

PROGRAM COMPETENCY REQUIREMENT (COMPS)

Once the second-year project defense is completed, students can begin working on the program competency requirements (comps). Students may work simultaneously on publication of their second-year project while they work on the competency requirement. In lieu of a written comprehensive examination, the Clinical Psychology PhD program requires students to complete a portfolio to demonstrate competency in the empirical analysis of behavior, communication of psychological knowledge, and applied clinical work. The comps portfolio is designed to give the student focused opportunities for additional study, research, and skill development in specific areas of clinical psychology.

Before beginning work on comps activities, students submit a written proposal of their plan to complete each element of the program competency requirements. The plan must be approved by a three-person Comps Advisory Committee composed of core faculty members. The committee can be the same as the second-year project committee, EXCEPT that it can only contain core faculty. Also, at least one committee member should have expertise in psychological assessment (e.g., neuropsychologist, assessment instructor).

All students are required to complete and pass comps by the end of the spring semester of the fourth year. This must be completed prior to students being able to present their dissertation proposal. Successful completion and defense of the competency requirement is a prerequisite to doctoral candidacy (i.e., must be completed prior to students being able to present their dissertation proposal). The competency requirement defense may be administered as an oral defense at the discretion of the Advisory Committee (e.g., meeting with committee members and the student to review accomplished components of the proposed plan). The Chair of the Advisory Committee is responsible for placing in the student's permanent file a written record of all decisions (including the Competency Requirement Rubric Form) reached by the Committee and forwarding a copy to the Director of Clinical Training.

Program competency requirement portfolio components:

1. Competency in the Empirical Analysis of Behavior (pick one of two)

- i. Submission of a first author, research-based manuscript for publication consideration in a peer-reviewed journal. **Note:** The manuscript cannot be the second-year project as that is needed to fulfill the second-year project requirement. Acceptable projects may use original data (e.g., new data collection), archival data/secondary data analysis (e.g., national data repositories, data collected during the second-year project that was not used for the second-year project), statistical simulation data, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses. The manuscript cannot be written prior to the defense of the second-year project.
- ii. Submission of a first author, research-based grant proposal to an extramural funding agency.

2. Competency in Communication of Psychological Knowledge

- i. Orally present the findings from their second-year project, or a research project of similar scope, at a Department of Psychological Science Colloquium meeting, regional, state, or national professional conference. The presentation must be research-based and include data and/or research findings. If the student decides to present at a Department of Psychological Science Colloquium meeting, the program and student will work together to organize and advertise the event. The event must be advertised to the department at least 2 weeks prior to the event. **Note:** It must be an oral presentation; it cannot be a standard poster presentation.

3. Competency in Applied Clinical Work

- i. Submit a deidentified integrative psychological report to the committee.
- ii. Submit a written case conceptualization of a deidentified psychotherapy case with assessment data, treatment plan, and intervention to the committee.
- iii. Orally present the case conceptualization (with assessment data, treatment plan and intervention). Additionally, students are expected to answer questions related to their submitted written integrative psychological report (see 3.i.). The case presentation will be made at a formal clinical case conference meeting (e.g., program area meeting, Psychology Clinic didactic meeting, psychiatry/psychology case conference meeting, psychology clinical case conference meeting with Clinical Psychology PhD students and faculty). All committee members must be in attendance, and the event must be advertised within the department at least two weeks prior to the event.