

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PREREQUISITE COURSEWORK FOR THE SJSU MS CLINICAL PROGRAM

I attended a university that does not use standard US grading (e.g., written evaluations or international students), what do I do?

You must include a GPA for your psychology coursework **and** for your last 2 years of coursework (in units) that is in standard US A-F grading. For those students who attended universities that do not use grades (e.g., UC Santa Cruz) or use grading different than that done in the US (e.g. international students), you must have your evaluations converted into standard US grades. This must be done officially and supporting material to justify those conversions must be included. If evaluations or international grades are not converted, your application may not be considered for admission.

What prerequisite courses I am required to take for doing MS (Clinical Psychology)?

As described in the Program Information Packet and the Clinical MS Application itself, you are required to have a bachelors degree in psychology or 30 units of psychology coursework. In either case, this coursework **MUST** include the following six classes:

1. General or Introduction to Psychology
2. Elementary Statistics
3. Introduction to Research Methods
4. Psychobiology

Each of the above four (1-4) may be taken at the community college or university level and may be lower division courses

5. Abnormal Psychology
6. Theory and Methods of Counseling

Each of the above two (5-6) **MUST** be taken at the University level and **MUST** be upper division courses. Lower division courses or those taken at a community college will not count for these two upper division course requirements.

We understand that many universities call these courses by different names. The goal is to be sure that your courses meet the content requirements of these prerequisites. We want to be sure you come in to a masters program with a strong background in these courses. Read the next two questions about the courses about which most applicants are not sure.

Please note that we no longer require Psychological Tests and Measurements or Psychometrics as a prerequisite course to obtain admission to our program.

What type of course meets the upper division *Theories and Methods of Counseling* requirement?

A variety of courses cover this material, but the course needs to have specialized in this topic. For example, at some universities an Introduction to Clinical Psychology course will cover theories and methods of counseling. However, simply taking Abnormal Psychology or Personality Theory courses will not meet this requirement. (Note that SJSU students must take PSYC 165, and that PSYC 160 does not cover this requirement.)

The course is described in the catalog as:

Major theories of behavioral change, with emphasis on counseling of persons
with problems in occupational, social, family and individual adjustment

As with the course above, if the course you have taken meets this description, it likely counts towards fulfilling this prerequisite. Be sure to check your college catalog. You may show a copy of your course syllabus and your course catalog description to the program director to determine that it meets the requirement.

Can I take these prerequisite courses from any university?

Students who have already graduated and are seeking to take undergraduate courses that are prerequisites for admission to a graduate program may fulfill those requirements by taking courses at any community college or university. Typically, lower division courses may be taken at the community college

level, and upper division course work is completed at a university. There are two primary options for taking courses at San Jose State University:

Second Bacalaureate:

Students may enroll through undergraduate admissions into a second bacalaureate program and enroll in courses at the same fee rate as other undergraduates. Second bacalaureate students are not admitted automatically to any graduate program and must go through the same admissions process as any other student applying to a graduate program. Students do not have to finish their second bacalaureate program to be admitted to graduate study, and there is not a set limit on the number of courses one may take as a second bacalaureate student.

Open University:

Students may take courses without enrolling in any program through the Open University system, and some find this to be an easier option. This is the more expensive option though, and students must wait until the first day of classes to enroll. Students can take a maximum of 24 units through Open University.

Can I take these prerequisites while doing my MS?

Ordinarily, you will not take these required courses while completing the requirements for the MS program. We want you to focus your coursework on the graduate courses you are required to take while in the program.