



SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

Graduate Clinical Psychology Program



Program Goals

We seek to train top clinicians in the field to serve clients from a variety of cultural backgrounds with varied clinical problems and value community-based psychotherapy from an evidence-based practice approach.

Masters Degree Offered

Masters of Science (MS) in Clinical Psychology (60 semester units)

Current Total Cost

\$19,868 total for 4 semesters at \$4967 each (for California residents; additional fees for non-residents). This is for the 2024-25 academic year.

MFT License Options

Post-degree, graduates can apply for the Marriage Family Therapist (**MFT**) license. As of Fall 2025, we will no longer be offering a track for LPCC licensure.

Deadlines

Deadline for all submitted materials **February 1**. Application portal is open through CalStateApply beginning October 1 (<https://www2.calstate.edu/apply>). All material is reviewed after February 1 to begin Fall semester.

Two years of Full-time Study

We only accept students into **full-time study**. The current MFT track takes **two years** to complete all degree requirements to become a post-degree registered intern. Students enroll in 5 courses per semester, and these courses are taken in a set sequence.

Admissions Requirements

- A. Meet all University graduate admissions requirements
- B. **Baccalaureate degree** (BA or BS) in Psychology OR any baccalaureate degree (BA or BS) and a minimum of **30 semester units** in **Psychology** (45 quarter units)
- C. Have taken the **REQUIRED six courses** in psychology (included in minimum 30 units)
 1. General or Introduction to Psychology [lower division]
 2. Elementary Statistics [lower division]
 3. Introduction to Research Methods [lower division]
 4. Psychobiology, neuropsychology or equivalent [lower division]
 5. Child or Adult Psychopathology (aka Abnormal Psychology) [upper division]
 6. Clinical Psychology or Theory and Methods of Counseling [upper division]
- D. Minimum **GPA of 3.0 in all psychology coursework**
- E. Minimum **GPA of 3.0 in last 60 semester units** (90 quarter units) of academic work attempted
- F. Minimum of **100 hours of applied clinical experience** (paid or volunteer) working with persons in a counseling/helping capacity having been trained and supervised in an intervention
- G. **Three letters of recommendation** are required
 - a. One reference **MUST** be from a **clinical supervisor**, and one must be from a **professor or instructor**
 - b. Additional reference(s) may come from former instructors or from clinical supervisors

Visit us at

sjsu.edu/psych/Graduates/clinicalProgram

Additional Requirements

Proficient writing in English is required by both the University and the Clinical program (see below for Graduate Writing Assessment Requirement).

An English Language Proficiency Exam is often required for international students or those who earned their degree from a university outside of the United States. Please note that the scores required for the MS Clinical program are detailed at the bottom of this website: <https://www.sjsu.edu/admissions/graduate/admission-requirements/test-requirements/#higher-elp-test-scores>

More about the Applied Clinical Experience Requirement

In order to help ensure your interest in serving clinical populations and evaluate your readiness for our graduate program, we require you to have applied clinical experience in order to apply for admission (see below for detailed information).

In fact, one of your letters of recommendation **must** be from a supervisor who can write about your clinical experience.

You **MUST** have at least **100 hours of applied clinical experience before you apply** to the program (either volunteer or paid experience is acceptable). This number of hours will allow you to be trained (training hours count toward that 100) and to engage in some amount of supervised intervention so that your supervisor can write a letter evaluating your skills.

Your volunteer or paid clinical experience must be with clinical populations in a mental health setting. This does not mean you are providing psychotherapy; it does mean that you are working around populations with psychological distress or psychopathology.

Examples of these types of positions include working for a crisis call center, grief counseling center, domestic violence shelter, rape crisis center, working with children or adolescents facing mental health challenges and/or developmental disabilities (e.g., autism), and others. You must be doing this work after having been trained **AND** while a mental health professional supervises you. Note that we require at least one letter of recommendation from a clinical supervisor in addition to the two other required letters.

In the Santa Clara Valley area, some examples of agencies that provide on-going supervision include the YWCA Rape Crisis center, Bill Wilson Center (their Center for Living with Dying and their Crisis Call Services), KARA (their grief support services) and Suicide and Crisis Call Services (SACS, through the County). Others opportunities include working with children diagnosed on the autism spectrum by being trained as behavioral specialists doing ABA interventions.

Teaching, tutoring, mentoring, office assistance, respite care, and babysitting do not count for this prerequisite experience, though we all agree these are good things to do and will provide you with valuable experience. The applied clinical experience must be delivering some type of mental health service that you have been trained to do and are supervised while conducting.