

**REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF  
MASTER OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
(MSocSc)**

*(See also General Regulations and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula)*

*These regulations apply to candidates admitted to the Master of Social Sciences in the academic year 2025-26 and thereafter.*

Any publication based on work approved for a higher degree should contain a reference to the effect that the work was submitted to the University of Hong Kong for the award of the degree.

The degree of Master of Social Sciences (MSocSc) is a postgraduate degree awarded for the satisfactory completion of a prescribed course of study in one of the following fields: Behavioral Health; Clinical Psychology; Counselling; Criminology; Educational Psychology; Gerontology; Media, Culture and Creative Cities; Mental Health; Nonprofit Management; Population and Policy Analysis; Psychology; Social Data Analytics; Social Service Management; Sociology; and Sustainability Leadership and Governance. These fields of study will not necessarily be offered every year.

**Admission requirements**

MSS 1. To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences, candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
- (b) shall hold
  - (i) a Bachelor's degree of this University; or
  - (ii) another qualification of equivalent standard from this University or from another University or comparable institution accepted for this purpose;
- (c) for a candidate who is seeking admission on the basis of a qualification from a university or comparable institution outside Hong Kong of which the language of teaching and/or examination is not English, shall satisfy the University English language requirement applicable to higher degrees as prescribed under General Regulation G2(b);
- (d) shall satisfy any other admission requirements which may be specified for individual fields of study in the regulations below; and
- (e) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.

MSS 1.1 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the fields of Behavioral Health, Counselling, Gerontology, Mental Health, and Social Service Management, candidates shall preferably have had a minimum of two years of post-qualification experience in the relevant fields, in addition to the requirements set out in Regulation MSS 1.

MSS 1.2 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Clinical Psychology, candidates

- (a) shall hold a Bachelor's degree with a major in Psychology, or a recognized equivalent qualification;
- (b) shall have demonstrated empirical research experience in the form of a dissertation completed in the Bachelor's degree programme or another equivalent programme in psychology, or first-authorship in published journal article;
- (c) shall be eligible for the Graduate Membership of the Hong Kong Psychological Society; and
- (d) shall preferably have relevant working experience, in addition to the requirements set out in Regulation MSS 1.

MSS 1.3 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Criminology, candidates

- (a) shall hold a Bachelor's degree preferably with a major in the social sciences or humanities discipline; or
  - (b) shall preferably have working experience in the criminal justice system, social welfare agencies, or in other work with offenders,
- in addition to the requirements set out in Regulation MSS 1.

MSS 1.4 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Educational Psychology, candidates

- (a) shall hold a Bachelor's degree with a major in Psychology, or a recognized equivalent qualification;
  - (b) shall be eligible for the Graduate Membership of the Hong Kong Psychological Society; and
  - (c) shall preferably have relevant working experience in educational or related settings,
- in addition to the requirements set out in Regulation MSS 1.

MSS 1.5 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Nonprofit Management, candidates shall preferably have three years of relevant working experience, in addition to the requirements set out in Regulation MSS 1.

MSS 1.6 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Psychology, candidates

- (a) shall preferably have more than one year of work experience; and
  - (b) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination and interview if shortlisted,
- in addition to the requirements set out in Regulation MSS 1.

MSS 1.7 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Social Data Analytics, candidates

- (a) shall preferably have a Bachelor's degree in one of the fields of social sciences: Anthropology, Cognitive Science, Communication, Economics, Education Studies, Ethnic Studies, Linguistics, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Urban Studies and Planning, or a closely related field; or a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics, Computer Science, or a related field with an additional major/minor or substantial advanced coursework in one or more social sciences domains; and
- (b) shall preferably have pre-existing training in statistics and/or formal logic or prior experience with one or more technical domains, including programming, statistics, formal logic, calculus, linear algebra, etc.

in addition to the requirements set out in Regulation MSS 1.

MSS 1.8 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Population and Policy Analysis, candidates

- (a) shall preferably have a Bachelor's degree in one of the fields of social sciences: Anthropology, Cognitive Science, Communication, Economics, Education Studies, Ethnic Studies, Linguistics, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Urban Studies and Planning, or a closely related field; and
- (b) shall preferably have prior experience with applied statistics, mathematics, programming, and/or one or more technical domains (e.g. demographic methods); and
- (c) with a background in statistics, mathematics, computer science, or a related field may be considered if they have a minor or have completed substantial advanced coursework in one or more social sciences domains before admission; or if they commit to pursuing additional domain-specific study upon admission

in addition to the requirements set out in Regulation MSS 1.

MSS 1.9 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Sociology, candidates shall hold a Bachelor's degree preferably with a major in the social sciences or humanities discipline, in addition to the requirements set out in Regulation MSS 1.

MSS 2. An application for exemption from the above requirements shall be considered on a case by case basis.

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## **Qualifying examination**

MSS 3.

- (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test the candidates' formal academic ability or their ability to follow the courses of study prescribed. It shall consist of one or more written papers or their equivalent and may include a project report.
  - (b) Candidates who are required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until they have satisfied the examiners in the examination.
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## **Award of degree**

MSS 4. To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Social Sciences, candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula; and
  - (b) shall complete the programme as prescribed in the syllabuses and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.
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## **Period of study**

MSS 5. The curriculum shall normally extend over one academic year of full-time study; or two academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of two academic years of full-time study or three academic years of part-time study, unless otherwise specified for individual fields of study in the regulations below.

MSS 5.1 In the field of Clinical Psychology, the programme shall normally extend over two academic years of full-time study, with a maximum period of registration of four academic years of full-time study.

MSS 5.2 In the field of Counselling, the programme shall normally extend over two or three academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of three academic years for the two-year part-time study or four academic years for the three-year part-time study.

MSS 5.3 In the field of Criminology, the programme shall normally extend over one academic year of full-time study or two academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of two academic years of full-time study or four academic years of part-time study.

MSS 5.4 In the field of Educational Psychology, the programme shall normally extend over two academic years of full-time study or three academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of four academic years for both full-time and part-time study.

MSS 5.5 In the fields of Media, Culture and Creative Cities, the programme shall normally extend over one academic year of full-time study or two academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of two academic years of full-time study or four academic years of part-time study.

MSS 5.6 In the field of Nonprofit Management, the programme shall normally extend over one academic year (three semesters) of full-time study or two academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of two academic years of full-time study or three academic years of part-time study.

MSS 5.7 In the fields of Mental Health and Social Service Management, the programme shall normally extend over two academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of three academic years of part-time study.

MSS 5.8 In the field of Population and Policy Analysis, the programme shall normally extend over

one academic year of full-time study, with a maximum period of registration of two academic years of full-time study.

MSS 5.9 In the field of Sociology, the programme shall normally extend over one academic year of full-time study or two academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of two academic years of full-time study or three academic years of part-time study.

MSS 6. Candidates shall not be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration specified in the above regulations, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty.

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### **Advanced Standing**

MSS 7. Advanced Standing may be granted to candidates in recognition of studies completed successfully before admission to the curriculum. Candidates who are awarded Advanced Standing will not be granted any further credit transfer for those studies for which Advanced Standing has been granted. The amount of credits to be granted for Advanced Standing shall be determined by the Board of the Faculty, in accordance with the following principles:

- (a) a candidate may be granted a total of not more than 20% of the total credits normally required under a curriculum for Advanced Standing unless otherwise approved by the Senate; and
  - (b) credits granted for Advanced Standing shall not normally be included in the calculation of the GPA unless permitted by the Board of the Faculty but will be recorded on the transcript of the candidate.
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### **Exemption**

MSS 8. Candidates may be exempted, with or without special conditions attached, from the requirement prescribed in the regulations and syllabuses governing the curriculum with the approval of the Board of the Faculty, except in the case of a capstone experience. Approval for exemption of a capstone experience may be granted only by the Senate with good reasons. Candidates who are so exempted must replace the number of exempted credits with courses of the same credit value.

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### **Progression in curriculum**

MSS 9. Candidates may, with the approval of the Board of the Faculty, transfer credits for courses completed at other institutions during their candidature. The number of transferred credits may be recorded in the transcript of the candidate, but the results of courses completed at other institutions shall not be included in the calculation of the GPA. The combined total number of credits to be granted for Advanced Standing and credit transfer shall not exceed half of the total credits normally required under the curricula of the candidates during their candidature at the University.

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### **Completion of curriculum**

MSS 10. To complete the curriculum, candidates

- (a) shall satisfy the requirements prescribed in TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
- (b) shall follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed written work and field work;
- (c) shall complete and present a satisfactory dissertation or capstone project as prescribed in the syllabuses; and
- (d) shall satisfy the examiners in all prescribed courses and in any prescribed form of examination.

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## **Dissertation and Capstone project**

MSS 11. Subject to the provisions of Regulation MSS 10(c), the title of the dissertation or capstone project shall be submitted for approval by not later than March 31 of the final academic year in which the teaching programme ends and the dissertation or capstone project shall be presented by a date as prescribed in the syllabuses for each field of study; candidates shall submit a statement that the dissertation or capstone project represents their own work (or in the case of conjoint work, a statement countersigned by their co-worker(s), which show their share of the work) undertaken after registration as candidates for the degree.

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## **Assessment**

MSS 12. Candidates shall be assessed for each of the courses for which they have registered, and assessment may be conducted in any combination of continuous assessment of coursework, written examinations and/or any other assessable activities. Only passed courses will earn credits.

MSS 13.

- (a) Where so prescribed in the syllabuses, coursework or a dissertation or a capstone project shall constitute part or whole of the examination for one or more courses.
- (b) An assessment of the candidates' coursework during their studies, including completion of written assignments and participation in field work or laboratory work, as the case may be, may be taken into account in determining the candidates' result in each written examination paper; or, where so prescribed in the syllabuses, may constitute the examination of one or more courses.

MSS 14. Candidates shall not be permitted to repeat a course for which they have received a passing grade for the purpose of upgrading.

MSS 15. Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners at their first attempt in not more than half of the number of courses to be examined, whether by means of written examination papers or coursework assessment, during any of the academic years of study, may be permitted to make up for the failed course(s) in the following manner:

- (a) undergoing re-assessment/re-examination in the failed course; or
- (b) re-submitting failed coursework, without having to repeat the same course of instruction; or
- (c) repeating the failed course by undergoing instruction and satisfying the assessments; or
- (d) for elective courses, taking another course in lieu and satisfying the assessment requirements.

MSS 16. Subject to the provision of Regulation MSS 10(c), candidates who have failed to present a satisfactory dissertation or capstone project may be permitted to submit a new or revised dissertation or capstone project within a specified period.

MSS 17. Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners in any prescribed field work/practical work/internship may be permitted to present themselves for re-examination in field work/practical work/internship within a specified period.

MSS 18. Candidates who are unable because of their illness to be present at the written examination of any course may apply for permission to present themselves at a supplementary examination of the same course to be held before the beginning of the following academic year. Any such application shall be made on the form prescribed within seven calendar days of the first day of the candidate's absence from any examination. Any supplementary examination shall be part of that academic year's examinations, and the provision made in the regulations for failure at the first attempt shall apply accordingly.

MSS 19. There shall be no appeal against the results of examinations and all other forms of

assessment.

MSS 20. Candidates who

- (a) are not permitted to present themselves for re-assessment/re-examination in any failed course(s) or to repeat the failed course(s) or take another course in lieu under Regulation MSS 15; or
  - (b) have failed to satisfy the examiners in any course(s) at a second attempt; or
  - (c) are not permitted to submit a new or revised dissertation or capstone project under Regulation MSS 16; or
  - (d) have failed to submit a satisfactory new or revised dissertation or capstone project under Regulation MSS 16; or
  - (e) have exceeded the maximum period of registration.
- may be required to discontinue their studies.

MSS 20.1 In the field of Clinical Psychology, candidates who have failed two external placements or the second attempt of either the external placement or internal practicum may be required to discontinue their studies.

MSS 20.2 In the field of Educational Psychology, candidates who have failed any two practicum courses may be required to discontinue their studies.

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### Grading systems

MSS 21. Individual courses shall be graded according to the one of the following grading systems:

- (a) Letter grades, their standards and the grade points for assessment as follows:

<i>Grade</i>		<i>Standard</i>	<i>Grade Point</i>
A+	}	Excellent	4.3
A			4.0
A-			3.7
B+	}	Good	3.3
B			3.0
B-			2.7
C+	}	Satisfactory	2.3
C			2.0
C-			1.7
D+	}	Pass	1.3
D			1.0
F		Fail	0

or

- (b) 'Pass' or 'Fail'.

Courses graded according to (b) above shall not be included in the calculation of the GPA.

## **Classification of awards**

MSS 22. On successful completion of the curriculum, candidates who have shown exceptional merit may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidates' degree diploma.

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## **SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**

### **CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY**

The Department of Psychology offers a postgraduate programme leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Clinical Psychology. The programme aims to train competent and professional clinical psychologists and has an emphasis on science-based practices.

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### **STRUCTURE AND EVALUATION**

The programme shall extend over two years and the intervening term breaks. The full-time programme consists of a total of 171 credits. Candidates are required to complete 21 compulsory courses, including 15 taught courses (6 credits each) (a total of 90 credits), 6 practicum courses (Practicum I to V) and an in-house Practicum course 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. Whereas the first year of the programme shall focus on the theoretical foundations and basic skills training in Clinical Psychology, the second year shall extend to include the application of the theories and assessment and treatment models to special populations in various clinical settings. The courses are as follows:

#### First year

- PSYC7024. Induction Programme (6 credits)
- PSYC7029. Practicum I (12 credits)
- PSYC7030. Practicum II (12 credits)
- PSYC7002. Assessment of personality and psychopathology (6 credits)
- PSYC7003. Individual psychotherapy I (6 credits)
- PSYC7004. Individual psychotherapy II (6 credits)
- PSYC7005. Psychopathology I (6 credits)
- PSYC7006. Psychopathology II (6 credits)
- PSYC7018. Cognitive assessment (6 credits)
- PSYC7019. Research methods and statistics I (6 credits)
- PSYC7020. Research methods and statistics II (6 credits)
- PSYC7009. Clinical seminar I (6 credits)

#### Second year

- PSYC8011. Practicum III (12 credits)
- PSYC8012. Practicum IV (12 credits)
- PSYC8013. Practicum V (12 credits)
- PSYC8001. Clinical seminar II (6 credits)
- PSYC8003. Family and group therapy (6 credits)
- PSYC8004. Clinical neuropsychology (6 credits)

#### First and/or Second year

- PSYC8002. Community and health psychology (6 credits)
- PSYC8005. Ethics and professional issues (6 credits)

PSYC8014. Psychological Services Unit In-House Practicum (9 credits)

***Capstone Experience Course***

PSYC8006. Dissertation (12 credits)

The courses listed above may be offered at a different year of study.

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## **EXAMINATIONS**

Examinations of the courses followed by a candidate may be either by a written paper in the examination held in December or May of the academic year of study, or by continuous assessment of the candidates' performance in completing the requirements of these courses, or by a combination of these methods.

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## **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

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### **PSYC7024. Induction Programme (6 credits)**

This course aims at engaging trainees in a number of orientation activities designed to provide them with a preliminary understanding of the theoretical and practical issues addressed in the programme and to prepare them for their first placement beginning in December of the year of training.

Assessment: 100% coursework

This course will be assessed on a pass/fail basis and will not be counted in the calculation of the GPA. However, grades will be recorded on the official transcript

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### **PSYC7029. Practicum I (12 credits)**

Practicum I is the first of the five practicum courses. It consists of a minimum of 44 days of on-site clinical placement. In addition, students will start their 2-year long, minimum 30 days, in-house supervised clinical activities with the Psychological Services Unit. Through the on-site clinical placements, students will have the opportunity to learn and work under the direct supervision of experienced clinical psychologists who are providing services in different settings such as public hospitals, social services agencies, and government departments. They will gain practical experience in working with a variety of client groups with different problems across the life span. The training includes supervised practice in assessment, case formulation, and treatment. Involvement in case conferences, workshops, seminars, or projects within the placement settings may also form part of the training. Students will learn the professional ethics, service contexts and rules in different settings, and acquire knowledge and skills to work effectively in different teams or structures.

Assessment: 100% practicum

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### **PSYC7030. Practicum II (12 credits)**

Practicum II is the second of the five practicum courses. It consists of a minimum of 44 days of on-site clinical placement. In addition, students will continue their 2-year long, minimum 30 days, in-house supervised clinical activities with the Psychological Services Unit. Through the on-site clinical placements, students will have the opportunity to learn and work under the direct supervision of experienced clinical psychologists in different settings such as public hospitals, social services agencies, and government departments. They will gain practical experience in working with a variety of client groups with different problems across the life span. The training includes supervised practice in assessment, case formulation, and treatment. Involvement in case conferences, workshops, seminars, or projects within the placement settings may also form part of the training. Students will learn the

professional ethics, service contexts and rules in different settings, and acquire knowledge and skills to work effectively in different teams or structures.

Assessment: 100% practicum

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**PSYC8011. Practicum III (12 credits)**

Practicum III is the third of the five practicum courses. It consists of a minimum of 44 days of on-site clinical placement. In addition, students will continue their 2-year long in-house supervised clinical activities with the Psychological Services Unit and plan to complete a minimum of 30 days of the in-house training by the end of the 2-year training. Through the on-site clinical placements, students will have the opportunity to learn and work under the direct supervision of experienced clinical psychologists in different settings such as public hospitals, social services agencies, and government departments. They will gain practical experience in working with a variety of client groups with different problems across the life span. The training includes supervised practice in assessment, case formulation, and treatment. Involvement in case conferences, workshops, seminars, or projects within the placement settings may also form part of the training. Students will learn the professional ethics, service contexts and rules in different settings, and acquire knowledge and skills to work effectively in different teams or structures.

Assessment: 100% practicum

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**PSYC8012. Practicum IV (12 credits)**

Practicum IV is the fourth of the five practicum courses. It consists of a minimum of 44 days of on-site clinical placement. In addition, students will continue their 2-year long in-house supervised clinical activities with the Psychological Services Unit and work towards completing a minimum of 30 days of the in-house training by the end of the 2-year training. Through the on-site clinical placements, students will have the opportunity to learn and work under the direct supervision of experienced clinical psychologists in different settings such as public hospitals, social services agencies, and government departments. They will gain practical experience in working with a variety of client groups with different problems across the life span. The training includes supervised practice in assessment, case formulation, and treatment. Involvement in case conferences, workshops, seminars, or projects within the placement settings may also form part of the training. Students will learn the professional ethics, service contexts and rules in different settings, and acquire knowledge and skills to work effectively in different teams or structures.

Assessment: 100% practicum

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**PSYC8013. Practicum V (12 credits)**

Practicum V is the fifth of the five practicum courses. It consists of a minimum of 44 days of on-site clinical placement. In addition, students will have to complete their 2-year long, minimum 30 days, in-house supervised clinical activities with the Psychological Services Unit within this period. Students may be required to undertake additional in-house supervised clinical work, if deemed necessary, to support their learning and to demonstrate their clinical competency. Through the on-site clinical placements, students will have the opportunity to learn and work under the direct supervision of experienced clinical psychologists in different settings such as public hospitals, social services agencies, and government departments. They will gain practical experience in working with a variety of client groups with different problems across the life span. The training includes supervised practice in assessment, case formulation, and treatment. Involvement in case conferences, workshops, seminars, or projects within the placement settings may also form part of the training. Students will learn the professional ethics, service contexts and rules in different settings, and acquire knowledge and skills to work effectively in different teams or structures.

Assessment: 100% practicum

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**PSYC7002. Assessment of personality and psychopathology (6 credits)**

This course focuses on the theoretical, practical, and cross-cultural issues related to the assessment of psychopathology and personality. Trainees will be exposed to a variety of clinical evaluation protocols in order to evaluate the level of functioning and symptomatology of an individual. They will also be exposed to the application of these techniques to a wide range of psychiatric problems as stipulated in DSM-5-tr. These include mental state examination, test administration and interpretation, diagnostic decision making, integration of material derived from patient history and other relevant sources, and comprehensive case conceptualization.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**PSYC7003. Individual psychotherapy I (6 credits)**

This course introduces the common principles and skills of psychotherapies. In addition to reviewing the theoretical rationale and recent research and clinical literature, this course also focuses on the application of the empirically-supported therapeutic techniques to clinical and special populations.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**PSYC7004. Individual psychotherapy II (6 credits)**

The course focuses on the application of evidence-based psychotherapeutic approaches to the treatment of specific psychological disorders in both adults and children. Cultural issues in the practice of psychotherapy will be discussed when appropriate. Experienced clinicians are invited to introduce common treatment approaches applied to different populations in Hong Kong. In addition, new developments and contemporary issues in psychotherapy will be critically examined.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**PSYC7005. Psychopathology I (6 credits)**

In this first course of Psychopathology, students will learn important theoretical concepts in the definition, aetiology, features and classification of mental disorders. Major disorders across the life span will be examined. Significant paradigms, such as biological, psychodynamic, cognitive – behavioural and relevant psychosocial theories will be discussed, together with special issues in the diagnosis and conceptualisation of specific mental disorders.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**PSYC7006. Psychopathology II (6 credits)**

This second course of Psychopathology uses a developmental psychopathology perspective to discuss major topics of mental health problems across the life span. It aims to enhance the conceptualisation and case formulation skills of trainees as scientist–practitioners. The topics will be examined in depth, with special emphasis on the integration of theoretical conceptualisation, research findings and clinical practice. Special attention will be given to current issues of concern in both the Eastern and Western contexts.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**PSYC7018. Cognitive assessment (6 credits)**

This course provides an introduction to the assessment of cognitive functioning. Students learn to administer, score, and interpret a number of commonly used cognitive tests. Students also learn to present test results in professional psychological reports. Related psychometric principles, professional ethics, and cultural issues will be discussed.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**PSYC7019. Research methods and statistics I (6 credits)**

The topics in this course include intermediate research methods and statistics. This course is designed to extend the knowledge and skills of students on research design and quantitative methods, using empirical examples in psychology to illustrate the key concepts and statistical reasoning involved. Students learn to become more intelligent consumers of research findings and more independent in conducting their own empirical studies.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**PSYC7020. Research methods and statistics II (6 credits)**

The topics in this course include intermediate research methods and statistics. This course is designed to extend the knowledge and skills of students on research design and quantitative methods, using empirical examples in psychology to illustrate the key concepts and statistical reasoning involved. Students learn to become more intelligent consumers of research findings and more independent in conducting their own empirical studies. At the end of this course, each student will have developed a viable research proposal in preparation for his/her thesis according to standards of the American Psychological Association.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**PSYC7009. Clinical seminar I (6 credits)**

A series of skill-training workshops will be offered to prepare students for further practical training in clinical placements. The course is composed of two arms: Assessment and Intervention. The Assessment arm covers core principles and strategies for intake interview with both adult and children populations. Intellectual assessment in the local context will be covered and commonly used tools for assessing a broad range of cognitive, behavioural, emotional, and social functions in children will also be introduced. The Treatment arm covers basic attitude and skills in counselling and forming therapeutic alliance, as well as specific skills used in cognitive and behavioural therapies.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**PSYC8001. Clinical seminar II (6 credits)**

The seminar provides in-depth clinical case discussions, with a focus on contemporary approaches to treatment planning and execution for a range of complex psychological problems. Emphasis is placed on integration of psychological theories and clinical practice, as well as training on therapeutic skills and treatment strategies for effective implementation. Students will get the chance to learn advanced knowledge and skills in specialist areas of psychological practice. Experienced clinicians and scholars will be invited to share their expertise on specialized topics.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**PSYC8002. Community and health psychology (6 credits)**

This course provides an overview of the history, context, and development of community psychology

and health psychology. Students will be exposed to key concepts and values associated with the fields. They will also explore the application of community psychology and health psychology in the local context. The course provides ample opportunities for students to collectively develop and examine community-based initiatives to tackle mental health problems. Special emphasis is given to multicultural and diversity issues.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **PSYC8003. Family and group therapy (6 credits)**

This course provides an overview of the theories and practice of family and group interventions. For Family Intervention, it covers fundamental concepts, theories and frameworks in working with families and couples. Students will be able to develop basic knowledge and different theories of family therapy and how it can be applied in special populations. The course will be conducted in didactic lectures with case illustrations, videos and/or exercises.

The Group Intervention component aims to familiarize the trainees with the major theories, principles and techniques of group interventions through reading, discussion, videos and role plays. Group development, dynamics and different stages in the group processes will be examined. The empirical basis for efficacy of group interventions and group interventions for different populations and different psychological disorders will be addressed.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **PSYC8004. Clinical neuropsychology (6 credits)**

This course aims to provide an overview of basic functional neuroanatomy and clinical neuropathology. Literature in neuroscience and clinical neuropsychology will be reviewed and discussed. Neuropsychological assessment approaches will be introduced.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **PSYC8005. Ethics and professional issues (6 credits)**

The focus of this course is on the process of ethical decision making in the professional practice of clinical psychology. Models of ethical decision making will be introduced, discussed, and applied. In addition to the Code of Professional Conduct published by local professional bodies (e.g. the Hong Kong Psychological Society and the Hong Kong Institute of Clinical Psychologists), a number of ethical codes, guidelines, and standards of practice will be reviewed.

Assessment: 100% coursework

This course will be assessed on a pass/fail basis and will not be counted in the calculation of the GPA. However, grades will be recorded on the official transcript.

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### **PSYC8014. Psychological Services Unit In-House Practicum (9 credits)**

This course provides students with hands-on clinical experience in assessment and treatment at the in-house Psychological Services Unit (PSU) at HKU. This course spans over the two years of the programme. Students will be given the opportunity to observe real cases, conduct assessments, therapeutic groups and individual therapies for clients from the university and the community, and engage in public education initiatives under the supervision of course instructors.

Assessment: 100% coursework

This course will be assessed on a pass/fail/pass with distinction basis and will not be counted in the calculation of the GPA. However, grades will be recorded on the official transcript.

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## Capstone Experience Course

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### **PSYC8006. Dissertation (12 credits)**

While in residence, each student proposes and completes a substantive, scholarly 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 title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval on March 31 of the final academic year of study, and the dissertation shall be submitted by June 30 of the final academic year of study.

Assessment: 100% coursework