

Master of Science in Psychology: Clinical/Community Mental Health



Established in 1972, the Western Illinois University Clinical/Community Mental Health (C/CMH) program's mission is to provide students with the knowledge and intellectual and clinical skills to enable them to provide quality mental health services in a variety of treatment settings and to continue to develop professionally. Through its combination of challenging, stimulating coursework and intensive, supervised clinical experience, the C/CMH program reflects the richness of the field graduates enter.

Admission Requirements

Admission into the Western Illinois University Clinical/Community Mental Health (C/CMH) program requires a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with at least 15 semester hours (SH) in Psychology. Each incoming student is expected to have completed coursework in each of the following areas: general psychology, statistics/experimental, learning/cognitive, abnormal psychology and personality, though students may satisfy any undergraduate deficiencies during the program.

All students must meet the general admission requirements of the WIU School of Graduate Studies and have a cumulative undergraduate grade point average of at least 2.75. The aptitude portion of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is also required. Those students who do not meet the graduate school and departmental GPA requirements for regular admission to a degree program may be recommended for probationary admission by the department.

Degree Requirements

The Master of Science degree in Psychology with the C/CMH option requires successful completion of a minimum of 66 SH of coursework, which includes four semesters (and one six-week summer session) on campus and a nine- to 12-month internship. C/CMH students must also pass a comprehensive examination.

The curriculum is designed to provide students with a thorough grounding in basic psychological knowledge and methodology, as well as strong skills in the application of this knowledge. The therapeutic training offered in the program is

eclectic in nature. Students are exposed to a variety of treatment theories, supervised by clinical faculty with a diversity of orientations, and are encouraged to develop their own approaches to clinical work.

Career Opportunities

Most C/CMH graduates enter the workforce as clinicians in inpatient and outpatient treatment settings, including community mental health centers, hospitals and private practices. Their roles include direct provision of treatment services, case management, and administration. Following completion of the C/CMH program, over 85 percent of graduates have entered the workforce in clinical positions, while 10 percent have pursued doctoral education.

Faculty Expertise

The WIU Department of Psychology has more than 25 full-time doctoral faculty members. These faculty represent a wide range of subdisciplines within psychology, enabling the department to provide a well-rounded background in psychology.

Four of the department faculty have primary affiliations with the C/CMH program and include licensed clinical psychologists who have a wealth of experience. These clinical faculty members provide treatment in the Psychology Clinic and supervision to our graduate students as they carry their own caseloads.

Graduate Assistantships

All C/CMH graduate students are eligible to apply for a graduate assistantship, which are awarded through a competitive process. All full-time graduate assistants receive a stipend and a tuition

Program Location:
Macomb

Contact Information

Questions about the program:
Department of Psychology
Clinical/Community Mental Health
Program Graduate Coordinator
(309) 298-1593
psychology@wiu.edu
wiu.edu/cas/psychology/clinical_psychology/index.php

General admission questions:
School of Graduate Studies
(309) 298-1806 or (877) WIU GRAD
Grad-Office@wiu.edu
wiu.edu/grad

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Higher Education*

Academic Excellence
Educational Opportunity
Personal Growth
Social Responsibility



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waiver. Often, first-year students can secure assistantships within the department, and second-year students can find suitable assistantships at other campus locations.

Western Illinois University is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity employer with a strong commitment to diversity. In that spirit, we are particularly interested in receiving applications from a broad spectrum of people, including, but not limited to, minorities, women and individuals with disabilities. WIU has a non-discrimination policy that includes discrimination based on an individual's membership in the following classes: sex, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, genetic information, veteran status and any other classes protected by state or federal law.

Distinctive Features

- The department houses a Psychology Clinic that services area residents. Established in 1968, the clinic was founded as a community agency to provide low-cost mental health services to west central Illinois and southeast Iowa. Throughout the subsequent decades, the clinic has become established as a reliable provider to community residents while maintaining its parallel focus as an active training site for students in the C/CMH program. Currently, the clinic provides no-fee therapeutic services—including individual, child, couple and family therapy—and psychological assessment services on a sliding scale basis. From the beginning of their program, C/CMH students have the opportunity to become actively involved in the operation of the clinic, first through attending weekly staff meetings and sitting in on sessions conducted by faculty psychologists, and then through managing their own individual caseloads and performing psychological assessments, all under faculty supervision.
- Our current curriculum provides students with a solid foundation in clinical psychology. In addition, the C/CMH is approved by the State of Illinois, meaning our graduates are eligible to sit for the Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) and the Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC) examinations.
- The C/CMH curriculum is designed to meet the standards for education and training developed by the Council of Applied Master's Programs in Psychology (CAMPP).
- The C/CMH program is accredited by the Masters in Psychology Accreditation Council (MPAC) through August 2027.

Facilities

- The WIU Department of Psychology is housed in Waggoner Hall. The building offers facilities for teaching and research, including well-equipped laboratories, a well-supported animal research facility, including animal colonies, audio-equipped observation rooms for live supervision of clinical activities and an up-to-date audio and video recording system used in clinical training. The department also maintains an extensive library of psychological assessment materials. Waggoner Hall offers a computer lab and access to other computers for use by students.



- University Libraries is an integral and valuable part of graduate research at Western. They hold more than one million cataloged volumes of monographs and periodicals and offer online access to the full texts of hundreds of academic journals and other publications. Items may be borrowed swiftly from more than 70 other Illinois academic libraries through the I-Share network or obtained through interlibrary loan from libraries across the nation. Research assistance, instruction in library use, and public access to computers, printers, wireless Internet and photocopiers are also accessible through the University Libraries.

"The rigorous schedule challenges each student to begin using techniques and theories immediately after learning the material. I felt head and shoulders above my colleagues in preparedness and understanding of such important topics as assessment, diagnostics, and ethics."

— Lindsay Harms, MS, LCPC