



**University of South Florida
Clinical Psychology Doctoral Training Program
PCSAS Application – February, 2011**

Abstract

The Clinical Psychology Training Program at the University of South Florida has identified as a Psychological Clinical Scientist model program since 2000, and it is a member of the Academy of Psychological Clinical Science. The training program includes 13 mentoring faculty members for 54 doctoral students. The primary goal of the program is to produce students and alumni who are excellent clinical psychology researchers, and therefore the admission process, mentoring format, curriculum, student evaluation procedures, and applied training are all designed to facilitate that primary goal. A secondary goal is to produce students and graduates who utilize evidence-based clinical interventions and who receive quality clinical training. Thus, the program attempts to produce scientists who understand the clinical phenomena that they study, and clinicians who base their practice upon scientifically sound principles and evidence.

Data collected from current students and alumni indicate that doctoral students in the clinical program are productive researchers while at USF, averaging over 8 publications and 10 national conference presentations by the time they graduate. Moreover, alumni rated the program strongest for its training in conducting and consuming psychological research. Mentoring faculty are productive researchers, averaging 45 publications each since 2005, and currently holding federal grants totaling nearly \$24 million. Faculty are also represented in national leadership and editorial positions.

Resources are consistent with a large department at a major research university, and they include a relatively new Psychology building, a range of relevant intellectual opportunities in the department and on campus, and complementary organizational units including an NCI-Designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, a Veteran's Affairs Medical Center, a mental health research institute, and academic units in Public Health, Education, and Psychiatry.

With respect to graduate outcomes, data collected from 2000-2009 graduates indicate that 43% hold either faculty or postdoctoral research positions, with a total of 58% functioning as clinical scientists primarily within the Research domain. Another 6% were identified as clinical scientists within the Education domain. And 13% of graduates were identified as clinical scientists within the Application domain, based largely upon their reports of applying the current research literature to their work. In total, 78% of graduates from this period were classified as functioning as clinical scientists, within the domains of research, education, or application.

The doctoral program in clinical psychology at USF is consistent with a psychological clinical scientist training program, with respect to its structure, functioning, and student outcomes. Nevertheless, the program continues to evolve, and to seek ways to improve the integration of clinical science principles into its various training components.