



Inherent Requirements for UNSW Master of Psychology (Clinical) Program

Introduction

The UNSW School of Psychology supports the right of all people to pursue the Master of Psychology (Clinical) program. The School is committed to making reasonable adjustments to teaching and learning, assessment, clinical practice and other activities to address the impact of students' disabilities so that they are able to participate in their program.

To support potential and current students' decision making, a series of inherent requirement statements have been developed. These statements specify the requirements of the Master of Psychology (Clinical) program for student admission and progression. The statements are clustered under eight domains consisting of ethical behaviour, behavioural stability, legal, communication, cognition, relational skills, reflective skills and sustainable performance. Many of the activities associated with the professional practice of a registered psychologist are time sensitive, where the capacity to perform certain activities within specified time limits is required to reduce or avoid risks to patient safety and wellbeing. The safety and wellbeing of you and others is always of paramount importance.

Students are required to undertake placement activities in mixed gender environments which reflect the Australian health care context.

Successfully completing the Master of psychology (Clinical) program at UNSW enables you to apply for registration as a registered psychologist with the Psychology Board of Australia (PsyBA), which is a partner board of the Australian Health Practitioners Registration Authority (AHPRA). The inherent requirements outlined below provide a guide for students and staff when deciding whether you are able to meet these requirements and the type of reasonable adjustments that could be put in place to allow you to complete the program without compromising the academic integrity of the program.

How to read the inherent requirement statements

If you are intending to enrol in the Master of Psychology (Clinical) program in the UNSW School of Psychology, you should look at these inherent requirement statements and think about whether you may experience challenges in meeting these requirements.

If you think you may experience challenges related to your disability, chronic health condition or any other reason, you should discuss your concerns with the [UNSW Equitable Learning Services](#) in conjunction with the UNSW School of Psychology staff, such as the Program Director. These staff can work collaboratively with you to determine reasonable adjustments to assist you to meet the Inherent Requirements. In the case where it is determined that Inherent Requirements cannot be met with reasonable adjustments, the University staff can provide guidance regarding other study options.

BEHAVIOURAL STABILITY

| Level | Inherent requirement statements |
|-------|---|
| 1 | Behavioural stability is required to function and adapt effectively and sensitively in a demanding role. |
| 2 | Student demonstrates behavioural stability to work constructively in a diverse and changing academic and clinical environment, which may at times be challenging and unpredictable. Justification of inherent requirement: |
| 3 | » Behavioural stability is required to work individually and in teams in diverse and changing |



COMMUNICATION

The Master of Psychology (Clinical) program requires effective, verbal, non-verbal and written communication.

Verbal

| Level | Inherent requirement statements |
|-------|---|
| 1 | Effective and efficient verbal communication, in English, is an essential requirement to provide safe delivery of clinical psychology care. |
| 2 | Student demonstrates: <ul style="list-style-type: none">» The ability to understand and respond to verbal communication accurately, appropriately and in a timely manner» The ability to provide clear instructions in the context of the situation» Timely clear feedback and reporting» The ability to communicate in group settings |
| 3 | Justification of inherent requirement: <ul style="list-style-type: none">» The practice of clinical psychology depends on effective verbal communication with clients and members of the professional team» Speed and accuracy of communication may be critical for individual safety or treatment |
| 4 | Adjustments |



| Level | Inherent requirement statements |
|-------|---|
| | » The ability to observe and understand non-verbal cues is essential for safe and effective observation of clients' symptoms and reactions as part of their assessment and treatment |
| 4 | Adjustments for non-verbal communication impairments must enable the recognition, interpretation and appropriate response to non-verbal cues as well as initiation of effective non-verbal communication in a timely and appropriate manner. |
| | Exemplars: |
| 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Recognising and responding to non-verbal cues indicating a change in the emotional state of a client during placements » Recognising and responding to non-verbal cues in classroom situations |

Written

Level

| Level | Inherent requirement statements |
|-------|---------------------------------|
|-------|---------------------------------|

Exemplars:

5

- » Conveying a spoken message accurately and effectively in a clinical setting during placements
 - » Paraphrasing, summarising and referencing in accordance with the American Psychological Association Publication Manual conventions
 - » Producing accurate, concise and clear documentation while on placement in the clinical setting which meets legal and professional requirements
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