



THE EXISTENTIAL PHENOMENOLOGICAL THERAPEUTIC APPROACH

The M.A. in Psychology is based on the existential-phenomenological-therapeutic approach. We offer a broad foundation in psychology, philosophy, and psychopathology rooted in the phenomenological and hermeneutical traditions within psychotherapy. An extensive practicum prepares students for success as psychotherapists in private practice, hospitals, and clinics.



COLLEGE OF
ARTS AND SCIENCES



Our program challenges the modern tendency to interpret the human condition through narrow technological lenses; we recognize that no personality is fixed. The methods we use are qualitative and humanistic. Our students learn to approach clients with a suspension of pre-conception and judgment.

We work from an understanding that people are constantly evolving and that change occurs when the therapeutic environment invites honest dialogue. Through engagement with the humanities in relation to psychotherapy and counseling, students come to appreciate the significance of therapeutic attitude and presence.

We go deeper than simply hearing a person's story. Our students hone the skills to fully appreciate another person's point of view and the full range of human experiences. We examine the nature of the therapeutic relationship—what it means to suffer, what it means to be a healer, how we decide what is appropriate care—and we integrate theory and practice.

Our graduates are prepared to go on to rewarding careers in the mental health field. Most begin as psychotherapists in community mental health agencies while pursuing licensure. After gaining experience, many go into private practice or are appointed directors or supervisors in their programs. Approximately one in five students go into doctoral programs.

Kevin Krycka, Psy.D.
Program Director



THE CURRICULUM

The M.A. in Psychology emphasizes both theory and practice.

During the first year, students focus on the fundamentals in the existential-phenomenological approach, ethics, and therapeutic communication. During the second-year, students are required to take 18 credits (three quarters) of practicum in a community agency and one elective each quarter. They must also complete either an integration paper that

combines personal reflection on the practicum experience with discussion of relevant literature or a thesis.

All students take 26 credits of electives, beginning in their first year. Course descriptions are in the graduate catalogue, which is easily accessed from our home page.

The 72-credit program can be completed in two years.

REQUIRED COURSES

Madness and Society
Desperate Styles
Issues in Psychotherapy
Ethics and Phenomenology
Therapeutic Communication
The World of the Clinic
Clinical Supervision and Practicum
Integration Paper

ELECTIVES, SAMPLE TOPICS

Therapeutic Approach to Family
Working with Groups
Cross-Cultural Dynamics
Gender
Play Therapy
Phenomenological Research
Self Psychology
Phenomenology of Therapeutic Change
Hermeneutics: Interpretive Foundations of Non-Behavioral Psychology
Transference and Countertransference
The Healing Relationship

THE REQUIRED PRACTICUM

The practicum grounds academic knowledge and reflection in the therapeutic setting. Students begin the practicum in the second year with an agency in the community that matches their interests. Students are required to work in the same agency for a minimum of nine months.

The practicum includes direct supervision at the agency as well as on campus, small group supervision with faculty, during which

students present clinical cases, receive feedback on their work, and write a detailed clinical analysis.

Our students have had successful internships in a variety of agencies, including those below.

AGENCIES

Asian Counseling Referral Services

Center for Human Services

Compass Health

Kitsap Mental Health

Navos Mental Health

Renton Area Youth & Family Services

Recovery Café

Ryther Child Center

Seattle Counseling Services

Seattle Vet Center

Sound Mental Health

Swedish Medical Center Cancer Institute

Valley Cities Counseling

Vashon Youth & Family Services

Youth Eastside Services

YWCA Pathways Counseling





We encourage you to come to an information session and meet our faculty or to set up an appointment in person or by phone with the program director. Please check our website for upcoming information sessions, which take place throughout the year.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

Our program is highly competitive. You will be asked to provide three letters of recommendation and a personal autobiographical essay describing your interest in psychology and therapy and your understanding of the phenomenological existential approach. In addition, you must meet the following minimal qualifications:

- > Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution
- > Successful completion of these undergraduate psychology courses: introductory psychology, abnormal, developmental, major theories of

personality, statistics, and scientific research (e.g. experimental psychology).

- > Minimum 3.00 grade point average
- > Experience, paid or volunteer, in the area of counseling or human services (600 hours related experience)

Applicants who have reached the final screening will be interviewed, in person or by phone, by a faculty member.

Deadline for applications is January 15.

For complete admissions criteria and application procedures, visit our website.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

GRADUATE ADMISSIONS OFFICE

901 12th Avenue
P.O. Box 222000
Seattle, WA 98122-1090
Phone: 206-296-2000
Email: grad-admissions@seattleu.edu
Website: www.seattleu.edu
Toll Free Outside WA: 1-800-426-7123
Toll Free Inside WA: 1-800-542-0833

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Phone: 206-296-5400
Email: eppsync@seattleu.edu
Website: www.seattleu.edu/artsci/map

STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES

Phone: 206-296-2000
Email: financial_services@seattleu.edu
Website: www.seattleu.edu/sfs

In 2012, Seattle University received the Presidential Award for community service, the highest recognition by the federal government to a college or university for civic engagement, service learning, and volunteers. The M.A. in Psychology is rooted in a vision dedicated to improving the quality of life for people in our community and around the world.



Seattle University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, political ideology or status as a Vietnam-era or special disabled veteran in the administration of any of its education policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletics, and other school-administered policies and programs, or in its employment related policies and practices. In addition, the University does not discriminate on the basis of genetic information in its employment related policies and practices, including coverage under its health benefits program.

All University policies, practices and procedures are administered in a manner consistent with Seattle University's Catholic and Jesuit identity and character. Inquiries relating to these policies may be referred to the University's Vice President for Human Resources and University Services, and Equal Opportunity Officer at (206) 296-5870.

Consistent with the requirements of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and its implementing regulations, Seattle University has designated three individuals responsible for coordinating the University's Title IX compliance. Students or employees with concerns or complaints about discrimination on the basis of sex in employment or an education program or activity may contact any one of the following Title IX coordinators: Gerald Huffman, Vice President for Human Resources and University Services and Equal Opportunity Officer; Dr. Michele Murray, Associate Vice President of Student Development; Dr. Jacquelyn Miller, Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs; or the Office for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education.