


Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology

Inaugurated in 1987, the Ph.D. Clinical Psychology Program is dedicated to educating scholar-practitioners who integrate theory, research and clinical practice within human science and depth psychology traditions. Our curriculum is designed to lead to licensure as a clinical psychologist (based on educational requirements for psychologists in the State of California).

Within a human science model, the Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology Program focuses on the traditions of depth psychology. Found in multiple cultural contexts and perspectives, including the groundbreaking explorations of Freud and Jung, depth psychologies are distinguished by their recognition of a latent or unconscious dimension of psychological life. This unconscious element, or depth in human experience, is understood as essential to the transformative character of the therapeutic relationship.

Our program is inspired by psychoanalytic, Jungian, and existential-phenomenological perspectives in their historical and contemporary formulations, including relational, archetypal, and hermeneutic psychologies. Significant attention is given to dialogue with related disciplines such as multiculturalism, postmodernism, feminist theory, gender studies, indigenous psychology, complexity theory, post colonialism, ecological studies, Eastern thought and contemplative practices and traditions.

By emphasizing the importance of scholarship in the education of psychologists, the program continues depth psychology's longstanding approach to



I want psychology to
have its base in the
imagination of people
rather than in their
statistics and their
diagnostics.
- James Hillman

clinical training. The clinical orientation which infuses our curriculum, facilitates the engagement of theory and research in addressing individual, community, and global concerns.

Clinical instruction emphasizes the importance of the therapeutic relationship, particularly transference and counter-transference dynamics, the significance of dreams, early development including attachment and trauma, developmental stages across the lifespan, individuation as a process of psychic transformation, mind-body integration, therapeutic presence, and the cultural context of healing. A critical dialogue is maintained with contemporary developments in the field, such as neuroscience.

Pacifica Graduate Institute is celebrating 40 years as an educational institute. Located in Santa Barbara, California, Pacifica has established an educational environment that nourishes respect for cultural diversity and individual differences, and an academic community that fosters a spirit of free and open inquiry.

Our strong research curriculum is guided by depth psychology's understanding of psychological phenomena. Hence, the courses focus on qualitative methodologies that affirm the interpretative dimension of description as well as the unconscious dynamic between researcher and what is being researched. Student research encompasses the pursuit of knowledge, personal transformation, and the practice of social engagement.

We need images and myths through which we can see who we are and what we might become.
– Christine Downing

Human science psychologies acknowledge and cultivate multiple ways of knowing that take precedence over the instrumental reason employed by the natural sciences. Accordingly, the program explores imagination, aesthetic perception, meditative awareness, poetic intuition, and mythic sensibility within their respective traditions of learning and scholarship, inclusive of Western and Eastern spirituality as well as indigenous cosmologies.

OUR COMMITMENT

to a human science model of psychology
– a viable alternative to conventional psychology's natural science approach
- emphasizes human meaning as the fundamental component of psychological life. This focus on meaning, carried out by way of the program's qualitative research orientation, yields an in-depth understanding of how things matter for people within their life situations. Acknowledging the cultural and historical character of meaning, human science psychology is deliberately affiliated with the humanities. Accordingly, our curriculum is infused with the study of mythology, history, religion, philosophy, and the arts.

Our goal is to prepare students to become constructively engaged in diverse clinical, academic, and community settings as researchers and clinicians who are grounded in deeply humane, theoretically sophisticated, and socially conscious approaches to clinical psychology.

The engaging beauty of the campus, an intense residency format and class cohort configuration all lend themselves to an experience of scholarly and personal development keenly attuned to Pacifica's mission of **"caring for the soul in and of the world."**



To learn more about Pacifica's Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology Program contact the Office of Admissions at 805.969.3626, ext. 305 or email admissions@pacifica.edu.

Pacifica Graduate Institute's Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology Program is accredited by the Western Association of School and Colleges (WASC) and approved by the Department of Education to offer financial aid. Pacifica's Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology Program is not accredited by the American Psychological Association.

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