Howard.edu
Clinical Psychology PhD Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is the program APA Accredited?
The American Psychological Association has accredited the PhD program in Clinical Psychology at Howard University since 1987. We are the first and longest standing accredited clinical program at a Historically Black College or University. Our next accreditation site visit is Fall 2021. Questions related to the program's accreditation status should be directed to:

American Psychological Association
Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation
750 First Street, NE. Washington, DC. 20002-4242
Phones: 202-336-5979. TDD/TTY: 202-336-6123. Fax: 202-336-5978

Who are the faculty members and administrators of the clinical psychology PhD program?
Core program faculty are:
   Linda Berg Cross, PhD, Professor
   Hope Hill, PhD, Associate Professor
   Ezer Kang, PhD, Associate Professor
   GiShawn Mance, PhD, Assistant Professor
   Denée Mwendwa, PhD, Professor

Associate program faculty who advise student research are: *
   Tyish Hall-Brown, PhD, Associate Professor of Psychiatry
   Jules Harrell, PhD, Professor
   Ronald Hopson, PhD, Associate Professor
   Thomas Mellman, MD, Professor of Psychiatry
   Thomas Obisesan, MD, Professor of Psychiatry
   Teletia Taylor, PhD, Associate Professor, Cancer Center

   * Student advised by Associate faculty on research projects are co-advised by a Core faculty member.

Administration:
   Debra Roberts, PhD, Chair, Department of Psychology
   Lorena Daniels, Program Assistant
   Robert Head, Clinical Student Representative (2020-21)

How many openings are in a given class of students and how many apply?
We receive approximately 80 to 95 applications each year and offer admission to 3 to 6 students depending on how many faculty are accepting students.

Am I required to have my Master's degree before joining the program?
No, this is a five- to six-year program where you earn a PhD (without a Master's). The majority of our students enter the program with only a Bachelor's degree

How are interview and acceptance decisions made?

Priority is given to applicants whose research and clinical interests align with the (1) research and clinical priorities of core or associate faculty members; (2) guiding principle of our program to train graduates to integrate and apply science and practice that are mutually informed to address conditions that contribute to global disparities in health and disease; and the (3) values and traditions of a historically Black university.

How important is specifying a particular faculty member with whom to work?
It is very important to identify a faculty member (Core or Associate) with whom you want work. We recommend contacting faculty early in the application process to determine if they are accepting students the year you are applying to enroll, to get better acquainted with their current and past research, and funding opportunities. It will be important to clearly explain why you match well with this faculty in your application essay.

How much time is required to complete the program?
Students complete the program in 5 to 7 years.

Is my tenure in the program shorter if I have a Master's degree?
This will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Upon acceptance and enrollment to the program, it will be decided which credits you may transfer. In some cases, 1-3 classes may transfer from a Master's Program in the social sciences.

Is it possible to attend the PhD program part-time?
No, this is a full-time program.

What financial aid do you offer?
Incoming students are not guaranteed financial assistance. Annual tuition (2021-22) is $33,860. However, merit-based scholarships and graduate teaching assistantships are available to competitive students after completing their first year. Please check the eligibility requirements for graduate fellowships and assistantships on the [Howard University Graduate School Funding website](#). We recommend inquiring about funding options with the faculty advisor with whom you request to study.

How important is research experience for successful applicants?
Research is prioritized. By adapting a scientist-practitioner model, we prepare students to pursue clinical work that integrates research that broadly address social determinants of health and illness in communities historically underserved by mental health, with an emphasis on the African diaspora. Strong preference is given to applicants who have experienced-based knowledge on how research is conducted. Working as a research assistant, completing a senior/honors thesis or other types of supervised research experience is especially useful.

Do I need to have an undergraduate degree in Psychology?
An undergraduate degree in psychology is highly preferred to provide basic foundations for graduate level psychology coursework. Also, because the program has a strong research emphasis, which includes a quantitative component, college-level math and statistics courses also can be helpful.

Where do students receive clinical training (practicum and externships)?

First year students complete Practicum training that focus on clinical interviewing and administration of cognitive/ achievement tests in a school setting. Students build upon these experiences and apply psychotherapy skills to their second Practicum training beginning their 2nd year. 3rd and 4th Externship placements will further strengthen their assessment and application of evidenced based treatment. Our program has maintained strong partnerships with various practicum and externship training sites in the DC-Maryland-Virginia area. As part of the Washington, DC area Consortium of Doctoral Programs, students access a regularly updated list of local externship sites.

How successful are students in the Howard clinical psychology in obtaining an internship?
Since 2015, 100% of our students successfully matched at APA accredited internships in their final 5th or 6th year in the program.

When are admission decisions made?
The application deadline is December 1 for Fall enrollment (no rolling admission). All applications are submitted electronically using PSYCAS. Select applicants will be invited for campus interviews in January. The Graduate School will send admission offers in March.

Where are graduates generally employed?
Graduates of our program have pursued careers as clinical practitioners, research scientists, administrators, and tenure-track academicians in a broad range of settings for historically under-served populations.

As a historically Black university, are there special admission requirements?
With a historic emphasis on the education of African Americans and other people of African descent, our program continues to advance diversity among our students, faculty, and staff – a commitment that is diffused through all aspects of our program. The Clinical Psychology program, department, and the university have clear, non-discriminatory policies that reflect our pursuit of faculty and student recruitment and retention. Our program's mission is to increase the representation of African Americans and other underrepresented groups in clinical psychology. We invite applications from all interested students.

Are there opportunities to collaborate within the department and across campus on research projects?
Yes, in fact we highly encourage collaborative research with research faculty at Howard University Hospital (HUH) who conduct research in community clinical health psychology. Students also partner with faculty from our PhD programs in Neuropsychology, Social, Personality, or Development Psychology to address social determinants of health and illness in communities historically underserved by mental health (e.g., physiological indicators of race-based bias, illness and social stigma, participatory action research, global mental health, community violence and trauma).

If you have additional questions about our program please email GiShawn Mance, PhD (Director of Clinical Training) at gishawn.mance@howard.edu