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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

WCU Doctor of Psychology (PsyD) Program in Clinical Psychology

(1) Are there graduate assistantships for your PsyD students?

Yes. We are pleased to offer incoming Fall 2019 PsyD students a graduate assistantship (GA) which will cover 50% of tuition during their first year (Fall, Spring, and Summer), with the opportunity to renew after Year 1 based on the availability of funds and after submission of a competitive application. Every effort will be made to ensure that the graduate assistantship is in the research lab of the student's research mentor. In addition, our program has competitive tuition rates when compared to other regional PsyD programs, making the WCU PsyD an attractive option.

(2) Is the PsyD program accredited?

As a new program, our PsyD Program is not currently accredited by APA. We are in the process of seeking APA accreditation and have been approved for a site visit, which is scheduled for April 2019. Questions related to the program's accreditation status should be directed to the APA Commission on Accreditation (CoA): Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation, 750 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002-4242. Telephone: (202) 336-5979, Fax: (202) 336-5978.

(3) How long will it take for the PsyD program to gain APA accreditation?

According to APA (see <http://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation/about/accreditation-process.aspx>), the "CoA cannot guarantee a specific timeframe for the...final decision" regarding accreditation. However, given that our site visit will occur in Spring 2019, the earliest that the CoA would be able to come to a decision would be at their Summer Program Review meeting in July 2019.

(4) Since this program is not APA accredited yet, will I have difficulty obtaining a pre-doctoral internship or becoming licensed as a Psychologist in Pennsylvania after graduating from the program?

Doctoral program accreditation status can impact the likelihood of getting matched with a predoctoral internship (completing a 1-year predoctoral internship is a requirement for all Clinical Psychology PsyD and PhD students prior to earning their doctorate) and the process of getting licensed as a Psychologist in the state of Pennsylvania. In terms of the predoctoral internship, we anticipate having accreditation for our WCU Community Mental Health Clinic, which will serve as a pre-doctoral internship site option for our PsyD students. In terms of licensure, the PA Board of Psychology requires that applicants for licensure have graduated from a program that has earned APA accreditation "within 1 year from the award of the doctoral degree" (see <http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/049/chapter41/s41.31.html>). This means that, **even if the PsyD program obtains accreditation up to 12 months after your graduation, you will still be eligible for PA licensure.**

(5) Since this program is not APA accredited yet, will I have difficulty finding a job after graduating?

We expect to have APA accreditation by the time the students in our first cohort graduate, which means that they (and all subsequent cohorts) will be able to say that they have graduated from an accredited program. If, for some reason, we do not earn accreditation by the time that you graduate, it is unlikely that the accreditation status will impact your job prospects. However, there are some federal agencies, such as the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, which require Psychologists to have graduated from an accredited graduate program in order to obtain employment.

(6) Is it possible to continue to work full- or part-time while working on my PsyD?

Full-time employment will not be possible while enrolled in the PsyD program because our PsyD classes are typically offered during daytime hours. The PsyD program is a full-time, year-round program with required courses offered during the Fall and Spring semesters, as well as during Summer sessions. PsyD students will enroll in five courses (15 credits) in Fall-Year 1, Spring-Year 1, Fall-Year 2, and Spring-Year 2, along with Summer Session courses. In addition to the coursework, doctoral students will need to have schedules that are flexible enough to accommodate their clinical practicum training and any relevant research lab activities. Part-time employment *may* be possible while pursuing the PsyD; however, it would be to your advantage to engage in part-time employment that is relevant to the clinical psychology field. *We strongly advise that students in the PsyD program minimize or eliminate any work commitments that are not related to their doctoral studies and training.*

(7) Is it possible to transfer directly from the General Psychology MA program into the Clinical Psychology PsyD program?

No. A direct transfer from any MA program is not possible. You must apply for admission to the PsyD program and be considered along with the larger pool of applicants seeking admission for the Fall semester.