

Frequently Asked Questions

GENERAL FAQ

Q: What is our Accreditation status? How is it determined?

A: The Clinical (PsyD) began in 1979 and has been accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) since 1985 and prior to that, was preceded by an accredited Clinical (PhD) program which was established in 1965. The committee on Accreditation conducted a review of the clinical program in 2015 and granted reaccreditation to the program for another 7 years. The next accreditation visit will occur in 2022. Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology is also accredited by the Middle States Association as part of Yeshiva University's review and has been approved by the Department of Education of New York State. The clinical program was reviewed by the New York State Department of Education for licensure-qualifying status and was re-registered as a licensure-qualifying doctoral program in January 1, 2002. This registration will be extended annually until the program is reviewed in the future.

Q: What days should I expect to be in school?

A: Classes are offered on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Students are expected to be able to attend Ferkauf monthly symposia (held on Thursdays). In their third and fourth years, students are also expected to schedule time to see patients in the Parnes Clinic. Mondays and Fridays are usually reserved for externship (16 hours/week).

Q: How do you transfer credits? What's the maximum credit transfer allowed?

A: The Registrar handles all transcript issues, including the transfer of credits. Students must show proof that a course is comparable to the required course at Ferkauf, and must receive approval from the instructor of the course. A maximum of 12 credits are allowed to be transferred. For more details, please refer to the Student Handbook.

Q: Are there opportunities to earn money while in graduate school? Can I work?

A: During the first year a part-time employment is feasible for highly-organized students wishing to work during the school year. However, beyond the first academic year, it is very difficult to hold a job in addition to school and practicum requirements. However, it is feasible to work as a teaching/research assistant. A variety of assistantships are available, in which students may earn a stipend.

Q: Whom do I contact about tuition?

A: Issues regarding tuition and payment are handled by the Office of Graduate Student Finance. Tel: 718-862-1810.

Q: When will I be awarded the Master's Degree?

A: Generally speaking, the Master's Degree is conferred after research project I is completed. For more information, please see the Student Handbook.

Q: What is the Organization of Psychology Students (OPS) and how can they help me?

A: The purpose of the organization is to provide FGSP students with information relevant to their academic and professional careers. Members serve to facilitate communication between students and administration/faculty, as well as student organizations and alumni by acting as a liaison between the groups. In addition, OPS offers seminars and workshops, and provides funding for research and conferences. In attempts to foster a sense of community within the culture of FGSP, OPS sponsors student socials, and refreshments during midterms and finals.

CLINICAL TRAINING FAQ

Q: When does my clinical training begin?

A: Students begin their clinical training in their first year as they conduct intakes through the Parnes Clinic. Also, all clinical students begin the Clinical Assessment sequence in the first semester of their second year. For more information regarding clinical sequence, please refer to the Student Handbook.

Q: CBT v. Psychodynamic Track: How does this work? What are the requirements?

A: Students are required to take one intervention course in each of the three categories: CBT (Category B), Psychodynamic (Category A), and “other modalities or populations” (Category C). In their first two years, all students take Evidence Based Psychodynamic Therapies (Category A), another Category A course (students can choose between Self Psychology, Object Relations Theory and Therapy, and Interpersonal and Relational Psychotherapy), Introduction to Cognitive Therapy (Category B), and Behavior Therapy (Category B). By taking these courses, students fulfill the requirements for both the CBT and the Psychodynamic tracks. Students are then required to choose either a category A or B track for practicum training in their third and fourth years which involves specified advanced courses, labs, supervision, and patients. For more details, please see the Student Handbook.

LAB FAQ

Q: What classes have labs?

A: Labs are required for all assessment classes. Labs are also required as part of the CBT or Psychodynamic track. Lab instructors and lab hours are determined at the start of every semester. For more information regarding labs, lab FAQs and the times that they are usually offered, please refer to the Student Handbook.

Q: If I plan to work my first year, can I choose which day to take my assessment lab?

A: No. Do not make any other commitments until your first-year schedule has been completely set up. This includes lab assignments on the first day of classes.

Q: Can I switch assessment or therapy labs if the time and/or location do not fit into my schedule?

A: You can request a switch, but if the switch is not possible, you are required to attend the lab to which you are assigned.

Q: Can I take both a Psychodynamic lab and CBT lab?

A: Yes. You can take both labs but not concurrently. You have the option to take a psychodynamic lab in your third year and the CBT lab in your fourth year or vice versa.

Q: Can I take only a psychodynamic or CBT lab if I have a strong interest in only one orientation?

A: Yes, you can take two full years of psychodynamic or CBT lab allowing a more in-depth exposure to one orientation.

Q: Are there any readings or supplemental work associated with the assessment or therapy labs?

A: The labs complement the course work and require additional assignments and readings.

RESEARCH FAQ:

Q: What research opportunities are available to me at Ferkauf?

A: Ferkauf requires students to complete two substantial independent research projects: a research project (RP) I, which is comparable to a Master's thesis, and an RP II, which is comparable to a dissertation. Throughout the first semester, faculty members present their research interests and describe their research labs in a series of colloquia, so students get a sense of whose research interests most closely align with their own. Students are then encouraged to meet individually with faculty members to get to know them and their research interests better. After this, students request the faculty members with whom they would be most interested in working, and are matched with research advisors to begin working with on research in their second year. Although research advisors differ in terms of how they lead their research labs, students can expect to spend their participation in the lab to begin by developing a topic (researching, reading articles, discussing their topic with their lab members) and writing their RP I between the end of their second year and the beginning of their third year. Following that, research advisors guide students through designing an experimental study and the process of getting IRB approval during their third year; students generally collect data for their experiment and write their RP II by the end of their fourth year.

Q: Who reviews Research Project I?

A: Research Project I is reviewed by your research adviser and a second reader, selected by your research adviser (usually an upperclassman from your research lab).

Q: Do you receive a grade for Research Project I? What are the criteria for passing?

A: Yes, you do receive a grade for Research Project I. Different research advisers may have different views regarding the length and content of the project. Therefore, it is important for students to clarify the expectations of their specific adviser. Research Project I is graded using the RACER I form, which is available on the Current Student Resources Page.

Q: How much time will I have to make corrections and changes?

A: Ideally, Research Project I will be finished by the end of fall of your third year. The earlier you submit a draft, the more time you will have to make necessary corrections. Your Research Project I must pass before you will be allowed to apply for internship.