

Health Psychology Specialization at GSAPP Student Handbook Entry

I. Aim and Purpose

The purpose of Health Psychology specialization at GSAPP is to promote the advancement of, and formalize the competencies for, graduate training in health psychology and behavioral medicine. Extant definitions of health psychology include education and training for research and practice that brings together the basic tenets of professional and health service psychology with a thorough background in applied clinical sciences and practices focusing on populations with chronic health conditions and those at risk for chronic health conditions.

Training also includes inter-professional functioning with a range of mental health and health care professionals, including physicians, psychiatrists, nurses, social workers, dieticians, speech therapy and audiologists, among others. Interprofessional training in conjunction with other schools will be emphasized throughout this program.

This health psychology specialization recognizes a critical need for better documentation and further improvements of evidence-based assessments and treatments for the individuals served. Thus, a major emphasis of the formal training and practice will be guided by the most up-to-date empirical research base.

For greater information on the specialty of clinical child and adolescent psychology, and its place in the spectrum of psychological specialties, please go to:
<http://cospp.org/specialties/clinical-child-psychology>

II. Summary of Requirements

Requirements for the health psychology specialization are:

1. Successful completion (defined as obtaining grade of B or better) of at least four (4) courses that focus on clinical health psychology [examples below].
2. Satisfactory completion of required a practicum experience (defined as meeting all expectations for the professional competencies defined by the Clinical or School Program). Distinct requirements for clinical and school students are defined below.
3. Participation in two interprofessional education (IPE) trainings or events.
4. Successful completion of a doctoral dissertation (defined as successfully defending dissertation) that focuses on issues relevant to, or includes as samples of, health psychology populations [defined below].

III. Required Courses

- A. A total of at least three (3) semester-long courses must be completed at the doctoral level that focus on health psychology. These include one required course and two electives.

<u>Required Courses</u>	Semester, Year	Grade
Health Psychology (Riley)		
<u>Elective Courses</u>		
Health Psychology students must take any <i>two</i> additional health relevant courses, approved by the health psychology advisor. Examples of eligible courses include:		
<u>Treatment/Intervention Course:</u> Pediatric Behavioral Medicine (Forman) Behavioral Medicine (Wilson; <i>Required for school students</i>)	Semester, Year	Grade
<u>Systems Assessment, Interventions, & Implementation:</u> Effective Program Planning and Implementation (Forman)		
<u>Other Courses (per Kristen Riley approval):</u>		

IV. Required Practica

A full-time practicum experience is defined as a full year practicum (at least fall and spring semesters) with a minimum of 10 hours of clinical contact, supervision, and training per week.

Health Psychology students are required to complete at least **one (1)** full-time practicum experiences where the majority of the service population can be classified as health psychology.

V. Interprofessional Education Events

Attend two events through the Office of Interprofessional Education

VI. Required Dissertation

Health Psychology students will complete a dissertation that focuses on issues relevant to, or includes as samples of, health psychology populations.

VII. Health Psychology faculty

A. Kristen Riley (Health Psychology advisor)

- B. Susan Forman
- C. Terry Wilson

VIII. Procedure for Declaring a Health Psychology Specialization

- A. Approval by Health Psychology advisor
 - 1. Interested students complete Health Psychology Specialization checklist and meet with Health Psychology advisor. Advisor authorizes the program of study.
 - 2. Approved students can list the coursework on their program proposals and then list their designation as a Health Psychology student on their c.v.
 - 3. Health Psychology advisor submits Specialization checklist/authorization to Departmental Administrator (presently, Julie Skorny) to place in student file.
 - 4. Health Psychology advisor emails Student Coordinator (presently, Sylvia Krieger) who will then update student data base and enable designation to be posted on student's transcript.