

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT

Master of Social Sciences (Clinical Psychology)

(Applicable to students admitted in the academic year 2025-26 and thereafter)

The curriculum shall extend over two years and the intervening term breaks. The full-time curriculum consists of a total of 171 credits. Candidates are required to complete 22 compulsory courses, including 15 taught courses each given 6 units of credit (a total of 90 credits), 6 practicum courses, Practicum I to V (PSYC7029 Practicum I, PSYC7030 Practicum II, PSYC8011 Practicum III, PSYC8012 Practicum IV and PSYC8013 Practicum V) and in-house practicum course (PSYC8014) with a total of 69 credits, and a dissertation research course given 12 credits (PSYC8006 Dissertation). Each credit-unit is roughly equivalent to 20 hours of student learning activities (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activities) for the taught courses and the dissertation, or 30 hours of work for practicum under supervision of a clinical supervisor. The contact hours and output requirements for different types of courses vary according to the learning modes employed. There will be different types of written assignments, ranging from short reflection papers and critiques to seminar and discussion papers, as well as various assessment and treatment reports, and a written dissertation. The study load for the 2-year course would therefore be approximately 4110 hours, including a total of about 2700 contact hours.

Ten of the taught courses are normally taken in the first year and the remaining five are taken in the second year. Whereas the first year of the curriculum shall focus on the theoretical foundations and basic skills training in Clinical Psychology, the second year shall extend to include the application of theories and assessment and treatment models to special populations in various clinical settings.

1. Taught courses (6 credits)

Students are required to complete 15 taught courses. Teaching of 6 credits courses normally takes the form of one 3-hour lecture each week throughout a regular 13-week semester. There is only one course offered across multiple semesters. Depending on the specific course, students are assessed based on a combination of class participation, essay, group project report, reflection paper, presentation, quizzes, reports and term test with total output of 300-3,000 words for 6 credits course depending on the type and purpose of the assignment. The study load for a 6-credits course is roughly equivalent to 120 hours. This includes both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activities. (100% coursework)

2. Practica (12 credits for external placement and 9 credits for in-house practicum)

Students are required to complete six practicum courses consisting a minimum of 220 days of external clinical placement and a minimum of 30 days of in-house clinical activities. Each credit is equivalent to 30 hours of practical work under supervision of a clinical supervisor. The average duration of each external practicum is 44 days (= 360 contact hours), while the in-house practicum which lasts throughout 2 years is around 270 hours (= 270 contact hours). In the five external practicum courses, students are evaluated by their assigned field supervisors based on their professional conduct and attitudes, use of assessment and intervention skills, case management, report writing, and record keeping. The required length of written reports ranges from 1,500 to 2,000 words, depending on the type and purpose of the report and the placement setting. For in-house training, students are evaluated by supervisors based on the learning attitudes and work ethics due to the non-evaluative nature on knowledge and skills. Students also have to hand-in written reports ranges from 1,500 to 2,000 words depending on the types and purposes. (100% practicum)

3. Dissertation (12 credits)

Students are required to complete a dissertation which should be a substantive, empirical work relevant to clinical psychology. The dissertation must represent a student's individual work. The examiners may also prescribe an oral examination on the subject of the dissertation. The length of the dissertation is expected to be between 10,000 to 20,000 words. The expected individual or group meetings with thesis supervisor is approximately 48 hours per student. (100% coursework)

October 2018

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