Clinical Psychology PhD Program

Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences
The University of Iowa

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Program Overview

- Continuously accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) since 1948

- Also accredited by the Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System (PCSAS) since 2011. Charter member of the Academy for Psychological Clinical Science

- Only accredited PhD program in Clinical Psychology in Iowa

- Top 20 program (U.S. News and World Report)

- 299 PhDs in Clinical Psychology awarded, starting in 1951

- Albert Bandura (PhD 1952) awarded National Medal of Science in January 2016.
Program Description

• Strongly emphasizes a scientific approach to the understanding and treatment of psychological disorders (“clinical scientist model”)

• Integrated training in clinical science and practice
  – Research training: students heavily engaged in research on clinical problems with faculty mentors
  – Clinical training
    • Faculty-supervised practica in Carl E. Seashore Psychology Clinic
    • One-year clinical internship at APA-approved site
Student Profiles

• 31 current students (including 7 on internship)
• 2015-16 admitted students
  – 102 applied, 6 accepted (6%)
  – Matriculated = 4, Minority students = 0
  – Qualifications (average scores)
    • GRE-V (87th percentile)
    • GRE-Q (78th percentile)
    • GRE-Analytic Writing (87th percentile)
    • 3.8 Undergraduate GPA
    • Significant research experience
Internships & Degrees Conferred

• Internship Placement
  – 100% placed in APA-accredited internships
  – 100% paid internships

• In last 7 years, 35 students received PhD degree

• Mean number of years to completion = 7.1 (including internship year)

• Attrition (2 out of 36 students over past 7 years)
Clinical Faculty

• Alan Christensen
• Susan Lutgendorf
• Kristian Markon
• Molly Nikolas
• Michael O’Hara
• Teresa Treat
• Isaac Petersen (arriving Jan. 2017)
• Daniel Tranel (joint with Neurology Department)
2009-10 APA Commission on Accreditation Review

• Self study that addresses accreditation criteria related to
  – Foundational training in psychology
  – Substantive training in clinical domains
  – Research training
  – Practicum experiences

• APA reviews and responds to self study (determines eligibility for site visit)

• Site visit (3 reviewers)

• Site visit report and program response sent to CoA

• CoA makes determination of accreditation and duration (max 7 years)
Results of Last Review

• Continued 7-year accreditation awarded on Aug. 5th, 2010

• Very positive report overall, with many strengths identified:
  – Program highly valued by College and University
  – Strong practicum experiences that integrate science and practice
  – Strong leadership and faculty
  – Talented students, positive student-faculty relations
  – Excellent in-house training clinic
Response to Last Review

• Narrative response as part of ongoing self-study was due on Sept. 1, 2011

• Issues identified:
  – How the program measures student competence in research in the absence of minimum threshold of publications
  – How the program gathers outcome data on program graduates
  – Update public disclosure information on internship and attrition information
  – How broad and general training in consultation and supervision is provided to students
2016-17 APA Accreditation Review

• Self study will be prepared by Sept. 1, 2016

• Site visit will occur in Spring 2017

• Expect to be re-accredited in Summer 2017
Questions?