding for their graduate studies through several opportunities at California State University, Dominguez: Graduate Studies and Research travel fellowships, Graduate Equity Fellowship, PEGS RA/TA fellowships, and PEGS travel fellowships.

In the Psychology M.A. (Health Psychology track) the student is required to complete 36 units of credit. In addition, the student must successfully complete a thesis.

Admission Application Deadline is **February 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:59PM PST**. Any application after this deadline will not be considered.

Prospective students should use The Cal State Apply Application to apply to either the Clinical or Health Psychology option. Students must apply on or before February 1<sup>st</sup> to be considered for admission. Due to processing times, we strongly recommend that you complete your Cal State Apply application and submit official transcripts at least four weeks in advance of the department's February 1<sup>st</sup> application deadline.

## **ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS**

1. Bachelor's degree from a fully accredited institution of higher education
2. At least a 3.0 GPA or "B" average in the last 60-90 semester units attempted
3. Official transcripts from all previously attended institutions must be received at Office of Admissions by the Application due date. Please note that official transcripts submitted must reflect grades earned through the Fall 2023 term and not courses "In Progress." *Courses "In Progress" may appear for the Spring 2024 term.*
4. Successful completion of the following undergraduate courses or their equivalent, with at least a "B" average:
  - PSY 230 Elementary Statistical Analysis in Psychology (3)
  - PSY 235 Introduction to Research Methods (3)
  - PSY 330 Behavioral Statistics and Research Design (3) **or**  
*PSY 331 Measurement in Psychology (3)*
  - PSY 363 The Abnormal Personality (3)
  - PSY 370 Health Psychology (3) **or** *coursework in biological psychology*
5. Unofficial Copy of Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) Scores General Test (*Not Required but Optional for Fall 2024 Admission Only*)
6. Special consideration concerning the waiving of some of the above requirements is possible (e.g., if the student has had extensive previous experience in the community or clinical area)

## **ADMISSION INTO THE PROGRAM**

The Cal State Apply Application will be used to admit both Clinical and Health Psychology option students. Students must apply on or before **February 1<sup>st</sup>** to be considered for admissions. Due to processing times, we strongly recommend that you complete your Cal State Apply application and submit official transcripts at least four weeks in advance of the department's February 1<sup>st</sup> application deadline.

Below is a checklist of all the supplemental documents that you will need to upload and submit online.

Students will apply to and submit all materials via Cal State Apply:

<https://www2.calstate.edu/apply/graduate>

### **How to search for the MA in Psychology program on Cal State Apply**

Type of Degree: Master's Degree or Higher

- Campus: CSU Dominguez Hills
- Start Term: Fall
- Source: Campus
- Program Name:
  - Psychology - Health Psychology

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS**

***All materials must be uploaded and submitted to Cal State Apply by February 1<sup>st</sup>***

#### ○ **Personal Statement**

All applicants are expected to provide a personal statement. This statement should cover the following topics:

1. Present area(s) of interest in Psychology
2. Past research and/or other relevant experience
3. Strengths and weaknesses in your preparation for graduate-level work
4. Career and educational goals
  - If applicable to the individual student, optional discussion points also include why you want to become a health psychologist and whether you have any special skills for working with specific populations.
  - Given that health psychology applicants are required to complete an empirical thesis as a culminating experience, please identify CSUDH faculty whom you would be interested in doing research with.
    - <https://www.csudh.edu/psychology/faculty-research-labs/>

#### ○ **CV/Resume**

- The CV/Resume should document relevant academic experiences as well as work and research experience.

#### ○ **Unofficial Transcripts of all institutions previously attend**

- In the "Documents" tab, you will be asked to submit unofficial transcripts. Please note that this is labeled as "optional", however, **it is highly recommended that you upload your unofficial transcripts of all institutions attended. Transcripts must reflect grades earned through the Fall 2023 term** and course 'In-Progress' for the Spring 2024 term.

Failure to submit unofficial transcripts within the “Documents” tab of this application will greatly delay review of your application.

- Please submit one PDF file containing all unofficial transcripts from all institutions attended. This PDF file can include more than one institution.
- **Unofficial Copy or Graduate Record Examinations Scores (Not Required but Optional for Fall 2024 Admission)**
  - Due to COVID19, students submitting applications to our MA Psychology Graduate Program for the Fall 2024 will not be required to take the GRE or submit a score report. Students who would like to submit GRE test scores may do so, and these will be reviewed as part of their application package. However, it should be noted that applications including GRE scores will not be weighted more heavily than applications that did not include a GRE report.
  - Students may voluntarily upload an official photocopy of their GRE report for Verbal, Quantitative and Analytical Writing portions.
- **One Writing Sample**
  - Upload a document that reflects your best work in terms of written communication and ability for critical thinking. This written sample does not need to be in psychology and should range approximately between 3-10 pages in length.
- **Three Letters of Recommendations (submitted online through Cal State Apply)**
  - Master’s degree applicants are required to submit a minimum of 3 letters of recommendation with at least two from academic experts (professors) who can speak to the candidate’s academic preparation for graduate school and/or aptitude for work or research in health psychology. Additional letters may be included but are not required. All letters must be submitted online via the Cal State Apply Recommendation portal.
  - For each recommender, you will be able to type a personal message which will be included in the email sent to your recommender. Please copy and paste the following message into the “Personal Message/Notes” field for each recommender. You are welcome to include additional information in the message but at a minimum must include the following statement:
    - “Thank you for your willingness to provide a recommendation for CSUDH’s MA in Psychology program. Please offer your candid assessment about the candidate’s academic preparation for graduate school and/or aptitude for clinical work or research in clinical and health psychology.”
  - Once you have saved an electronic recommendation, an email request will automatically be sent to the recommender on your behalf. Please advise your recommender to look for this email in their inbox, as well as their spam or junk mail folder, as emails do occasionally get filtered out.

## OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS

All official transcripts must be submitted to The Office of Admissions.

Official transcripts from all previously attended institutions **must be received at Office of Admissions and posted by the Document Deadline of February 1<sup>st</sup>** in order for your application to be reviewed. Please note that official transcripts submitted **must reflect grades earned through the Fall 2023 term and courses "In Progress" for Spring 2024.** Transcripts submitted with courses "In Progress" for Fall 2023 will delay review of the application. **Electronic official transcripts from domestic institutions are encouraged and preferred.**

Please send **official transcripts** to mailing address below:

CSU Dominguez Hills  
Office of Admissions  
1000 E. Victoria Street, WH-290  
Carson, CA 90747

### **Classified Standing and Conditionally Classified Standing**

Only students who have met all requirements as noted under *Admission Procedures - M.A. Programs* for the Psychology Department will be considered for admission into the M.A. in Psychology Program with Classified Standing.

Students who lack some of the admission requirements *may* be considered for admission into the program with Conditionally Classified Standing. This would allow them to enroll in the University to correct their deficiencies, and also permit them to take up to nine semester units of graduate coursework which could apply toward their degree if and when Classified Standing has been established. Please note that admission to Conditionally Classified Standing does not assure that a student will achieve Classified Standing in the program.

### **Advancement to Candidacy**

A student must be advanced to candidacy before enrolling in PSY 599 Thesis (1-3). The requirements for advancement to candidacy are as follows:

1. Classified Standing in the Psychology M.A.
2. Completion of a minimum of 24 semester units of required courses.
3. Completion of the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement.
4. Approved Program of Study.
5. A cumulative GPA of 3.0 in all courses taken as a graduate student.
6. No grade lower than a "C" in the degree program.



**Degree Requirements (36 Units)****A. Required Courses (33 units)**

PSY 520	Seminar in Psychopharmacology (3)
PSY 530	Advanced Analysis of Variance and Multivariate Techniques (3)
PSY 535	Advanced Research Methods (3)
PSY 555	Psychology and Aging (3)
PSY 563	Seminar in Psychopathology (3)
PSY 570	Community Psychology (3)
PSY 574	Practicum: Diversity Issues in Clinical and Health Psychology (3)
PSY 575	Theories of Health and Behavior (3)
PSY 576	Seminar in Health Psychology Research (3)
PSY 585	Neuropsychology (3)
PSY 599	Thesis (3)

**B. Select one course from the following (3 units)**

PSY 550	Seminar in Developmental Psychology (3)
PSY 564	Advanced Psychotherapy Techniques (3)
PSY 565	Psychology of Clinical Groups (3)
PSY 567	Individual Assessment (3)
PSY 595	Selected Topics (3)
PSY 597	Directed Reading (3)
PSY 598	Directed Research (3)

**C. Additional program requirements include:**

1. Completion of the Graduate Writing Competency requirement within two semesters of admission to the program.
2. Students must write a thesis as the culminating experience for awarding the degree Master of Arts in Psychology (Health Psychology).
3. In addition to the major requirements, students must meet all university requirements for the master's degree indicated in the section of the catalog entitled "Graduate Degrees and Postbaccalaureate Studies."

## Pre-Requisites Course Descriptions

### **PSY 230 Elementary Statistical Analysis in Psychology (3).**

The application of descriptive and inferential statistics to the design and analysis of psychological research.

### **PSY 235 Introduction to Research Methods (3).**

Prerequisite: PSY 230 or MAT 131.

Examination of the design, conduct and interpretation of research studies, both experimental and non-experimental, as demonstrated in a wide range of psychological phenomena. Includes a consideration of philosophy of science and preparation of research reports. Two hours of lecture and three hours of laboratory per week.

### **PSY 330 Intermediate Statistics and Research Design (3).**

Prerequisite: PSY 230 or MAT 131.

The applications of statistical techniques to problems in the behavioral sciences. Discussion of problems in hypothesis formulation, sampling techniques, distribution-free statistics, multivariate data analysis, and presentation of results. Two hours of lecture and two hours of laboratory per week.

### **PSY 331 Measurement in Psychology (3).**

Prerequisite: PSY 230 or MAT 131.

Fundamentals of psychological measurement. Reliability, validity, item analysis, norms, and test construction and selection. Experience in administering, scoring, and interpreting tests of intelligence, aptitude, and personality. Two hours of lecture and two hours of laboratory per week.

### **PSY 363 Abnormal Psychology (3).**

The causes and manifestations of abnormal behavior. Field study and case study.

### **PSY 370 Health Psychology (3).**

Prerequisite: PSY 101.

Survey of the major findings and theories from the field of health psychology. Includes consideration of psychological, social, and cultural effects on health.

### **Biological Psychology or related courses**

Introduction to the study of behavior from a biological point of view. Biological systems and processes underlying behavior, with emphasis on brain mechanisms, presented in the context of fundamental concepts and issues in psychology.

# Frequently Asked Questions for M.A. in Psychology Program

## 1. HOW DO I APPLY?

Prospective applicants can complete an application through the Cal State Apply website located at: <https://www2.calstate.edu/apply/graduate>.

## 2. WHEN IS THE APPLICATION DEADLINE?

Applications are due **February 1<sup>st</sup>** for entrance into the Fall cohort.

All supporting documents must be submitted and received by this date:

- Personal Statement
- Resume/CV
- Official & unofficial transcripts
- Official & unofficial copy of GRE scores
- Three Letters of Recommendation
- One Writing Sample

## 3. IS THERE A GPA MINIMUM REQUIREMENT?

Potential applicants must have at least a 3.0 GPA or “B” average in the last 60-90 semester units attempted (excluding lower division and extension units). Also, applicants must have at least a “B” average in all lower and upper division pre-requisites.

## 4. DO I NEED TO TAKE THE GRE? WHAT ARE THE SCORE REQUIREMENTS?

- Due to the Covid-19, students submitting applications to our MA Psychology Graduate Program for the Fall 2024 will not be required to take GRE or submit a score report. Students who would like to submit GRE test scores may do so, and these will be reviewed as part of their application package. However, it should be noted that applications including GRE scores will not be weighted more heavily than applications that did not include a GRE report.
- Students may voluntarily upload an unofficial photocopy of their GRE report for verbal, quantitative and analytical writing portions.
- There are no minimum score cut-offs for the GRE.

## 5. WHAT ARE THE UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENT CODES FOR THE GRE?

The code for CSUDH is 4098. The department code for clinical psychology is 2001.

## 6. HOW MANY LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION ARE REQUIRED?

Master’s degree candidates are required to submit a minimum of 3 letters of recommendation with at least two from academic experts (professors) who can speak to the candidate’s academic preparation for graduate school and/or aptitude for work or research in clinical or health psychology. Additional letters may be included but are not required.

## 7. DOES THE PSYCHOLOGY OFFICE ACCEPT LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION?

No, the Psychology Department does not accept letters of recommendation. All letters must be submitted via the Cal State Apply recommendation portal.

**8. WHEN WILL I BE NOTIFIED IF I HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED INTO THE PROGRAM?**

The Department of Psychology will notify applicants recommended for acceptance to Admissions Office beginning in April.

**9. IF ACCEPTED INTO THE PROGRAM, CAN I ATTEND PART-TIME?**

Yes, it is possible to attend part-time.

**10. WHERE DO I SEND MY OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS?**

All official transcripts must be submitted to the Office of Admissions

Please send **official transcripts** to mailing address below:

CSU Dominguez Hills  
Office of Admissions  
1000 E. Victoria Street, WH-290  
Carson, CA 90747

**11. WHAT ARE THE PRE-REQUISITIES FOR THE [CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY \(MACP\)](#) OPTION?**

Successful completion of the following undergraduate course or their equivalent with at least a "B" average.

- PSY 230 Elementary Statistics (3)
- PSY 235 Research Methods (3)
- PSY 330 Behavioral Statistics and Research Design (3)  
*or* PSY 331 Measurement in Psychology (3)
- PSY 360 Theories of Personality (3)
- PSY 363 The Abnormal Personality (3)
- PSY 464 Introduction to Clinical Psychology (3)

**12. WHAT ARE THE PRE-REQUISITES FOR THE [HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY \(MAHP\)](#) OPTION?**

Successful completion of the following undergraduate course or their equivalent with at least a "B" average.

- PSY 230 Elementary Statistics (3)
- PSY 235 Research Methods (3)
- PSY 330 Behavioral Statistics and Research Design (3)  
*or* PSY 331 Measurement in Psychology (3)
- PSY 363 The Abnormal Personality (3)
- PSY 370 Health Psychology (3) or biological psychology coursework

**13. WILL I BE ELIGIBLE FOR A LICENSING AFTER I COMPLETE THE PROGRAM?**

The MA in Clinical Psychology has a path to licensure available to students who wish to pursue the Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC) license. Students may opt to complete the MA (33 units) and not pursue licensure or complete additional specified coursework in the amount of 63 units which will allow them to pursue the LPCC after graduation. This course plan is designed to meet the requirements of California Code, Business Professions Code (BPC) section 4999.33. The structure of the LPCC option is that students would complete the requirements for the MA in psychology (clinical option) **and** an additional 30 units to complete courses required for the LPCC. *Students who are not interested in pursuing licensure would only need to complete the requirements for the MA degree (33 units for clinical).* Pursuit of licensure is optional and not required for the degree. Students must complete all coursework and the supervised clinical practicum requirement (minimum of 280 clinical face-to-face hours) for the LPCC prior to graduation. *Students may not graduate with the MA in Clinical Psychology and then return to complete additional requirements for the LPCC.*

**14. WHAT IS THE LENGTH OF THE PROGRAM?**

- For Clinical Psychology: The program is designed to take 2 years to complete. Students must complete 30 units of coursework and 550 supervised clinical hours.
- For Clinical Psychology with LPCC option: The program is designed to take 3 years for full time students.
- For Health Psychology: The program is designed to take 2 to 2 ½ years to complete, pending completion of approved thesis.

**15. HOW MUCH DOES THE PROGRAM TUITION AND HOUSING COST?**

- Academic Year tuition and other mandatory fees: <https://www.csudh.edu/accounting-services/student-financial-services/term-fees-information>
- Housing Costs: <https://www.csudh.edu/housing/rental-fees/>