

Title: Training Future Health Service Psychologists in Behavioral Health Practices for Children, Adolescents, and Families

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Background & Aims:

The American Psychological Association-Accredited Ph.D. and Psy.D Clinical Psychology doctoral programs at the California School of Professional Psychology at Alliant International University in Los Angeles, CA, share a Clinical Health Psychology Emphasis area for students interested in becoming clinical health psychologists. This emphasis area uses a biopsychosocial approach to train students in best practices for assessment and treatment of individuals across the lifespan. Students receive comprehensive and multidisciplinary training in behavioral health practices through coursework, field training placements, and dissertation/research mentorship opportunities with Clinical Health Psychology faculty members. Most of these faculty members are licensed psychologists, and all provide distinct expertise in clinical, behavioral, developmental, and pediatric psychology. It is through the training the university provides that our students gain the knowledge and skills necessary to implement evidence-based practices with children and families in community, school, and clinic-based settings.

This poster outlines the Clinical Health Psychology Emphasis area's coursework, field training, and dissertation/research requirements and opportunities for future health service psychologists pursuing training in behavioral health for children and families.

Methods: This poster describes the Emphasis Area's mission, aims, and expected competencies for all students. Curriculum development and expectations for students pursuing training with an emphasis in the treatment of behavioral health in children, adolescents, and families is reviewed. Second, this poster describes required courses and advanced clinical electives for students, which focus on training in evidence-based behavioral health practices across the lifespan from biopsychosocial and developmental conceptualization models. Descriptions and examples of behavioral health field training placements and dissertation/research mentorship are also provided.

Conclusions: Training future health service psychologists to provide evidence-based treatments to children, adolescents, and families is critical in furthering research, advancing applied practice, and promoting best practices in behavioral health treatment for these populations. The diverse academic training, mentorship, and clinical experience provided by members of the Clinical Health Psychology Emphasis area faculty aim to serve as a model for other clinical psychology doctoral programs in training future health service psychologists.