Master of Science in Psychology

Career Opportunities

Public Agencies
Private Non-Profit Agencies
Mental Health Departments
Victims/Witness Programs
Substance Abuse Treatment
Alcohol Abuse Rehabilitation
Departments of Social Services
  Adoptions
  Child Protective Services
  Foster Placement Services
Rape Crisis Centers
Crisis Intervention Teams
Probation Departments
Military Assignments
Veterans Administration
Hospice
Hospitals
Correctional Institutions
Women’s Shelters
Employee Assistance Programs
Private Practice Clinics

The M.S. in Psychology is a 90-quarter unit professional degree program designed for persons who desire to practice in the field of clinical/counseling psychology. The program’s mission is to provide the state of California with highly competent master-level clinicians who are academically prepared for the marriage and family therapist license (MFT) and counseling with individuals, couples, families, and groups in a multicultural society. Its mission is also to provide students who want to proceed on to doctoral programs in clinical or counseling psychology with sound research skills, thesis experience and clinical intervention training.

Cal Poly’s Master of Science in Psychology program fulfills the educational requirements for the state of California’s Marriage and Family Therapist License.* Graduates find career opportunities in public social service agencies such as Departments of Mental Health and Social Services as well as in private non-profit and private practice counseling centers.

*Additional post-graduate work is required for licensure.

Program Strengths

Cal Poly’s M.S. degree program emphasizes personal, academic, and practical knowledge and skill development which will enable each graduate to become competent in assessment, diagnosis, and treatment for individuals, couples, families, groups, and children. Research competence and ethical practices are also emphasized.

The program is particularly well known for its clinical training. Closely supervised clinical training practicum experiences leading to challenging fieldwork in agencies is the cornerstone of Cal Poly’s preparation for the future clinician. Cal Poly’s practicum training clinic serves clients from the community and provides trainees with the opportunity to develop skills and confidence before undertaking fieldwork in community agencies.

The Central Coast of California offers numerous well-supervised clinical traineeships in public and private non-profit agencies with a variety of client populations.

Traineeship Settings have included:

- Santa Maria Valley Youth and Family Center
- Hospice – SLO
- RISE – SLO County
- Women’s Shelter Program – SLO
- SLO County Behavioral Health Services
- SLO County Drug and Alcohol Services
- Community Counseling Center
- Domestic Violence Solutions, Santa Maria
- Casa Pacific, SAFTY Program, Santa Maria/Lompoc
- CALM (Child Abuse Listening and Mediation), Santa Maria
- Atascadero High School-Wellness Center
- Transitions Mental Health Association

For additional information, contact Psychology and Child Development Department
Cal Poly
San Luis Obispo, CA  93407
(805) 756-2456
psycd@calpoly.edu
## CURRICULUM FOR MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY
### 2017-2019 and 2019-20 Catalogs

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Select from the following: 4

- PSY 599 Thesis

OR

Written comprehensive exam and one of the following: 90

- PSY 568 Advanced Psychotherapies

or an approved 400-level PSY course

*Must register for thesis credit each quarter of advisement.

**Program prerequisites:** Abnormal Psychology, Lifespan Development, Personality, Introductory Statistics, Research Methods in Psychology (or related discipline)