

SEFAKO MAKGATHO HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY



DEPARTMENT OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

COURSE GUIDE

FOR THE DEGREE

MASTER OF SCIENCE (CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY)

MCP01

M1 & M2 2019

1. Course Structure

The Clinical Psychology Masters training programme is a TWO-YEAR FULL-TIME course that consists of three separate, yet related aspects, namely coursework, practicum and research. The coursework and research are done over two years to enable students to complete their mini-dissertation before moving on to their internship year. The course consists of the following three sections, which are spread across both years of study.

Coursework

The Course consists of a number of units. Students are required to attend and master each of these units, regardless of the student's academic background. No student will be exempted from a unit and the successful mastering of each unit will navigate the student's progress through the course.

The various units will be offered by different lecturers. Lecturers may structure their units in different formats such as seminars, workshops and lectures, in accordance with the purposes of the course.

In addition to attending daily seminars, students have the crucial responsibility to engage in additional self-guided study and reading. Small discussion groups may also be required. Some of the allocated time in the afternoons may be used for such activities.

Research consisting of a mini-dissertation

You are required to produce a dissertation of limited scope, based on research that you have conducted under the guidance of a supervisor appointed by the Department. The course is offered over two years to assist you as a student to complete your research before you commence with your internship year. It is crucial that you start your research protocol development with your supervisor as soon as you start the course, so that your research can be completed before the two-year training period is over. The Department has built-in measures, workshops and dates to assist students and supervisors in this process.

Research proposals are scrutinised by the School of Medicine Research Ethics Committee (SREC), and then they proceed to be discussed and approved by the SMU Research Ethics Committee (SMUREC). This process is necessary to ensure that the research is conducted in a scientific and ethical manner. M1 students will be provided guidance on protocol requirements and be introduced to research supervisors during their orientation sessions when the course commences. Specific submissions dates, format requirements and other necessary details will be provided in the Course timetable.

Practical exposure

M1 students are involved in various practicals: including psychological assessments of children/youth, and community projects, which will be conducted under the supervision of experienced clinicians. Community projects and group interventions will be done in teams in the community and on campus under the supervision of lecturers.

M2 students have the opportunity to practice and develop specific clinical skills under supervision. This will occur at the Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University, Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital and Weskoppies Hospital.

The practicum programme will cover exposure to problem areas within various clinical settings, and these include the following blocks:

- ✚ Child and Adolescent clinic at the SMU clinic and in the community: This block is being developed and will focus on the community around at SMU under the supervision of lecturers.
- ✚ Acute psychiatry patients in Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital (DGMAH): This block provides the student with experience in conducting assessment and psychotherapy with adult patients in acute Psychiatry both with admitted patients and outpatients. They also gain further experience by attending ward rounds, participating in multi-disciplinary team presentations and report writing.
- ✚ Chronic Psychiatry block at Weskoppies Psychiatric Hospital: This block exposes students to multi-disciplinary ward rounds, medico-legal conferences, and the treatment of psychiatric and forensic patients within the context of a psychiatric complex.
- ✚ Adult and child assessments and psychotherapy at Clinical Psychology Unit (DGMAH). Patients include in and out-patients that are well enough to visit the Unit. This block is combined with the acute psychiatry block at the Psychiatry Outpatient Unit.
- ✚ Group and individual supportive interventions with patients in the Medical wards of DGMAH. The majority of patients are based in the neurology, spinal and renal wards. Other areas of training include casualty (Emergency Unit), pediatrics, internal medicine, general surgery, plastic surgery, orthopedics, oncology and obstetrics and gynecology. Practical work is crucial to enable students to integrate and apply what they have learnt. Schedules that are more detailed will be provided.

2. Supervision and Mentoring

In addition to the academic input, students spend a significant amount of time on supervised practical application of the theoretical work. As students proceed through the above mentioned coursework, research and practicum exposure, they are also exposed to the following:

- ✚ Individual research supervision
- ✚ Individual and group supervision of clinical work

- ✦ Participation in a learning group therapy, whereby M1 and M2 students learn how to build a group and experience group therapy with a lecturer
- ✦ A buddy system, which entails the M2 student being paired with an intern and or community psychologist “buddy”, with whom they spend one day a week gaining practical exposure to the therapeutic environment during their Hospital practicum.

The buddy system has been highly commended during the evaluation of our curriculum by the Professional Board for Psychology during the past years.

3. Course Content Areas

The following figure shows the content areas that are done during the M1 and M2 years and the content area that is done together for 2019:

M1 (Mostly theory-based)	M1 & M2	M2 (More practical integration of theory)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person-centred Interviewing and Client-centred Therapy • Group Therapy • Systems and Ecosystemic Therapy • African Epistemology • Psychodiagnostic Assessment • Cognitive-Behavioural & Dialectical Behaviour Therapy • Psychodynamic Therapy and Psychoanalytical Theories • Community Psychology & Practicum • Post-modern Psychotherapies • Research Methodology & protocol writing • Philosophy of science and psychology • Ethics • Psychopathology (Child and Adult) • Forensic psychology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Group Therapy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Client-centred Therapy • Family Therapy • Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy • Short-term Psychodynamic Therapy • Behavioural and Cognitive-Behavioural therapy • Post-modern Therapies • Indigenous & African Therapies • Neurophysiology • Psychopharmacology • Neuropsychology • Neuropsychological assessment • Health Psychology • Psycho-diagnostic assessment/case study presentation • Hospital Practicum • Community and SMU based Clinics • Forensic Psychology • Applied and short-term Interventions • Completion of Dissertation

4. Formative Assessment

Students are required to keep a portfolio of learning for each of a year’s coursework and practicum. This is an HPCSA requirement. All learning activities, including presentations done by you as a student, assignments, attendance of training opportunities, practicum log and other relevant details will be recorded and attached. At the end of the year, this portfolio is submitted and considered to assess the student’s readiness for examinations, whether attendance was satisfactory and as an additional aid to establish if students have reached the required level of proficiency. A guide with specifications on how this portfolio should be put together will be provided.

Students will be required to write, submit and present assignments and do case presentations in each block, for which they will receive feedback.

Written tests during or at the end of a block will also contribute to the assessment of students.

Practical therapy training clinics and role-playing exercises during which students may be required to demonstrate specific clinical skills and receive feedback from their colleagues and trainers also form part of formative assessment.

Please note that the formative assessment accrues to 25% of the final year mark.

5. Summative assessment

This comprises written and oral standard examinations at the mid-year and end of both academic years. Students may not register for the second year of study unless the examinations at the end of the first year have been passed.

Students are required to register for the following five (5) written examination papers over the M1 and M2 years, one (1) oral examination/case study presentation which is done at the end of the M2 year, and a dissertation. Below are the codes for each of these and in the year in which this is done (M1 or M2) for the year of 2019:

- ✚ MCLA 190: Psychodiagnostic Assessment (M 1)
- ✚ MCLB 190: Psychotherapy (Theory) (M 1)
- ✚ MCLC 190: Psychotherapy (Practical) (M 2)
- ✚ MCLD 190: Psychopathology, Forensic Psychology, Community Psychology & Ethics (M1)
- ✚ MPYB 190: Neuropsychology, Forensic Psychology, Health Psychology and Psychopharmacology (M 2)
- ✚ MCLE 190: Oral examination and psycho-diagnostic assessment case study (An integrated examination of all skills theoretical and practical) (M 2)
- ✚ MCLA090: Dissertation. Dissertations will be examined by two impartial examiners who are experts in the field. Students need an average mark of at least 50% for their dissertation in order to pass (M1 and M2).

Please note: Students are required to register to write standard examinations. This is done by completing specified forms with the Examination Department during August.

For students to successfully pass the MSc Clinical Psychology course, all papers must be passed with a minimum of 50%. A mark of 75% and above will be considered a pass with distinction in a course. A mark of 75% for each paper and the dissertation will be considered a Cum Laude. The Dissertation counts 50% toward the final combined mark.

After the theoretical and oral examinations have been passed at the end of the second year, and the dissertation has been submitted and accepted, the degree of MSc in Clinical Psychology is conferred at the following graduation ceremony.

In order to pass, a student should have a minimum mark of 50%. If a student has 45% - 49% for not more than two of the written papers, he/she will be called for an additional oral examination and/or written examinations. This, however, is not a supplementary examination.

If a student fails a paper during M1, he/she will not be allowed to continue with M2. Students have to pass all the papers in M2 in order to pass the degree. **No student will be allowed to repeat the course at this University.**

6. Qualification as a Clinical Psychologist

Students must complete and pass the academic coursework within the two years provided before they can move on to the internship. Failing course work constitutes exclusion from the course. Some internship institutions require candidates to have finished their dissertation before they start their internship.

At SMU, ideally, the dissertation has to be completed within two (2) years; however the maximum of years a student has to complete the qualification is four years. Under special circumstances students may apply for an extension for the completion of their dissertation, which may or may not be granted.

In order to qualify as a clinical psychologist, you have to complete an Internship in Clinical Psychology. This is 12 months contracted employment at an HPCSA accredited training institution. Registration as an Intern Clinical Psychologist with the HPCSA is the student's responsibility. Students apply independently for internship positions. Internships are managed by the training hospitals and not the University: therefore the University cannot guarantee internship placements.

Following successful completion of an internship, candidates may be registered as Clinical Psychologists (Community Service). The newly qualified clinician is expected to complete 12 months of Community Service at an institution listed by the Department of Health. During this year, the Clinical Psychologist will also be required to write a board examination. This is a compulsory requirement for the successful completion of the Community Service year.

After the successful completion of the Community Service year, the Clinical Psychologist may register as a Clinical Psychologist in the Independent Practice category with the HPCSA. At this point the Clinical Psychologist has completed his/her qualification and is ready to practice independently.

7. University Facilities

The following facilities are available for you to aid you in your studies:

Library

After registering with the university, you will be required to register with the library. In addition to the SMU Library, you are also advised to get special permission to use the libraries of UNISA and the University of Pretoria. You can arrange this by obtaining a registration form from our library and have it signed by the HOD for approval. Terms and conditions will apply.

Turn-it-in

The University subscribes to Turn-it-in that is a software that provides a service to determine the originality of texts based on comparisons with their internal database and net-wide searches. You will gain access to this service through your research supervisor and lecturers.

Skills Centre

This centre houses one-way mirror rooms with both audio and video equipment and Simulated Patients (SP). These resources may be utilized for practical purposes. Rooms and SPs are booked in advance by a staff member of the Department.

Two-way Mirror Room with Audio-visual Equipment

The Department has facilities where students and lecturers can record their role play activities.

Computer Laboratory and Wi-Fi

There are several computer centres with internet connections on campus. The Department provides free Wi-Fi access. Photocopying facilities are available in the library.

Psychometric Assessment Library

The Department has a Psychometric Assessment library. Registered students may make use of these assessments for academic purposes. Please note that assessments have to be booked in advance through the course coordinator or assigned responsible staff member.

Transport

Transport arrangements for the community practicum should be approved by the HOD and booked in advance. The lecturer concerned will assist students in this regard.

If you have any questions about the topics discussed in this guide, please do not hesitate to discuss your questions or concerns with the assigned course coordinator.

May your journey in clinical psychology be both stimulating and fulfilling!