

## **REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PSYCHOLOGY (CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY) (PsyD)**

*(See also General Regulations)*

The degree of Doctor of Psychology (Clinical Psychology) is a postgraduate degree awarded for the satisfactory completion of a prescribed course of study in the field of Clinical Psychology. This field of study will not necessarily be offered every year.

Any publication based on work approved for a higher degree should contain a reference to the effect that the work was submitted to the University of Hong Kong for the award of the degree.

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### **Admission requirements**

DPCP 1. To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Doctor of Psychology (Clinical Psychology), candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations;
- (b) shall hold
  - (i) a Master of Social Sciences in Clinical Psychology degree of this University; or
  - (ii) another qualification of equivalent standard from this University or from another University or comparable institution accepted for this purpose; and
- (c) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.

DPCP 1A. Candidates who do not hold a Master of Social Sciences in Clinical Psychology degree of this University or another qualification of equivalent standard may in exceptional circumstances be permitted to register if the candidates demonstrate adequate preparation for studies at this level and proof of adequate prior clinical training, and satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination.

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### **Qualifying examination**

DPCP 2.

- (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test the candidates' formal academic ability or ability to follow the courses of study prescribed. It shall consist of one or more written papers or their equivalent, and it may include a project report.
  - (b) Candidates who are required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until the candidates have satisfied the examiners in the examination.
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### **Registration**

DPCP 3. Successful candidates shall in the first instance be granted provisional registration for the Doctor of Psychology (Clinical Psychology) degree, such registration to be confirmed only when successful candidates satisfy the requirements set out in regulation DPCP 9 below.

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### **Award of degree**

DPCP 4. To be eligible for the award of the degree of Doctor of Psychology (Clinical Psychology), candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations; and
- (b) shall complete the curriculum and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.

### **Length of curriculum**

DPCP 5. The Programme shall begin in September or January each year. The curriculum shall extend over not less than two academic years of full-time study or three academic years of part-time study, with a minimum of 200 hours of prescribed work and 250 days of specialty training that includes research and clinical work and shall include written assessment to be held in the manner prescribed in the syllabuses.

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### **Completion of curriculum**

DPCP 6. To complete the curriculum, candidates

- (a) shall follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed written work and field work;
- (b) shall complete and present a satisfactory thesis on a subject within an approved field of study and satisfy the examiners at the oral examination; and
- (c) shall satisfy the examiners in all prescribed courses and in any prescribed form of examination.

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### **Coursework requirements**

DPCP 7. Candidates shall be required to take courses and satisfy the coursework requirements as prescribed by the Examination Committee. The objective of the coursework component is to aid research work and preparation for writing the thesis.

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### **Supervision and progress**

DPCP 8.

- (a) Candidates shall be required to submit a progress report at six-monthly intervals, and may be required to give one or more seminars on any part of their course of study and research;
- (b) Candidates may be discontinued if satisfactory progress is not being made.

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### **Probation and confirmation of candidature**

DPCP 9.

- (a) Candidates whose applications are accepted shall be subject to a probationary period, which shall not normally exceed 18 months for part-time candidates and 12 months for full-time candidates. By the end of the probationary period, candidates must have
  - (i) completed the required proportion of coursework prescribed by the Examination Committee;
  - (ii) completed a "Research Proposal" to the satisfaction of the Examination Committee; and
  - (iii) presented a research seminar.
- (b) At the end of the probationary period, a decision shall be made on whether the candidature shall be confirmed or terminated.

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### **Discontinuation**

DPCP 10. A candidate may be discontinued

- (a) if academic progress is not satisfactory; or
- (b) if the student has failed to meet the requirements as stipulated in this set of Regulations.

**Title of thesis**

## DPCP 11.

- (a) The thesis must represent an original contribution to knowledge and/or the understanding of clinical psychology practice, and contain material worthy of publication.
  - (b) The candidates shall submit a statement that the thesis represents their own work (or in the case of conjoint work, a statement countersigned by their co-workers, which show their share of the work) undertaken after registration as candidates for the degree.
  - (c) Candidates shall serve written notice of intention to submit a thesis for examination at least 3 months prior to the expected date of submission. The notice shall be accompanied by a provisional thesis title.
  - (d) Candidates shall not be permitted to submit a thesis until all coursework requirements have been satisfied.
  - (e) Candidates shall be examined by examiners appointed for this purpose both on the thesis itself, and at an oral examination on the subject of the thesis and /or the approved course of study and research. Candidates may also be examined by other means.
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**Thesis examination results**

## DPCP 12.

- (a) Candidates who have satisfied the examiners shall be recommended for conferment of the degree of Doctor of Psychology (Clinical Psychology).
  - (b) Candidates who have not satisfied the examiners in the thesis component:
    - (i) may be required to resubmit the thesis after making corrections and amendments as required by the Board of Examiners, without a new examination; or
    - (ii) may be required to revise and resubmit the thesis for a new examination within a specified period, and may also be required to satisfy the examiners at a new oral examination, or any other examination as appropriate, on the subject of the revised thesis and/or the approved course of study and research; or
    - (iii) may be required to attend a new oral examination, or any other examination as appropriate; or
    - (iv) may be deemed to have failed, without the option of resubmission.
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**Coursework examinations results**

## DPCP13.

- (a) Coursework shall be assessed on a pass/fail basis.
  - (b) Candidates who have not satisfied the examiners in respect of the coursework requirements at the first attempt shall normally be permitted to present themselves for re-examination in the same course. Candidates who do not satisfy the examiners in such re-examination may be required to discontinue their studies.
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**SYLLABUS FOR THE DEGREE OF  
DOCTOR OF PSYCHOLOGY (CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY)**

The Department of Psychology offers a postgraduate programme leading to the degree of Doctor of Psychology (Clinical Psychology). Emphasis is placed on a scientist-practitioner model of education. In consequence, holders of this degree shall be equipped to function competently as professional clinical psychologists in the areas of research, tertiary-level teaching, and clinical practice.

## STRUCTURE

A candidate shall have been awarded a Master's Social Sciences degree in Clinical Psychology or shall have such other qualifications as may be accepted as its equivalent. Prior to admission, a candidate may be required to pass a qualifying examination in one or more subjects considered essential for following the curriculum.

The curriculum shall extend over a minimum of twenty-four months full-time or thirty-six months part-time. A candidate shall complete satisfactorily the required courses and a thesis as set out below. The courses cover theoretical and applied aspects of clinical psychology. Students may apply for exemption from courses, approval of which is granted only on an individual basis by the Programme Director and Head of Department for submission to Higher Social Sciences Degree Committee and Faculty Board for approval.

## EXAMINATIONS

Examination of the courses followed by a candidate may be either by a written paper in the examination held in December or May of the academic year of study, or by continuous assessment of the candidates' performance in completing the requirements of these courses, or by a combination of these methods.

## CURRICULUM

Candidates should attend all courses in List A and at least 1 course in List B:

### List A

1. PSYC6100 Supervised Reading in Clinical Specialty
  - \*2. PSYC6010 Conceptual and Methodological Issues in Psychological Research I
  - \*3. PSYC6011 Conceptual and Methodological Issues in Psychological Research II
  4. PSYC6101 Thesis
  5. PSYC6102 Clinical Specialty Training
- \* Candidates who have graduated from the MSocSc in Clinical Psychology programme of this University or equivalent programme within the last 3 years may apply for a permission to replace these courses with those listed in B.*

### List B

1. PSYC8004 Clinical Neuropsychology
2. PSYC8002 Community and Health Psychology
3. PSYC8001 Clinical Seminar II
4. PSYC8007 Applied Developmental Psychology
5. PSYC6017 Current Issues in Psychology I
6. PSYC6018 Current Issues in Psychology II
7. PSYC6020 Clinical Seminar III

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### List A

#### **PSYC6100. Supervised reading in clinical specialty**

Candidates are required to attend, during the first year, weekly 2-hour research seminars or equivalent relevant to a chosen area of specialization. A literature review and conceptual analysis of the thesis area is due at the end of the second semester.

**PSYC6010. Conceptual and methodological issues in psychological research I**

First semester course, put on especially for first year postgraduate students, covering the basic research techniques used in psychological research. Topics include various data collection and data analysis techniques. Students in this course will learn how to design, conduct, analyze and report psychological research; and to evaluate other people's research critically.

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**PSYC6011. Conceptual and methodological issues in psychological research II**

Second semester problem-based (i.e., PBL) course put on jointly for first year research postgraduate students and advanced undergraduates. The course is a follow-up of PSYC6010. It adopts a problem-based approach to further students' knowledge of the techniques used in psychological research. Students will be asked to solve various problems and complete different tasks related to psychological research. They will have a chance to develop their ability to work and learn independently. The problems and tasks will also require them to learn the more advanced research designs and data analysis techniques.

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**PSYC6101. Thesis**

Candidates will complete a thesis that embodies a critical study within the field of clinical psychology, including an empirical element, and represents an original contribution to knowledge deserving publication. Candidates may commence their work early in candidature concurrently with Supervised Reading in Clinical Specialty Candidates will also participate in research seminars commencing after confirmation of candidature which will contribute to their research programmes and will serve as forums for presenting their work in progress on a regular basis.

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**PSYC6102. Clinical specialty training**

Students should complete about 250 days of clinical specialty training (e.g. forensic psychology, health psychology, neuropsychology and rehabilitation psychology) that includes research and clinical work, the plan of which is agreed by the students and the respective supervisors, endorsed by the Programme Director. The work of students is under continuous assessment (e.g. submission of logbook, case reports/presentation, research reports) by supervisors of the specialty training.

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**List B****PSYC8004. Clinical neuropsychology**

This course aims to provide an overview of basic functional neuroanatomy and clinical neuropathology. Literature in neuroscience and clinical neuropsychology will be reviewed and discussed.

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**PSYC8002. Community and health psychology**

This course overviews key theoretical concepts in community and health psychology. One objective is to examine the role of psychologists in medical and health settings and psychological aspects of medical problems. Psychological theories and practices relating to health and illness are also explored.

**PSYC8001. Clinical seminar II**

This seminar provides in-depth clinical case discussion related to special topics in clinical psychology. Special emphasis will be placed on case formulation, planning and treatment.

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**PSYC8007. Applied developmental psychology**

This course focuses on an integrated study of human development across the life span with implications for educational psychology. It aims at familiarizing students with current state of knowledge and major theories of human development with particular emphasis on childhood and adolescence. The interrelationship among biological, cognitive, social and educational factors that influence human development will be examined. In particular the influence of Chinese culture and context on development during the childhood and adolescence will be discussed.

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**PSYC6017. Current issues in psychology I**

This seminar course will cover fundamental theoretical issues and major empirical findings in psychology, to provide a context for exploring current directions in the field. A mix of classic and current theoretical and empirical articles will be assigned each week to guide class discussion.

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**PSYC6018. Current issues in psychology II**

This is a continuation of PSYC6017.

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**PSYC6020. Clinical seminar III**

This seminar covers recent development of theories and the related practice in clinical psychology. Special emphasis will be placed on the integration of research, clinical formulation and intervention for evidence-based clinical decisions.