

Clinical Psychologist

Background –

A Clinical Psychologist works to evaluate, diagnose and treat individuals with possible or confirmed mental health and/or emotional disorders. Evaluations can take the form of observations, interviews or administration of psychological tests. Clinical Psychologists can also work in academic or research settings, such as at a university.

What is the average salary of a clinical psychologist? \$75,230*

What classes at GVSU may help me in my career? Discuss with your advisor which courses among those on this list, along with other courses not listed here, would best serve your career goals.

1. **COM 301** – Interpersonal Communication
2. **COM 302** – Small Group Communication
3. **PSY 302** – Psychology of Adjustment
4. **PSY 303** – Psychopathology
5. **PSY 310** – Behavior Modification
6. **PSY 381** – Group Dynamics
7. **PSY 432** – Psychopharmacology
8. **PSY 452** – Counseling: Theories and Applications

What additional education is required to become a clinical psychologist? In addition to a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, a Doctoral degree and license is required to practice as a Clinical Psychologist. There are two paths possible for continued education: Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology (Ph. D) or a Doctor of Psychology (Psy. D) in Clinical Psychology. You should discuss the pros and cons of each of these with an advisor before making a decision. For example, the Psy. D programs are typically extremely expensive.

For more information on licensure: http://www.michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-72600_72603_27529_27552---,00.html

What skills are applicable in this career field? Analytical, communication and observational skills are all important. In addition, problem solving skills as well as statistical knowledge are important for this career. Interpersonal skills and patience are important for the client centered portion of this career as well.

Employer Possibilities - Generally, clinical psychologists work in hospital or social care settings, community mental health centers or in private practice settings. They can also work on university or research settings.

*Bls.gov (2016) for “psychologist”