The University and Community

The University of Southern Mississippi is one of three major universities in the state of Mississippi. The Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning has assigned USM the “leadership role” in psychology. USM is one of the few universities nationwide with three APA-accredited doctoral programs (Clinical, Counseling, and School Psychology). The designation as the state’s predominant leader in psychology and the strength of three APA-accredited programs help ensure that psychology will continue to develop and prosper at USM.

USM is located in the southeast section of the state, approximately 100 miles from the capital of Jackson, the Gulf Coast, Mobile, and New Orleans. Hattiesburg serves a regional population of more than 100,000 and is a center for commercial, legal, medical, and recreational activities. Hattiesburg is noted for its extensive medical and educational facilities and resources. Although the city is moderate in size, it contains two large general hospitals, a free-standing hospital with inpatient and outpatient psychiatric and alcohol/drug units, a community mental health complex, two institutions of higher learning, and a vocational-technical complex that is a branch of a regional community college.

Among the assortment of campus activities available to interested students and community members are concerts, lectures, movies, plays, jogging, intramural sports, tennis, swimming, handball, and racquetball. The Payne Center, available to faculty, staff, students, and alumni, houses racquetball courts, indoor jogging track, exercise equipment, indoor pool, and locker facilities. There are also numerous hunting and fishing areas that are easily accessible. The mild climate lends itself to year-round outdoor activities such as jogging, rollerblading, and biking the “Rails to Trails” path that runs through Hattiesburg with a new entrance on the campus of USM.

The USM clinical psychology doctoral program has been accredited by APA since 1979. We have established a tradition of excellent graduate training, reflected in the success of our students in securing preferred internship placements and subsequent employment in academic or research positions, post-doctoral positions, or as primary providers of mental health services.

In addition, our excellent training is affordable. The combination of stipends, tuition relief, and the low cost of living found in southern Mississippi makes the doctoral program in clinical psychology at USM one of the better values in higher education.

For further information, please visit our Web site

http://www.usm.edu/clinical-psychology

AA/EOE/ADA

or contact us at:

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Program Objectives, Philosophy, and Training Model

The clinical psychological doctoral program at USM has been accredited by APA since 1979. Our traditional Boulder Model clinical training program is based on scientist-practitioner training model in which the scientific and professional components of clinical psychology are complementary and fully integrated throughout training. Although the program does not actively direct students toward particular career tracks, we agree with the Boulder Model premise that clinicians must be capable of making contributions to the science of psychology through research and consultation as well as through practice. Graduates are prepared to pursue careers in academia, research, mental health care delivery, or practice in public and private settings. The clinical training program emphasizes evidenced-based approaches to assessment and treatment.

Doctoral study in clinical psychology at USM is designed to be a five-year program, including the off-site clinical internship that is typically completed during the fifth year. Commitment to the development of strong clinical research skills is evident throughout student training. Students who are interested only in clinical practice, with little interest or appreciation of the scientist-practitioner model, should not apply.

The clinical faculty view graduate training in clinical psychology as an intensive full-time experience that is much more than the simple sum of required courses. Students are not normally admitted for part-time graduate study. All students admitted to the program are usually offered a competitive graduate stipend that includes waiver of in- and out-of-state tuition. Stipends are paid as compensation for teaching or research assistantships, or for certain community externship placements. Any professional psychological employment outside of the university requires explicit approval from the clinical faculty.

Post-bachelor students are expected to earn a master’s degree as part of the program requirements. However, the clinical program does not admit students who are interested in attaining only a master’s degree. We do admit promising students who already hold a master’s degree from another institution. If they completed an empirical master’s thesis that is deemed acceptable by the clinical training committee, they will not be required to earn and additional master’s degree.

Profile of USM Clinical Psychology Doctoral Applicants

The selection process includes a review of the student’s credentials, including verbal and quantitative GRE scores, undergraduate academic performance, evidence of creative scholarship, three letters of recommendation, a self-statement of goals and career objectives, a CV/resume, and a completed application form. We do not employ automatic cutoff scores, but rather look for an overall record that suggests a good fit to the training program and a likelihood of success. Students selected generally possess highly competitive GRE scores and undergraduate GPAs. See our Web page for disclosure data:

https://www.usm.edu/clinical-psychology (select link for Student Admissions, Outcomes, and Other Data)

Qualified students whose undergraduate major is in a discipline other than psychology are invited to apply. The clinical admissions committee is particularly interested in receiving applications from students with a strong undergraduate background in the liberal arts and sciences, and in receiving applications from qualified minority students.

The Clinical Faculty

Our clinical faculty and their areas of research expertise are:

**Adult Clinical**
Joye C. Anestis, Ph.D., Florida State University, 2012. Assistant Professor. Externalizing psychopathology, assessment, clinical outcomes.

Michael Anestis, Ph.D., Florida State University, 2011. Nina Bell Suggs Professor of Psychology. Nature of and risk factors for suicidal behavior, paradoxical effects of emotion dysregulation, dysregulated behaviors, psychopathy.

Randolph Arnau, Ph.D., Texas A&M University, 2002. Associate Professor. Personality assessment, psychometrics, positive psychology.

Bradley Green, Ph.D., Texas A&M University, 2003, Associate Professor and Clinic Director. Structure of personality, assessment, major mental illness, taxometrics.

**Child Clinical**
Tammy D. Barry, Ph.D., University of Alabama, 2000, Associate Professor and Director of Clinical Training. Disruptive behavior disorders, pervasive developmental disorders, child and adolescent neuropsychology, learning difficulties.

Christopher Barry, Ph.D., University of Alabama, 2003, Associate Professor and Chair of Clinical Admissions. Risk and protective factors related to child conduct problems, coping skills interventions, self-esteem and narcissism.

Sara Sytisma Jordan, Ph.D., Louisiana State University, 2003, Associate Professor and Clinical Externship Coordinator. Child routines, child behavior problems, parenting, pediatric psychology.

Robert D. Lyman, Ph.D., University of Alabama, 1975. Professor. Child clinical psychology.