Our PsyD program offers many opportunities for professional development and growth, including:

• A strong emphasis on diversity in clinical practice
• A curriculum linked to hands-on clinical training in well-established San Francisco Bay Area agencies
• Unique dissertation projects that connect to larger themes and values of CIIS

Program Highlights

Clinical Psychology

Doctor of Psychology (PsyD) in Clinical Psychology

School of Professional Psychology and Health

The Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology (PsyD) program bridges the rich tradition of depth psychology with the dynamic world of clinical psychology, paying particular attention to culture and the relational aspects of context and positionality.

Guided by a vision of clinical practice emphasizing holistic, depth, and respect for difference, the PsyD program values open inquiry and multiple ways of knowing. We support a learning environment that is creative, inclusive, and transformative on both personal and professional levels.

Program Description

The PsyD program is for people who wish to deepen their training through advanced study. We are committed to an integral education that challenges and expands our students through engagement with other paradigms and traditions.

FORMAT

Apart of our classes are small, about 10 to 15 students, and are conducted in-person at the CIIS campus. We believe that training of future clinicians is best accomplished face-to-face, in a community of peers and instructors who are passionate about learning.

See the Admissions page for more detailed information on program format and structure.

AVAILABLE

Clinical Year:

Classroom: Weekdays

For information, please visit ciis.edu/psyd

For more information and application requirements, please visit www.ciis.edu/admissions.

For information on application requirements and procedures, or to complete an online application, please visit ciis.edu/admissions.

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About CIIS

California Institute of Integral Studies (CIIS) is an internationally recognized leader in integral education. CIIS has an enrollment of more than 1,300 students pursuing degrees in a variety of academic programs in its schools of Consciousness and Transformation, Professional Psychology and Health, Undergraduate Studies, and Chinese Program and New College. In addition, CIIS hosts a vibrant and evolving program through The Arts at CIIS and offers a dynamic array of events through its Public Programs division, including workshops, lectures, and certificate programs. The university provides affordable mental health and acupuncture services to the San Francisco Bay Area through its eight award-winning clinics. CIIS is accredited by the Western Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) and Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM).

For more information, please visit ciis.edu/psyd
We provide specialized training in clinical psychology that combines the principles of integral education with the clinical efficacy of contemporary psychodynamic psychotherapy. We promote an ethos of open and holistic inquiry emphasizing the centrality of relationships in people’s lives. We seek to address issues that are essential to human growth, psychological development, and meaningful change.

LANI CHOW, PhD
Program Chair

The PsyD encourages you to engage in continuous self-exploration, which helps identify now your personal history and worldview shape who you are and want to be as a therapist while practicing self-compassion and self-care. You also learn how to deal with clinical issues applying critical thinking at legal, ethical, and clinical levels. I found meaningful change, personal growth, and meaningful change.

LESLIE KILEY-SMITH
PsyD Alumna ('18)

As clinicians, supervisors, and educators, our graduates provide leadership in many contexts, including:

1. Community mental health services for adults, couples, children, and families
2. Private practices focused on in-depth relationally based psychotherapy
3. Additional treatments for schizophrenia and other chronic mental health challenges
4. Public and private-school programs
5. Universally counseling services for students and staff
6. Teaching graduate and undergraduate courses and workshops
7. Psychological testing and evaluation
8. Supervision and consultation
9. Research, scholarly writing, and scholarly activities

Sample Courses

• Psychodynamic Perspectives on the Therapeutic Relationship: Explores the healing potentials of the psychotherapeutic relationship through contemporary approaches to transference, countertransference, interpersonality, and enactment. Contemporary “two-person” models are highlighted, as are issues of power, understanding, and therapeutic involvement in the emotional intensities of psychodynamic psychotherapy.

• Gender and Sexuality: Examines binary systems of organization of gender and sexuality and the social construction of gender, presentations, and identities/identifications that result.

• Advanced Seminar in Cultural Psychology: Examines cultural, ideological, and structural frameworks related to racialization, and institutions and systems of power in clinical practice.

• Buddhism and Psychotherapy (elective): Compares Buddhist principles and practices with Western psychotherapy and psychological concepts. Examines burgeoning mindfulness research, its clinical applications, and its roots in Buddhism.

• Psychedelic-Assisted Psychotherapy (elective): Examines the history of psychedelic use from prehistory to the present, with an emphasis on the appropriate use and integration of psychedelics in depth-oriented psychotherapy.

• Elective Courses Topics
  • Ericksonian and the Therapeutic Relationship
  • Mindfulness and Clinical Practice
  • Place, Power, and Psychoanalysis
  • Buddhist, Hindu, and Psychological Principles
  • Psychodynamic Group Psychotherapy
  • Borderline Personality Disorder
  • Cultural Studies of Psychotherapy
  • Journey to Sri Lanka: Ayurveda, Buddhism, and Psychology (an intensive travel course)
  • Psychodynamic Group Psychotherapy
  • Advanced Topics in Child Psychotherapy

Our program and the University truly support doctoral education for students, helping them appreciate the intersection between science and clinical practice embedded in a larger context of human diversity. The program structures my sense of being human and my capacity for understanding how people are as the whole is more than the sum of its parts because our faculty help us discover wisdom that is challenging yet comforting to my heart and soul.

LESLEY KILEY-SMITH
PsyD Alumna ('12)

As clinicians, supervisors, and educators, our graduates provide leadership in many contexts, including:

• Community mental health services for adults, couples, children, and families
• Private practices focused on in-depth relationally based psychotherapy
• Specialized treatments for schizophrenia and other chronic mental health challenges
• Public and private-school programs
• Universally counseling services for students and staff
• Teaching graduate and undergraduate courses and workshops
• Psychological testing and evaluation
• Supervision and consultation
• Research, scholarly writing, and scholarly activities

Course of Study/Curriculum

Depth psychology refers to therapeutic approaches that conceive of the whole person rather than a collection of attributes or symptoms. We view people as integral wholes that are enlivened through a matrix of relationships, including those with essential others; with nature and spirit (the original Latin meaning of “psyche”); and with communities, power structures, and cultural meaning systems. Our curriculum reflects these commitments. Students with a master’s degree in psychology (or equivalent) can transfer up to 30 units toward the 90 units required for the PsyD degree.

Sample Courses

• Psychodynamic Perspectives on the Therapeutic Relationship: Explores the healing potentials of the psychotherapeutic relationship through contemporary approaches to transference, countertransference, interpersonality, and enactment. Contemporary “two-person” models are highlighted, as are issues of power, understanding, and therapeutic involvement in the emotional intensities of psychodynamic psychotherapy.

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  • Advanced Topics in Child Psychotherapy

Learn more about the PsyD program and its courses.

Students/Alumni

“Believe in the PsyD program that we are uniquely placed at the intersection of depth psychology, humanistic, and transpersonal psychologies. This allows students a broad exposure to different forms of therapy that meaningfully engages all aspects of who we are. We also seek to address the social, political, and cultural issues that are essential to human growth, psychological development, and meaningful change.”

RENÉ DUMETZ, PSYD
Program Chair

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LANI CHOW, PhD
Program Chair