

PhD Program in Clinical Psychology

Consumer Disclosure Information

Educational Requirements for Licensure in Psychology

The Clinical Psychology PhD Program in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Northwestern University (referred to as the “Program”) makes every effort to provide education that is compliant with national standards and to prepare students to practice clinical psychology. As recognition of our compliance with national standards, our Program is accredited by the American Psychological Association.¹ The practice of psychology, however, is regulated at the state level. State licensing authorities, commonly referred to as “State Boards,” determine the specific educational and training requirements for licensure in their State. Of note, many States require post-doctoral training as well as examinations beyond educational and training requirements. As such, a PhD degree from our Program in Clinical Psychology is not sufficient, in and of itself, to meet licensure requirements in most states.

If you are planning to pursue professional licensure or certification, it is strongly recommended that you contact the appropriate licensing entity in the state for which you are seeking licensure or certification to obtain information and guidance regarding licensure or certification requirements before beginning an academic program. Given that State requirements for licensure or certification vary and may change over time it is also strongly recommended that you review licensing or certification requirements as you get closer to seeking licensure or certification. You are encouraged to review the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards’ online tool, PsyBook (<https://www.asppb.net/page/psybook>), which summarizes requirements for most states and territories. You are also encouraged to confirm state licensing requirements directly with the state for which you are interested in seeking licensure or certification.

Northwestern University, to the best of its ability, determined that the curriculum offered by our Program meets – or does **not** meet – the educational requirements for licensure or certification to practice psychology in each of the States listed in Table 1. For States in which the Program’s educational offerings do not meet a specific State’s requirements for licensure or certification, students may be required to obtain alternate, different, or more courses, or more experiential or clinical hours required. These findings are accurate, to the best of our ability, as of August 1, 2020.

¹ For further information about APA accreditation or specific information about the accreditation status of our PhD program, please contact Jacqueline Remonet Wall, PhD Director, Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation American Psychological Association 750 First Street, NE Washington, DC 20002-4242 202-336-5979, <http://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation>.

Table 1

This table specifies if, based on the available information available as of August 1, 2020, the Clinical Psychology PhD Program in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine satisfies the curricular requirements for licensing in each state. Please note that this table does not include an evaluation of state-specific requirements beyond that of educational or curricular requirements.				
State	Program Satisfies Curricular Requirements?			State Professional Association or License Authority and Notes
	Yes	No	Unable to Determine	
1. Alabama	X			http://www.psychology.alabama.gov/default.aspx
2. Alaska	X			https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardofPsychologists.aspx
3. Arizona	X			https://psychboard.az.gov/
4. Arkansas	X			https://psychologyboard.arkansas.gov/
5. California		X		https://www.psychology.ca.gov/ Although a doctoral degree in Clinical is required, additional coursework or experience beyond what is routinely offered at the Clinical Psychology PhD Program at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine may be required in California, including pre-license curriculum or training in: human sexuality (10 contact hours); alcoholism/chemical dependency detection and treatment (one semester or quarter); child abuse assessment (7 hours); spousal/partner abuse, detection and intervention strategies (15 contact hours); aging and long-term care (10 contact hours).
6. Colorado	X			https://dpo.colorado.gov/Psychology
7. Connecticut	X			https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Public-Health-Hearing-Office/Board-of-Examiners-of-Psychologists/Board-of-Examiners-of-Psychologists
8. Delaware	X			https://dpr.delaware.gov/boards/psychology/
9. District of Columbia	X			https://dchealth.dc.gov/service/psychology-licensing
10. Florida	X			https://floridaspsychology.gov/
11. Georgia	X			https://sos.ga.gov/index.php/licensing/plb/44
12. Hawaii	X			http://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/boards/psychology/
13. Idaho	X			https://ibol.idaho.gov/IBOL/BoardPage.aspx?Bureau=PSY
14. Illinois	X			https://www.idfpr.com/profs/psych.asp
15. Indiana	X			https://www.in.gov/pla/psych.htm
16. Iowa	X			https://www.idph.iowa.gov/Licensure/Iowa-Board-of-Psychology
17. Kansas	X			https://ksbsrb.ks.gov/
18. Kentucky	X			http://psy.ky.gov/Pages/default.aspx
19. Louisiana	X			http://www.lsbep.org/
20. Maine	X			https://www.maine.gov/pfr/professionallicensing/professions/psychologists/
21. Maryland	X			https://health.maryland.gov/psych/Pages/Home.aspx
22. Massachusetts	X			https://www.mass.gov/orgs/board-of-registration-of-psychologists
23. Michigan	X			https://www.michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-89334_72600_72603_27529_27552---,00.html NOTE: Beginning in March 30, 2022, a one-time training in identifying victims of human trafficking must be completed before licensure

24. Minnesota	X			http://www.psychologyboard.state.mn.us/
25. Mississippi	X			https://www.psychologyboard.ms.gov/Pages/default.aspx
26. Missouri	X			https://pr.mo.gov/psychologists.asp
27. Montana	X			http://boards.bsd.dli.mt.gov/psy
28. Nebraska	X			http://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Psychology.aspx
29. Nevada	X			http://psyexam.nv.gov/
30. New Hampshire	X			https://www.oplc.nh.gov/psychologists/
31. New Jersey		X		<p>https://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/psy/</p> <p>In addition to a doctoral degree from an APA accredited program like the Clinical Psychology PhD Program at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, New Jersey requires the following breakdown of credits and topic areas (Note: 1.0 unit at Northwestern = 2.66 semester hours or 4 quarter credit hours):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six (6) semester credits in Personality Theory and Human Development Theory; • Six (6) semester credits in Learning Theory and/or Physiological Psychology; • Six (6) semester credits in Psychological Measurement and Psychological Assessment; • Six (6) semester credits in Psychopathology; • Six (6) semester credits in Psychological therapy/counseling or Industrial/Organizational Psychology; and • Six (6) semester credits in Research and Statistical Design
32. New Mexico	X			http://www.rld.state.nm.us/boards/Psychologist_Examiners.aspx
33. New York	X			<p>http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/psych/</p> <p>In addition to a doctoral degree from a program like the Clinical Psychology PhD Program at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, New York requires the following breakdown of credits and topic areas (Note: 1.0 unit at Northwestern = 2.66 semester hours or 4 quarter credit hours):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five (5) quarter credits in biological bases of behavior • Five (5) quarter credits in cognitive-affective bases of behavior • Five (5) quarter credits in social bases of behavior • Five (5) quarter credits in individual differences • Five (5) quarter credits in psychometrics • Five (5) quarter credits in history and systems of psychology • Five (5) quarter credits in research design, methodology, and statistics
34. North Carolina	X			http://www.ncpsychologyboard.org/
35. North Dakota	X			http://ndsbspe.org/index.html
36. Ohio	X			https://psychology.ohio.gov/
37. Oklahoma	X			<p>https://www.ok.gov/psychology/</p> <p>In addition to a doctoral degree from an APA accredited program like the Clinical Psychology PhD Program at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Oklahoma requires at least 42 hours of coursework that is primarily psychological in content, with 3 or more semester hours in the following areas for a total of 21 hours. the following breakdown of credits and topic areas (Note: 1.0 unit at Northwestern = 2.66 semester hours or 4 quarter credit hours):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three (3) semester credits in Scientific and professional ethics and standards; • Three (3) semester credits in Research design and methodology • Three (3) semester credits in Statistics and psychometrics • Three (3) semester credits in Biological bases of behavior • Three (3) semester credits in Cognitive-affective bases of behavior

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three (3) semester credits in Social bases of behavior • Three (3) semester credits in Individual bases of behavior
38. Oregon	X			https://www.oregon.gov/psychology/pages/index.aspx
39. Pennsylvania	X			https://www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardsCommissions/Psychology/Pages/default.aspx#.VgG6GN9VhBc
40. Rhode Island	X			https://health.ri.gov/licenses/detail.php?id=241
41. South Carolina	X			https://lir.sc.gov/psych/
42. South Dakota	X			https://dss.sd.gov/licensingboards/psych/psych.aspx
43. Tennessee	X			https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/psychology-board/psych-board/about.html
44. Texas	X			http://www.tsbep.texas.gov/index.php
45. Utah	X			https://dopl.utah.gov/psych/index.html
46. Vermont	X			https://sos.vermont.gov/
47. Virginia	X			http://www.dhp.virginia.gov/psychology/
48. Washington	X			https://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/ProfessionsNewReneworUpdate/Psychologist.aspx
49. West Virginia	X			https://psychbd.wv.gov/Pages/default.aspx
50. Wisconsin	X			https://dsps.wi.gov/pages/Professions/Psychologist/Default.aspx
51. Wyoming	X			https://psychology.wyo.gov/