The primary mission of this program is to prepare students to become competent, self-aware, and compassionate clinical psychologists who are able to function effectively in multiple roles.
A commitment to diversity in both the faculty and student body, as well as strong student involvement in program management and curriculum feedback, are key to the growth and development of the Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology (PsyD). The program consists of three years of full-time study, plus an internship and a dissertation. Full-time study includes fall, spring, and six-week summer terms. The program also offers a Child/Adolescent Proficiency Track.

Our “Practitioner/Scholar” program adheres to the model developed and articulated by the National Council of Schools and Programs of Professional Psychology (NCSPPP). The PsyD program may only be completed on a full-time basis.

CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PROFICIENCY TRACK

The Graduate Institute of Professional Psychology began offering a Child and Adolescent Proficiency track in the fall of 2003. In addition to a core curriculum—which includes courses in clinical child development, child psychotherapy, and clinical aspects of adolescence—the track also allows students to have specific practicum experience in child and adolescent work. The goal of the track is to ensure that students develop not only a broad theoretical foundation, but also enhanced therapeutic, assessment, and program development skills in working with children, adolescents, and their families.

THE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

The doctoral dissertation is the capstone of the scholar component of the program. Students are prepared for the dissertation by the program’s research sequence in the first year and by the Dissertation Seminar in the fall of the second year. The dissertation provides an opportunity for students to demonstrate doctoral-level scholarship in clinical psychology. It may take a variety of forms, including an empirical study (quantitative or qualitative), a theoretical contribution/critique, a program evaluation, an analysis of a public-policy issue as related to professional practice, or a program development project. The major criteria are that the form, design, and methodology of the project be creative, germane to the question under consideration, and informed by the psychological literature; and that the final product yield conclusions that are logically consistent with this plan.

Students are encouraged to select topics that flow from their personal and professional interests and for which they can find appropriate dissertation advisement from among the faculty or psychologists within the region.

GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

The applicant must hold a bachelor’s degree (or equivalent) from an accredited collegiate institution; the degree must include courses in statistics, research methods, developmental psychology, physiological psychology, cognitive psychology, abnormal psychology, and personality psychology. The applicant should have achieved at least a B average in undergraduate courses. In addition, the applicant must submit scores for the General Record Exam (GRE) and the Psychology Subject GRE exam taken within the past five years. An application will not be considered without GRE scores. Preference will be given to applicants whose grades and GRE scores exceed the following: (a) Overall grade point average 3.0; (b) Psychology grade point average of 3.2; (c) GRE Verbal of 156; (d) GRE Quantitative of 146; (e) GRE Psychology of 550. We also realize that for some applicants, GRE scores are not the best measure of their potential as doctoral-level psychologists. For this reason, all parts of the applicant’s record are reviewed by the PsyD Admission Committee.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The admission review committee will consider only complete applications. All application materials may be uploaded in a PDF format. Official transcripts should be sent to the following address:

Graduate Admission Office
CCC221
University of Hartford
200 Bloomfield Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06117

The following items are required:

• An online application. Visit hartford.edu/grad-apply
• A non-refundable application fee of $50, make check payable to the University of Hartford.
• Official transcripts for all collegiate level coursework, forwarding to the University of Hartford.
• Upload a letter of intent of one or two pages describing your professional and career goals and how you expect graduate study to help you accomplish them.
• Upload a personal statement describing life experiences that helped shape your personality and your interest in professional psychology.
• Submit official transcripts from all accredited colleges and universities. Our program requires applicants to have completed a bachelor’s degree. Please compute your grade point averages for overall undergraduate study, for psychology, and, if applicable, the same grade point averages for any completed graduate work. On the supplementary form, please list all undergraduate and graduate psychology courses you have taken with grades.
• Submit three recommendations from academic sources/ supervisory personnel with whom you have worked, using the forms provided.
• Upload a résumé or curriculum vitae.
• All applicants must take the General Record Exam (GRE) and the GRE Subject Exam in Psychology. Scores may not be older than five years. Information regarding GRE test dates may be obtained by contacting Educational Testing Service at ets.org. Send scores to the University of Hartford using school code 3436.
• A personal interview is required, and usually takes place between the end of January and the beginning of March.

International Applicants

TOEFL—Official scores to be submitted. The University of Hartford test code number is 3436. Visit TOEFL at ets.org. Minimum score: 550 paper-based or 79 internet-based. The Pearson Test of English (PTE) minimum score is a 58. Visit the PTE at pearsonpte.com. The IELTS is also accepted with a minimum score of 6.5 or higher.

Guarantor’s Statement—As part of the application, international students must provide a bank statement to ensure adequacy of funds. This statement is also used to issue an I-20 form to students. The Guarantor’s Statement is necessary for obtaining a visa. The cost for international students to study and live at the University of Hartford can be found here at hartford.edu/graduate/int.aspx as estimated expenses.

INTERVIEWS

Award to the program also requires a personal interview. After a review of applicants’ completed application forms, roughly 90 candidates are invited to attend a four-hour process that involves both group and individual interviews. These interview sessions are held in late January and early March.

DEADLINES AND DATES

Award into the PsyD Program occurs only for the fall semester. Completed applications must be received by December 1. The admission committee will review late applications in the order in which they are received. Applicants are notified of the admission committee decision by April 1.

FINANCIAL AID

Domestic Financial Aid

Domestic graduate students may qualify for Federal Family Education Loans and must satisfy three requirements in order to be eligible for financial aid:

• File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), fafsa.gov, for the academic year and meet all eligibility requirements established by the U.S. Department of Education.
• Be matriculated into a graduate degree-granting program (not conditionally accepted).
• Be registered for at least 6 credits per semester.

For more information, call 800.947.4503, email finaid@hartford.edu, or visit admission.hartford.edu/financial.

International Financial Aid

Financial aid for international graduate students is currently available through graduate assistantships. These assistantships are administered by the individual departments throughout the University and vary in size and availability.

Graduate Assistantships

The Department of Psychology provides support to students through a variety of assistantships and fellowships. Applicants should contact the admission director of the PsyD Program for more information about these sources of support for doctoral students. Please note that assistantships, fellowships, or other support a student receives as a result of their enrollment may affect Federal Stafford Loan eligibility.
PROGRAM OF STUDY

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

• Completion of course work equal to a minimum of 96 credits, 12 of which are earned in clinical practica.

• Demonstration of competence on both theoretical and clinical components of a qualifying examination.

• Completion of one-year, full-time internship or two consecutive yearlong, half-time internships at an approved mental health facility.

• Completion of the PsyD dissertation.

COURSE WORK REQUIREMENTS:

• Assessment Methods • (3 courses)

• Basic Treatment Methods • (3 courses)

• Professional Seminars in Clinical Psychology • (9 courses)

• Psychological Foundations • (8 courses)

• Statistics and Research Design • (2 courses)

• Electives • (12 credits)

• Practicum • (4 semesters)

• Doctoral Dissertation • (1 course)

PRACTICA AND INTERNSHIP

In support of the development of clinical skills, the program requires two years of half-time practica, beginning in the student’s second year. These practica are integrated with academic learning in Professional Practice Seminars (second year) and Case Conference Seminars (third year). Students receive excellent professional training, with an emphasis on diversity through exposure to different clinical populations in a variety of clinical and community settings under the supervision of doctoral-level psychologists with a variety of theoretical orientations.

The clinical internship is the capstone experience of the program’s practitioner component. Students apply competitively with students from other programs for predoctoral internships. Students may either continue to pursue generalist training through the internships or focus on an area of specialization, such as neuropsychology or forensic psychology, or on a population, such as children and adolescents, under the supervision of licensed psychologists.

Our program of practicum training, combined with academic coursework, has produced advanced graduate students who are well prepared for their clinical internships. The GIPP website, hartford.edu/psyd, provides information on the internship placement rates for students in the PsyD program. Students may pursue internships either on a one-year, full-time basis, or in some cases, on a two-year, half-time basis. Before beginning internships, students must obtain approval of their dissertation proposals.

THE PsyD PROGRAM IS OFFERED BY THE GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY (GIPP), WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY OF THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES.