

# Pre-Doctoral Clinical Residency

## Determining Readiness to Apply for a Residency

The Western Clinical Psychology Program policy is that students must have had a successful dissertation proposal meeting, currently be making good progress on their dissertation research (including the collection of all data before formally applying for residency) and any remaining course work, and also be deemed clinically ready, before the Director of the Clinical Program will approve applying for residency. **As such...**

- Senior Ph.D. students considering whether to apply for residency **should consult with both their dissertation supervisor and the Clinical Practica Coordinator well in advance of any application deadlines (i.e., by early June).**
- These students should first consult with their dissertation supervisor to determine whether thesis research “readiness” can be realistically achieved prior to going on residency. To assist in this discussion, the program requirements that should be completed prior to leaving on residency are detailed below. In particular, the dissertation plans for the next year (i.e., until the August just before the start of residency) should be documented in writing (e.g., indicate the date when all data will be “in hand”, when results will be completed, and when the final thesis draft will be given to the supervisor, etc.). **This “thesis readiness” document should be signed by both the student and dissertation supervisor, and then given by the student to the Program Director no later than June 15th.**
- Students should next consult with the Clinical Practica Coordinator to determine whether “**clinical readiness**” can be realistically achieved. To assist in this review process, no later than **June 5<sup>th</sup>**, the student should submit to the Clinical Practicum Coordinator an up-to-date **Tally of Practicum/Program Sanctioned Hours form** (see **Sample Tally**). The form should include an estimate of the additional hours the student expects to accrue by October 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Clinical Practicum Coordinator will review this material with an eye toward not just the amount of clinical training, but its depth and breadth. As well, the Coordinator will contact recent and/or current clinical supervisors to get their perspectives on the student’s clinical readiness to apply. If the Coordinator has some questions about the students’ readiness, the Coordinator will schedule a meeting with the student. That meeting will be held before June 15<sup>th</sup>.

If, based on the above information, the Clinical Program Coordinator judges the student ready to apply, the Coordinator will notify the student and Clinical Program Director. The Coordinator will attach the student’s Tally of Practicum/Program Sanctioned Hours to that message. Together, they will constitute confirmation of “**clinical readiness**” to apply for residency, which should be received by the Clinical Program Director no later than **June 15th**.

\* *Please note:* If the student does not submit the Tally of Practicum Program/Sanctioned Hours Form to the Clinical Practicum Coordinator **by June 5<sup>th</sup>**, it will be assumed that the student is not considering applying for residency in the Fall.

- When considering “readiness” to apply for residency, students and supervisors should feel free to consult with the Program Director and/or Practica Coordinator, for additional input and guidance.
- The above documentation provided by the student to the Program Director will form part of the information that is discussed at a Clinical Program Training Committee meeting (held in mid to late June) to consider both thesis and clinical readiness to apply for residency. This decision is made by the Clinical Program Training Committee.
- Following the June faculty review of thesis and clinical “readiness”, the students deemed ready to apply for residency will be notified in writing by the Clinical Program Director. This written permission is required to proceed with the residency application process (which starts approximately 10 months prior to the beginning of an residency).

**Clinical Program Requirements to be Completed Prior to Leaving for Residency** The pre-doctoral clinical residency is a full-time experience and students usually find that they have very limited time to complete other academic and thesis-related work during that year. It is therefore important that students complete all program requirements listed below, before leaving on residency.

- All Ph.D. comprehensive requirements
- A successful Ph.D. thesis proposal defense and collection of all thesis data
- All required course work
- A minimum of 600 hours of supervised clinical training (as per CPA) of which at least 300 should be face-to-face client contact (interviewing, assessing, intervening) and at least 150 supervision. Please note that data from our recent residency applicants suggests that significantly more than this minimum is needed to be competitive for a residency (e.g., see [Table 1](#)).
- *In addition to the above, students are **strongly urged to submit an acceptable draft of their thesis to their supervisor, prior to leaving on residency.***

### **Applying for Residency**

The residency application process requires considerable time. As such, students should be prepared to block off the equivalent of 6 weeks (at a minimum) for putting applications together and the interview process.

Full details of the program’s policies regarding the residency application process can be found on the Clinical Program website. This website also has links to other important

residency resource material that should be reviewed (e.g., CPA link to “Match made on Earth”; info about APPIC, etc.).

Please see [Table 1](#) for further information.