

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CURRICULUM IN THE SJSU MS CLINICAL PROGRAM

These are some of the frequently asked questions about the MS Clinical Program at SJSU. If you have others that you would like answered, please contact the Director.

When do I begin learning psychotherapy techniques?

Students in our program take PSYC 258 (Methods of Psychotherapy/Counseling Procedures) in the Fall semester of their first year in the full-time track and the Fall semester of the second year in the part-time track. This course teaches specific theories and approaches to providing clinical services. All of the courses in the program deal with providing psychotherapy to a variety of clients in different settings.

When do I begin seeing clients as a graduate student?

Students begin to see clients in the Psychological Services Center, the on-campus clinic, in the Spring semester of their first year in the full-time track and the Spring semester of the second year in the part-time track. Graduate students see one to two clients (individual, couples, premarital cases) while receiving focused group supervision with two to three clinicians and one supervisor. In addition, graduate students receive live (in-vivo) supervision by the clinic supervisor and peers in the clinic. This experience is regarded by graduates as one of the most valuable and enjoyable aspects of the MS Clinical Program at SJSU.

This on-campus experience is not designed to have the students accrue many pre-degree clinical hours towards licensure. In the on-campus practicum course, students have a rare opportunity to receive focused supervision and training. Students gain the overwhelming majority of their required pre-degree clinical hours following this on-campus experience in their fieldwork community placement, facilitated by the program.

What psychological theory, if any, is the MS program at SJSU oriented toward (cognitive, behavioral, humanistic, etc.)?

There is no single theoretical orientation that binds the MS program. Faculty in the program represent a variety of theoretical, clinical, and research interests, including Family Therapy, Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy, Behavior Therapy, Psychodynamic, Existential, Cross-cultural, Feminist Therapy, Community Psychology, and the biopsychosocial model inherent in Behavioral Medicine/Health psychology. As a faculty we value diversity in thinking and encourage our students to sample ideas from many different points of view.