

## GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SJSU MS CLINICAL PROGRAM

### **Is this an MFT program, and why is it not called that?**

This program meets all of the requirements set forth by the state licensing bureau, the Board of Behavioral Sciences. We are a fully accredited and prepare graduates to go on to sit for licensure once they have completed the required 3,000 hours of clinical work. Graduates from our program typically have 500 or more of those total clinical hours, and they meet the minimum of 150 face-to-face supervised clinical hours. Note that only 750 of these clinical hours may be earned pre-degree.

We do not specialize in only marriage and family therapy. Graduates take course work in these areas, and some specialize in treating these populations. However, graduates from our program are trained in a clinical psychology model, one that emphasizes psychopathology and the treatment of multiple problems with multiple populations, using a variety of empirically supported therapy techniques.

### **I am considering going on for a Ph.D. Is this the right program for me?**

In general, the response is an emphatic “no.” This program is intended to be a “terminal” Masters program in that it does NOT prepare you for further graduate work focusing on clinical research.

Our intention is that this will be your final (or “terminal”) degree. If you are planning to pursue a Ph.D. or a Psy.D. degree, you should consider applying to a more research-oriented graduate program.

Be sure to check out the MA in Experimental Psychology program here at SJSU where you can take some clinical coursework. While you will receive no training to conduct psychotherapy in that program, it will prepare you to be more competitive when applying to Ph.D. programs.

### **What is the difference between MA & MS (Clinical Psychology)?**

The main difference is between research and practice. The MA degree prepares you for a career in research or getting into a Ph.D. program (more research). The MS program prepares you for practice in a clinical and counseling setting.

Be sure to check <http://www.psych.sjsu.edu/~glenn/gradschool> for more information about graduate study in psychology and tips about putting together a successful application.

### **For what kinds of jobs do graduates of this program qualify?**

Graduates from the MS Clinical program at SJSU do a variety of things. Many work as staff therapists in mental health agencies, providing individual, couples, and family therapy. Others have concentrated on work in administration, program design, and consultation to groups and organizations. Some become college counselors, providing personal and vocational counseling in community colleges. Still others focus on the independent practice of adult, child, couple and family psychotherapy.

We do not require our graduates to pursue any single career path. However, the training in the program here does strongly emphasize work with clinical populations and adult psychopathology.