

Psychology Department

Kevin Krycka, PsyD, Graduate Program Director

Degree Offered

Master of Arts in Psychology (MAP)

Master of Arts in Psychology

Combining strong psychotherapeutic training with philosophical reflectiveness, the existential-phenomenological therapeutic psychology program offers students an interdisciplinary focus on the qualitative, experiential study of human life. By laying the foundations for a therapeutic attitude, the program prepares students to enter the helping professions, and/or pursue doctoral studies. It proposes a humanistic model of understanding and working with people in-depth, respecting the complexity of human experience and drawing upon the wisdom accumulated by the long tradition of the humanities. It is informed by the philosophical traditions of existentialism, phenomenology and hermeneutics, and aims to be faithful to experience by setting aside theoretical prejudgments in order to understand persons existing in their situations.

Admission Requirements

Applicants provide the following for consideration:

- Completed Application for Graduate Admission form and a non-refundable \$55 application fee (waived for Seattle University alumni)
- Evidence of four-year equivalent bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution and the following six psychology courses: introduction to psychology, statistics, scientific research methods, growth and development, abnormal psychology, theories of personality—ordinarily the equivalent of a minor in psychology
- Minimum 3.00 GPA calculated from official transcripts of all post-secondary educational institutions attended in the last 90 quarter/60 semester credits of your bachelor's degree, including any transfer credits earned during this time, and any post-baccalaureate course work
- Beginning understanding of existential and phenomenological philosophy/psychology. A suggested list of readings related to the orientation of the program is on file in the department and is available to interested persons
- Prior to admission, experience in the areas of counseling or human services (600 hours related experience) as noted in the autobiography below
- Autobiography (minimum of at least six pages) including, but not limited to, information on the applicant's present and future interests in psychology. Essay should be sufficiently specific to give concrete sense of applicant's personal, as well as vocational and intellectual development. Include account of work or volunteer experiences, influential courses or readings, interest in this program and orientation, and especially personal events and changes that furthered the interest in psychology and the therapeutic process and relationship.
- Three letters of recommendation; no forms required
- Writing sample, such as an undergraduate paper
- If English is not applicant's native language, official English proficiency scores meeting the university's entrance requirements must be submitted. See policy 2008-01 in Admissions Policies for details.
- Screened candidates will be invited for an interview, either in person or by telephone.

For a complete application packet and instructions contact graduate admissions at (206) 296-2000. For specific questions regarding the program of study, contact the department at (206) 296-5400.

NOTE: We regard one's personal experience in psychotherapy, either prior to entering the program and/or before graduation, as extremely valuable. While in this program, students are not allowed to do psychotherapy as private practitioners.

Degree Requirements: Master of Arts in Psychology

This is ordinarily a full-time, two-year program; students typically carry nine credits each quarter. Fifty-five credit hours, including:

I. MAP Program Requirements

37 credits, including:

PSYC 501	Phenomenology of the Face	3
PSYC 503	Madness and Society	3
PSYC 505	Desperate Styles	3
PSYC 523	Issues in Psychotherapy.....	3
PSYC 533	Therapeutic Communication.....	3
PSYC 541	World of the Clinic.....	3
PSYC 543	Basic Practicum I.....	6
PSYC 544	Basic Practicum II.....	6
PSYC 545	Basic Practicum III.....	6
PSYC 563	Integration Paper	1

II. Other Requirements

Approved PSYC electives 18

NOTE: With permission, a student may take up to six credits total from the following: graduate courses from other SU programs; independent study courses; 400-level SU undergraduate courses; graduate credit from another university. Program director approval is required to accept graduate courses from other SU programs and/or independent study courses; approval by petition is required to accept 400-level SU undergraduate courses and/or graduate credit from another university.

Minimum credits required for degree55

Psychology Courses

PSYC 501 Phenomenology of the Face 3
Introduction to existential-phenomenological philosophy and psychology for therapeutic practice. Existential phenomenology helps us ethically understand other people in face-to-face situations: the paradox that "the face" presented both reveals and conceals the meanings of the other person. Majors or permission of instructor. (fall)

PSYC 503 Madness and Society 3
Introduction to disturbances labeled schizophrenia, bipolar, and borderline. Focus is on understanding the lived experience of the severely disturbed, an exploration of possible developmental roots of such styles of being and the implication for psychotherapy. Prerequisite: PSYC 505, majors or permission of instructor. (spring)

- PSYC 505 Desperate Styles..... 3**
The articulation of a phenomenologically and clinically based perspective for understanding disturbed behavior, with an emphasis on neurotic (anxiety) disorder. Issues in diagnosis (e.g., the DSM-IV) and therapy will also be given considerable attention. Majors or permission of instructor. (fall)
- PSYC 511 Family..... 3**
Exposure to historical, social and cultural perspectives of the family and contemporary thought on the roles and relationships within the family. A look at the challenges which face the family structure today and an introduction to the current therapeutic approaches. Majors or permission of instructor. (winter)
- PSYC 513 Phenomenological Research..... 3**
The course is both didactic and experiential. It focuses on the development of research questions, the nature of experiential data, interviewing, approaches to analyzing data, writing research reports as well as the theory and practice of small group collaborative (dialogal) research. Graduate student or permission of instructor. (summer)
- PSYC 523 Issues in Psychotherapy..... 3**
Exploration of dream interpretation, unconscious phenomena, transference and countertransference, the healing relationship and other key issues in psychotherapy from an experiential as well as conceptual perspective. Majors or permission of instructor. (winter)
- PSYC 525 Self Psychology..... 3**
The clinical writings of Heinz Kohut and his students, as well as psychotherapy with clients with so-called difficult narcissistic and borderline problems, will be discussed. Self-psychology prizes empathy, listening from within the experiential world of the client, and understanding and utilizing countertransference. Majors or permission of instructor. (spring)
- PSYC 527 Ethics and Phenomenology..... 3**
A search for the ethical ground for understanding pathology and therapy. A claim that Western philosophical egocentrism contributes to the narcissism of modern pathologies. A review of the philosophy of Emmanuel Levinas, suggests that the center of the true self is not in the individual self, but in the responsible concerns for others. Majors or permission of instructor. (spring)
- PSYC 533 Therapeutic Communication..... 3**
Principal focus is on listening to, understanding and responding to another, as well as self, in the interview process. Essentially an experiential course designed to explore the meaning of attending to relationship in therapeutic settings. Majors only, graded CR/F. (spring)
- PSYC 535 Phenomenology of Therapeutic Change..... 3**
Exploration of the different meanings of helping and change in a therapeutic relationship. Reflection on various models of the healer and experiential work on one's own motives, expectations and needs as therapists. Graded CR/F. (fall)
- PSYC 541 World of the Clinic..... 3**
This course provides a critical examination of the American mental health system. Perspectives taken include those from history, sociology, anthropology, philosophy, and psychology. Emphasis on the evolution of mental health care from the 19th to 21st centuries, and how student practicum sites fit or not within the larger mental health system, past and present. Co-requisite PSYC 543. Majors or permission of the instructor. (fall)

PSYC 543	Basic Practicum in Therapeutic Psychology I	6
PSYC 544	Basic Practicum in Therapeutic Psychology II	6
PSYC 545	Basic Practicum in Therapeutic Psychology III	6
	Offered as a series; each course provides a minimum of 200 hours on-site supervised practicum experience in agencies providing psychological service; weekly group case consultation with a faculty member, as well as individual consultation as needed. Ordinarily students are not allowed to get their practicum experience at agencies where they are working as staff. Majors only, graded CR/F, PSYC 543 (fall); PSYC 544 (winter); PSYC 545 (spring)	
PSYC 551	Hermeneutics: Interpretive Foundations of Non-Behavioral Psychology	3
	Philosophical study for practical decision making in therapeutic practice. A focus on the interpretive structure of human existence whereby meaning is constituted, and the philosophical ground of the activity of understanding oneself and others, which discloses itself in conversation. Majors or permission of instructor. (winter)	
PSYC 563	Integration Paper	1
	Completion of a written work on a chosen theme that integrates academic course work and practicum experience. Majors only, graded CR/F.	
PSYC 591-593	Special Topics	3
PSYC 596	Independent Study	1 to 3
	A student may take up to six credits of independent study with approval.	