

## **Considerations for Applicants**

The following should be considered when applying to a doctoral program in clinical psychology (Psy.D.), and the LIU Post program in particular.

### **Commitment to the Field**

Doctoral work in clinical psychology is a necessary step into the professional field as a psychologist. To become a licensed psychologist, in addition to successfully completing a five-year training program, graduates must complete a post-doctoral training experience and pass the licensing exam (depending on the requirements of their home state). This significant commitment to a career as a licensed clinical psychologist is paramount.

### **LIU Post: Type of Training Program**

Clinical psychologists work in a myriad of settings, from private practice, to consultant work, to working in mental health facilities, to work in schools, to work in large organizations. Graduates of the Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program are trained within two theoretical orientations: cognitive behavioral therapy and psychodynamic. Within that training, students also receive training in one of the three concentrations: Applied Child, Family Violence or Serious Mental Illness. The training program has at its core mission to serve underserved populations.

One of the unique features of our program is our second year clinical training experience. In addition to second-year coursework, all of our second year students complete an on-site practicum in our Psychological Services Center. Students carry a 4-6 client case load throughout the academic year in addition to running at least 2 groups. As part of their training, students in the second year also receive supervision by a faculty supervisor, a community supervisor, a group supervisor, and the PSC directors. Weekly in-service presentations and meetings are also required. This second-year training experience is designed to give students their first clinical training experience in a highly supervised setting with a wealth of support.

The location of the LIU Post program enables students to take advantage of the many training and clinical opportunities of the tri-state area, in a variety of settings for their third and fourth year externship experiences. In the fifth year, students apply to internship sites in the New York area, as well as out-of-state sites.

In addition to the solid foundational work in clinical psychology, students receive training in both orientations and opportunities for training in our three concentrations, as well as through our weekly lecture series and workshops.

### **LIU Post: Time Commitment**

The program is a full-time commitment, with classes typically held in the first and second year on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9:00am through 5:00pm. In the third year

students complete a part-time externship while completing classes on Wednesdays and Thursdays. In the fourth year students complete a part-time externship while completing classes on Thursdays. In the fifth year students go on full-time (usually paid) internship while also completing their dissertation (if they have not already defended their dissertation). In some cases students take an additional sixth year to complete their dissertation and/or internship year.

Part-time study is not available for students. Aside from 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year choice of concentration, students follow a lock-step curriculum during their time in the program that does not allow for part-time study.

### **LIU Post: Program Size**

The Clinical Psychology Doctoral program takes in a maximum of twenty students per academic year. Student cohorts are intentionally kept small in order to provide students with a dynamic and personal training program, throughout which strong mentoring relationships are formed between students and core faculty members. Students continue in their first through fourth year coursework in cohorts, which form the base of their professional network of peers. Additionally, through the required lectures, colloquiums, and peer-mentorship program, students will interact with other students in both upper and lower student cohorts as they progress through the program.

### **LIU Post: Financial Aid Options**

The program does provide students with some amount of financial aid. This may include research assistantships, teaching fellowships, service disparity fellowships, student groups' leadership roles, grant-funded positions, clinic assistantships, or other projects. Typically these offers are between 10K and 20K in aid (or ~25% to ~50% of students' total yearly tuition expense). Typically our students take our Unsubsidized Federal Loans, GradPLUS loans, or receive funding from personal sources.

Nationally, Psy.D. programs typically offer less financial aid directly to students than Ph.D. programs would. The nature of the program as a practitioner-scholar program, emphasizing clinical work (rather than intensive research) simply does not provide many of the large grant-funded projects. In addition, Psy.D. programs tend to be larger than Ph.D. programs, thereby distribution of programs' funds must be made to a larger cohort of students. Each applicant must weigh the differences of the training programs for themselves. Making informed decisions about the financial commitment of any doctoral program is an important professional decision. More information can be gathered from the APA website, as well as through review of resources available online about funding graduate education.

## **Timing of Application in Your Career Path**

The program receives approximately 300 applications every year. This competitive pool of applicants includes students from all over the globe, from various academic and personal backgrounds, and with a myriad of career objectives. Summary data on admissions is available on our webpage. Applicants should apprise themselves of the admission requirements before beginning the applications process.

Having some related field experience is crucial to a success application, as well as for a successful entry into the program's rigorous courses that pull much from students' clinical experiences. For information on how to gain this experience, applicants are encouraged to contact our current students, as well as research the APA and local Psychological Associations' websites.

These considerations will come into play as you make your decision about attending any doctoral-level program. If you have any questions about these or other considerations, please do not hesitate to ask.