

**CLINICAL CHILD PSYCHOLOGY PH.D.**  
**GRADUATE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**  
AN INTERDEPARTMENTAL PROGRAM OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY &  
DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The Clinical Child Psychology Program is a Ph.D. training initiative accredited by the American Psychological Association. The core faculty are clinical psychologists with specialty interests in clinical child and pediatric psychology.

The goal of doctoral training in Clinical Child Psychology at the University of Kansas is to develop scientist-practitioners capable of conducting research in clinical science and interventions for a variety of human problems particularly those involving children and families. Such work involves understanding, preventing, and treating mental health and physical health problems from a psychological perspective. The training program emphasizes acquisition of general knowledge and skills in the behavioral, social, cognitive, developmental, and biological bases of psychology and a thorough knowledge of research methodology and statistical analyses. A particular strength is the developmental perspective presented in many aspects of training. Within the specialty's clinical training, students take courses in assessment and intervention, child psychopathology, behavioral and family therapy, and ethical and legal issues to develop professional competencies.

Students can complete coursework, practica, and research requirements for the doctorate in four years of full-time study followed by a required one-year predoctoral internship at an approved site. Students are expected to, and indeed want to, participate maximally in research and clinical experiences. A master's thesis, qualifying examination, and doctoral dissertation are formal milestones of progress through the program in addition to regular evaluation in courses, practica, and yearly faculty review.

Students work closely with program faculty mentors in research and clinical work.

The design of the program implements the recommendations of national models of training. The coursework and research/clinical experiences in the curriculum provide the bases in development, psychopathology, assessment and diagnosis, and intervention in child mental health for appropriate preparation for work with children, adolescents, and families. Students will be prepared for a range of post-graduate roles including research/teaching in universities, medical schools, and internship training sites, and direct service delivery in mental health centers, hospitals, and schools.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

The clinical child program follows five principles common to many programs across the country, but with special emphases distinctive to training at the University of Kansas.

First, the specialty training promotes a scientist-practitioner model. This orientation prepares graduates to assist in currently needed clinical and research work, to be ready for future changes and needs, to produce original contributions to clinical child psychology, and to evaluate their own work and others'. Our work reflects our commitment to developing the evidence base in clinical science.

A second guiding principle is that children and families are most beneficially considered in terms of human development and process of change. Normal developmental processes across the life span provide a backdrop for approaching developmental interruptions.

Third, a guiding principle is that clinical child psychologists need to be sensitive and responsive to the cultural and ethnic diversity of children and their families. Training experiences enhance the students' ability to understand and work with children and families of different cultures.

A fourth guiding principle is that the best prepared clinical child psychologist has a variety of experiences in research methodology, clinical problems, service delivery settings, and modes of intervention. Particular activities are determined by interests of students and faculty selected from the array of resources available to the program.

A fifth orientation is to public sector programming and larger community considerations. Child problems are best considered in the context of the child's social, academic, family, and physical environments. Therefore, students have a number of excellent opportunities to participate in public service roles for psychologists on the KU campus, in the Lawrence community, and Kansas City.

## **CLINICAL TRAINING**

The program has developed its own Child and Family Services Clinic as a mental health facility in the Dole Human Development Center. The program also maintains clinical and research training relationships with Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center, the Behavioral and Emotional Support Team (BEST) of the Lawrence School District, Children's Mercy Hospital, and KU Medical Center, among others. These and other agencies serve the public in numerous mental health functions.

## **RESOURCES FOR TRAINING**

The students admitted to the Clinical Child Psychology Program have available the resources of the two departments. These may include the faculty of the Clinical Psychology Training Program as well as the faculty, research activities, and applied psychology facilities listed in the brochures for the Departments of Psychology and Applied Behavioral Sciences.

## APA ACCREDITATION

The KU Clinical Child Psychology Program is accredited by the American Psychological Association (Committee on Accreditation, Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation, American Psychological Assoc., 750 First St. NE, Washington, DC 20002-4242, 202-336-5979). The accreditation review in 2008 granted full accreditation for seven years, the maximum available.

## FACULTY

The core faculty in the Clinical Child Psychology Program are all licensed psychologists, all with advanced credentials (viz., board certified in Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology).. They are active contributors to the discipline and profession. Faculty and resources in the two sponsoring departments (Applied Behavioral Science; Psychology) provide support to the clinical child program. Faculty have national reputations in clinical psychology, child/developmental psychology, quantitative psychology, and behavior analysis. Faculty interests and publications are available on the website: [www.ku.edu/~clchild](http://www.ku.edu/~clchild). Within each faculty listing, articles may be clicked on and after inputting your email address, a link to a pdf will be emailed to you.

## APPLICATION

Applications must be made through the Clinical Child Psychology Program. All completed applicant files will be reviewed and students selected by a committee headed by the Clinical Child Training Director. Admissions criteria include undergraduate grade point average, graduate grade point average (where appropriate), scores on the Graduate Record Examination (Verbal, Quantitative, and Analytical; and the Advanced Test in Psychology if not a Psychology major), statement of applicant's career interests, statement of experience in research and with clinical populations, statement of interests in clinical and research work with program faculty, a writing sample (a paper written by you during the past few years of your education, it may pertain to any topic although one relating to psychology is preferred), and three letters of recommendation. In your statement, it is most helpful to the admission committee if applicants indicate which faculty they are most interested in working with and why selected. Some financial aid is available. More information about the Program, a copy of the Training Manual, and a link to the KU Child and Family Services Clinic are available at [www.ku.edu/~clchild](http://www.ku.edu/~clchild).

Please direct further inquiries regarding the program to:

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For further information on Admission to the Clinical Child Program, please contact:

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Please visit the clinical child website at:  
[www.ku.edu/~clchild](http://www.ku.edu/~clchild)