Graduate Psychology Program
Course Descriptions

The following course descriptions are of all graduate (Masters in Counseling Psychology, Masters in School Psychology and Doctorate in Counseling Psychology) programs. Please refer to the specific degree course sequential for the required and elective courses that apply to each.

**PSYC 500 Human Growth and Lifespan Development:** General view of the philosophical, historical, sociological, biological and psychological foundation of human development through the life span. Introduction to the different developmental theories and the exponents; the different stages of human development physical, motor, moral, social, sexual and cognitive; changes during each stage will be analyzed and discussed.

**PSYC 501 Social Bases of Behavior:** This course is about the dynamic relationship between social psychology and ethnological foundations of personality development.

**PSYC 503 Theories of Personality:** Principal theories about personality formation and functioning. These theories will be critically analyzed in order to weigh its socio-cultural relevance and implication in the practice of counseling psychology.

**PSYC 504 Psychopathology:** A study of behavioral and personality disorders considerable emphasis will be given to those disorders of higher prevalence in Puerto Rican society. Analysis of different disorders models will be considered; usage and management of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.

**PSYC 505 Cognitive Assessment and Measurements:** This course reviews general topics in psychological assessment such as: its historical development, basic statistical analysis, test
construction, evaluation of ethical standard as process, and the role of computers. It allows the student to acquire the necessary skills for the use of cognitive assessment tools such as: Wechsler Scales, Raven, Vineland, Bender, Beery, and Draw a Person, among others. 30 hours and practicum are required.

**PSYC 506 Research Methods and Statistics:** The course introduces students in behavioral research methods and statistics related to investigations in psychology. Tools to better understand the assumptions and limitations of current research will be discussed. Finally, the course promotes a learning approach to research design and statistics in line with today’s research by drawing examples from real investigations and providing students with opportunities to learn and apply concepts.

**PSYC 508 Test Construction: Theory and Application:** Discussion and analysis of major principles and concepts of test construction in psychological measurement. Methods for determining validity and reliability will be examined by performing class exercises. The content also includes the study of scaling methods such as Guttman, Thurstone, and Likert scales. Moreover, students will apply knowledge from the course to construct their own assessment instruments.

**PSYC 510 Motivation and Learning:** This course focuses on different theories concerning motivation and learning processes. The scope, importance and its relation to human behavior will be discussed.

**PSYC 520 Biological Bases of Behavior:** Structure and function of the nervous system. Considerable emphasis is placed on the relation between the organism - behavior and the higher cortical process.

**PSYC 550 Practicum I Initial Interview and Psychological Contract:** Didactic and experience approach for the development of the skills related to the establishment of the therapeutic relationship (self-evaluation, control of feelings, attitudes and prejudices towards the client and behavior), and the initial interview. 20 hours of practice.
**PSYC 551 Practicum II Conceptualization and Intervention Planning:** This course provides the prospective counseling psychologist with the experience needed to deal with the diagnostic, conceptualization and development of a psychological intervention plan, framed in the code of ethics of the profession. 50 hours of practice.

**PSYC 574 Practicum III:** This practicum provides the student direct experience in psychological intervention. Individual, couples and family assessments and treatment’s allows students the opportunity to apply different theoretical models in the evidence based interventions. A minimum of 215 hours of practice and 45 hours of class reunion for supervision and didactic intervention are required.

**PSYC 575 Practicum III Psychotherapeutic Interventions I:** This practicum provides the student direct experience in psychological intervention. Individual, couples and family assessments and treatment’s allows students the opportunity to apply different theoretical models in the evidence based interventions. A minimum of 200 hours of practice and 45 hours of class reunion for supervision and didactic intervention are required.

**PSYC 599 Practicum IV:** This practicum provides the student the opportunity to enhance the psychotherapeutic intervention skills acquired in PSYC 574. Emphasis is given to the integration of knowledge and skills on evidence based practices in psychological interventions and ethical issues solving models. 215 hours of practice.

**PSYC 600 Practicum IV Psychotherapeutic Intervention II:** This practicum provides the student the opportunity to enhance the psychotherapeutic intervention skills acquired in PSYC 575. Emphasis is given to the integration of knowledge and skills on evidence based practices in psychological interventions and ethical issues solving models. 215 hours of practice.

**CPSY 601 Foundations of Counseling Psychology:** The aim of this course is to discuss the historical development, the fundamental components and the ethical principles of counseling psychology
**CPSY 602 Counseling Psychology Models and Techniques:** This course provides the link between the theories of personality, theoretical models and the psychological counseling process focusing on evidence based practices.

**SPSY 602 Legal and Ethical Issues of the School Psychology Services:** Critical analysis of the codes of ethics, local and federal laws that regulate the practice of school psychology in PR.

**CPSY 603 Systemic Counseling Psychology:** Basic knowledge about group processes. Different theoretical approaches will be studied. In the same vein, ethical and professional issues related to group dynamics will be analyzed and discussed.

**SPSY 604 Psychoeducational Diagnosis of Exceptional Persons:** Basic evaluation methods for diagnosis of exceptional persons: psychological and educational strategies in psychoeducational assessment, Evaluation in the school setting: academic progress, basic skills, social performance and cognitive aspects.

**CPSY 605 Psychological Interventions with Children and Adolescents:** Principle psychopathological disorders and evidence based treatment therapies for children and adolescents. Ethical issues related to them. Due to its importance to contemporary society, a section about child abuse will be included.

**SPSY 608 Behavior Modification I: Principles and Procedures:** Analysis of the principles and procedures of behavior modification. Will examine how environmental events influence human behavior, what behavior modification is and how it works.

**SPSY 609 Behavior Modification II: Discipline handling and problem solving at school:** Approaches and techniques related to different disciplinary models. Analysis and discussion of the most effective disciplinary strategies for the different problems confronted by teachers and students; consequences of each strategy; ethical and legal implications.

**SPSY 613 Conflict Mediation and the Prevention of School Violence:** Critical analysis of the mediation process as a method of managing conflicts in a non adversative way in the school
setting: theoretical foundations, stages in the mediation process, strategies and techniques that have proved to be effective in handling disputes among teachers, parents, and students.

**CPSY 615 Cognitive Therapy:** Principles of cognitive therapy and their applications in counseling psychology.

**CPSY 620 Psychological Counseling for Drug and Alcohol Abusers:** This course will study and analyze the theoretical models and the techniques used in the counseling of alcohol and drug abusers.

**CPSY 625 Sexual Assault Counseling:** Study of the dynamics of sexual abuse, sexual assault and sexual harassment. It includes an introduction to the psychological counseling techniques for the treatment of children or adult victims of sexual abuse, sexual assault or sexual harassment.

**CPSY 630 Career and Occupational Counseling:** The course incorporates theory and practice in such a way that knowledge previously acquired could be applied to different settings, students will be related to a countless career counseling theories, techniques and concepts of life planning, as well as to guide for implementing and evaluating career counseling through lifespan programs.

**SPSY 650 Special Issues in School Psychology:** Analysis and discussion of relevant topics of the principles and the practice of school psychology: consulting, traumas, short term therapies, crisis intervention, family and school interaction.

**CPSY 700 Atypical Sexual Behaviors: Etiologies and Treatments:** Analysis of atypical human sexual behaviors: etiologies and treatment modalities. Etiology and therapeutic treatment and management of sexual offenders.

**PSYC 704 Psychopharmacology:** This course is designed to the study of the history and use of psychotropic drugs. Emphasis is given to understanding the uses of these drugs, their
mechanism, side effects and the conditions under which they are used. Relationships between major diagnosis classifications and appropriate medications are presented.

**CPSY 710 Animals as co-therapists in health care settings:** Study of the relationships and interactions produced between humans and animals / pets; the benefits it has over the mental, physical and emotional well being; it's history and development encased within an interdisciplinary approach. Study of scientific research, models, conceptual frameworks and theories in order to broaden knowledge and the skills focused on the modality of Animal Assisted Therapy.

**PSYC 715 Introduction to Erickson Hypnosis:** An introductory, yet comprehensive view of the communication model of hypnosis of Milton H. Erickson, M.D., theoretical presentation as well as experiential/interactional course.

**PSYC 725 Neuropsychological Evaluation:** This course includes different evaluation methods to assess the degree of damage to the central nervous system. It covers cognitive, behavioral and emotional functioning.

**CPSY 728: Psychological Interventions with LGBTT Individuals:** This course provides an extensive view of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and transsexual (LGBTT) sexual orientations; emphasis is given in sexual identity development models as well as specific psychological needs of these persons. Critical analysis about assessments and evidence based psychotherapy interventions. Additionally, it will allow the student to become sensitive to LGBTT individuals.

**CPSY 730 Ethical and Legal Responsibilities of Professional Psychology:** Critical analysis of the ethical and legal standards that regulate the professional practice of psychology in Puerto Rico, both at state and federal levels. Discussion of the responsibility of professional psychologist in knowing and following the rules established by regulatory agencies, such as, the Board of Examiners of Psychologists of PR, the laws regulating this practice, the pertinent
jurisprudence and the Ethics Codes that professional organizations have developed for the ethical practice of this profession

**CPSY 738 Sexual Counseling and Therapy:** This course will present the basic concepts of human sexual behavior: the history of sexuality, the human sexual response and sexual dysfunctions as stated in the DSM. In addition, it will present the basic sexual therapeutic interventions for such dysfunctions as well as sexual counseling.

**PSYC 800 Ethics and Professional Standards:** This course provides a critical examination of the codes of ethics and laws that regulate the practice of psychology in Puerto Rico. It also examines the APA Code of Ethics and the Guidelines for the Practice of Counseling and Clinical Psychology. A study of the local and federal laws that in some way protect and regulate the psychologist and the population served is also conducted.

**CPSY 805 Professional Issues in Counseling Psychology:** Critical revision of the history of Counseling Psychology and the relationship with other helping professions. Analysis of issues related to professional practice, licensing, certification, responsibility, competencies, roles and identity of the counseling psychologist. Introduces student to the criteria and processes that integrate science with the practice of psychology.

**PSYC 805 Psychopharmacology (now PSYC 704):** This course is designed to the study of the history and use of psychotropic drugs. Emphasis is given to understanding the uses of these drugs, their mechanism, side effects and the conditions under which they are used. Relationships between major DSM IV RT classifications and appropriate medications are presented.

**PSYC 806 History and Systems in Psychology:** Critical analysis of the historical development of psychology: philosophical and scientific antecedents and the systems that have impacted contemporary psychology; relationship between psychology theories and social events. Current status of psychology in Puerto Rico.
**PSYC 810 Advanced Psychopathology:** This course is about the identification, evaluation and the descriptive psychopathology of the personality disorders. The student will be able to compare different approaches to the diagnosis, understanding and treatment of personality disorders.

**PSYC 815 Cognitive and Affective Bases of Behavior:** This course will focus on the principal theories and current research regarding the fields of cognition and emotions. Discussion of historical antecedents of the main theories and concepts, the most important investigations that have shaped both fields in the past and current knowledge of the multiple cognitive and affective processes. Each will be discussed from their biological, social and psychological perspective and will likewise, explore the clinical applications and implications of the findings in counseling psychology.

**PSYC 820 Objective Personality Assessment:** This course focuses on the advanced study of the application of personality assessment procedures, such as the MMPI. Alternate methods for measuring human behavior are studied. 30 hours of practice required.

**CPSY 832 Evidence Based Practices in Individual Counseling:** This course provides an advanced examination of individual counseling. Classic models of counseling are explored and their appropriateness in various case studies is evaluated. Emphasis is given to evidence bases therapies and techniques from major therapeutic approaches. The integration of science with individual counseling is discussed and fomented.

**CPSY 833 Advanced Group Counseling:** This course will provide the students with intensive knowledge, the relevant references and the development of skills in group psychological counseling. Emphasis will be given in the areas of group types, group dynamics, group psychotherapy (groups with mental conditions, among, others), and norms in group process, leadership styles, leaders, co-leaders and treatment plans. Confidentiality, selection procedures, ethics and multicultural diversity are considered.

**CPSY 834 Marriage and Family Counseling:** This course presents the foundations of marital and family counseling. The students will study the emergence and the tenets of the major
theoretical constructs in marriage and family counseling including psychoanalytic, behavioral, experiential, strategic and structural models. The specific therapeutic interventions derived from these models are evaluated.

**PSYC 840 Diversity: Culture, Ethnicity, Gender and Race:** This course is designed to analyze the impact of cultural differences in the practice of counseling psychology, the interactive effects of gender, race, and ethnicity. The cross-cultural counseling methods are studied.

**CPSY 841 Counseling in Community Settings:** This course presents early intervention therapeutical models in community settings. The focus of the course is on psycho educational and interpersonal communication, decision-making and development models. Also a prevention perspective in study.

**CPSY 835 Doctoral Practice I: Advanced Case Conceptualization and Treatment Planning:** This doctoral practicum course seeks to strengthen the clinical skills acquired by students during their master’s degree program in counseling psychology. Specifically, it allows the student to strengthen case conceptualization and treatment planning utilizing evidence based practices (EBP) and empirically validated treatment (EVT). Additionally, it allows the student to keep abreast of DSM diagnostic criteria while conducting psychological assessments. The objectives of this course will be facilitated by a 3 hour weekly didactic course and a community setting practica in which the student shall complete a minimum of 250 hours of practica.

**CPSY 900 Advanced Doctoral Practice II:** This advanced doctoral practicum allows students to be placed in a community site to gain additional clinical experience. They will also have weekly didactic session where they will be exposed to advanced concepts of Evidence Based Practice (EBP) and Empirically Validated Treatments (EVT) in psychology. Student will have the opportunity to discuss cases among them in group supervision and will benefit of weekly individual supervision as well. It is expected that students integrate different sources of information on EBP and EBT to psychological assessments as well as in their individual counseling and psychotherapy sessions. 250 hours of practicum.
**CPSY 905 Advanced Doctoral Practicum III:** This advanced elective doctoral practicum allows students, who want additional hours of practicum, to continue to enhance their clinical skills and competencies following the same description of CPSY 900. 250 hours of practice.

**CPSY 906 Practicum I:** The course is a didactic and experiential training intended to strengthen the development and consistent application of interpersonal skills in advanced practice. Emphasis is placed on the systematic and critical analysis of interpersonal skills of students and their implications for the therapeutic relationship. The course will provide an advanced link to the graduate student's competencies with the principles of the case conceptualization to the process of psychological counseling.

**CPSY 907 Practicum II:** Didactic and clinical experience approach in enhancing the skills related to case conceptualization and treatment planning based on evidence-based practices. A minimum of 300 hours of clinical practice (250 at the practicum site, 30 hours of course meeting for didactic and 20 hours of research experience) are required.

**CPSY 908 Practicum III:** Didactic and clinical experience approach in enhancing the skills related to case conceptualization and treatment planning based on evidence-based practices. A minimum of 300 hours of clinical practice (250 at the practicum site, 30 hours of course meeting for didactic and 20 hours of research experience) are required.

**CPSY 909 Practicum IV:** Didactic and clinical experience approach in enhancing the skills related to case conceptualization and treatment planning based on evidence-based practices. A minimum of 300 hours of clinical practice (250 at the practicum site, 30 hours of course meeting for didactic and 20 hours of research experience) are required.

**PSYC 930 Qualitative, Quantitative Methodology and Descriptive Statistics:** From a pragmatic point of view, this course is meant to give the graduate students an overview of the main types of scientific approaches used in psychological research: qualitative, quantitative and mixed. The main goal of the course is to provide students the necessary information about different
paradigms used in the psychological field, as well as the descriptive statistical concepts needed to understand, mainly, in the quantitative approach.

**PSYC 936 Program Evaluation Methods:** This course emphasizes the acquisition of knowledge and skills in program evaluation methodology. Alternative evaluation approaches are surveyed with a focus on developing a management/decision-oriented evaluation plan. This seminar also serves as a practicum for the conceptualization and development of a doctoral research study that employs a program evaluation model.

**PSYC 938 Supervision and Consultation in Counseling Psychology:** This course will present and analyze the major supervision models and their application to psychotherapy and diverse contexts; among them, educational / training settings. It will present the differences between the supervisor and consultant role. Most common consultation settings for psychologists such as schools and organizations will be presented and discussed. Some of the contemporary strategies and techniques, such as coaching and mediation will be presented and practiced.

**CPSY 957 Doctoral Project I:** Students will develop a scholarly project based upon their interests through whom they complete an in-depth analysis of a clinical case or of a critical topic in the field of Professional/Counseling Psychology. The project will focus on the practical applicability of the scientific knowledge collected for the project. An Intensive Case Study may satisfy this requirement. A theoretical analysis of a particular problem within Counseling Psychology may also be used as a mechanism to fulfill this requirement. Through any of the different methods available, the student will demonstrate command of the scientific literature. The student will also demonstrate the ability to translate statistical information into clinically and professionally useful information to the practice of Counseling Psychology. The first of two required blocks is designed to produce an approved proposal. The determination of the theme of the project and the literature review will become the major component of the Doctoral Project. The methodology to be implemented for the project is to be designed during the semester.

**CPSY 958 Doctoral Project II:** This is a continuation of Doctoral Project I. The student will integrate and apply the scientific literature review and its application to a specific problem in the
clinical practice of counseling psychology. The student must demonstrate the knowledge and skill necessary to integrate science in to the practice of counseling psychology. An oral defense on the project is required.

**CPSY 960 Internship in Counseling Psychology:** A sequences of four courses require to all doctoral candidates in counseling psychology. The student must complete a total of 2000 service hours, established in the Internship Manual in an approved counseling private or public clinic under the supervision of a certified psychologist.

**CPSY 961 Internship - Part Time:** Required course for all Counseling Psychology doctoral candidates that will begin a part time internship. The internship should begin within the month of August and end after two full years from the exact date of the beginning of the internship. The student will complete a minimum of 2000 hours in a full year, in which the 25% will be in direct face to face contact with clients/patients. The intern will receive a minimum of two hours of individual supervision per week by a licensed doctoral level counseling or clinical psychologist that will be responsible for the cases and actions of the intern. The intern will be at the internship center for a maximum of 20 hours per week. The rating will be given after the completion of all the requirements of the internship established in the Internship Manual. A student in an internship program is classified as a full time student.

**CPSY 962 Internship - Full Time:** Required course for all Counseling Psychology doctoral candidates that will begin a full time internship. The internship should begin within the months of July or August and end after a full year from the exact date of the beginning of the internship. The student will complete a minimum of 2000 hours in a full year, in which the 25% will be in direct face to face contact with clients/patients. The intern will receive a minimum of two hours of individual supervision per week by a licensed doctoral level counseling or clinical psychologist that will be responsible for the cases and actions of the intern. The intern will be at the internship center for a minimum of 40 hours per week. The rating will be given after the
completion of all the requirements of the internship established in the Internship Manual. A student in an internship program is classified as a full time student.

**FPSY 880 Psychology and Law – Criminal:** This course will address the skills and competencies necessary for effective legal collaboration and expert testimony in the area of criminal law. The substantive areas of criminal law to be examined are: pretrial issues (competence to stand trial, competence to plead, right to bail); trial issues (affirmative defenses of criminal responsibility, temporary insanity, diminished responsibility, duress); pre-sentencing issues (mitigating and attenuating factors at the time of sentencing, competence to be sentenced); and, death penalty issues (Atkins hearings and intellectual disability, competence to be executed, mitigation factors). Psycho-legal controversies will be addressed in criminal cases of child abuse and maltreatment, domestic violence, substance abuse, and sexually violent predators.

**FPSY 886 Psychology and Law – Civil:** This course will address the skills and competencies necessary for effective legal collaboration and expert testimony in the area of civil and family law. The substantive areas of civil law to be examined are: involuntary treatment, civil commitment, assessment of competence for legal guardianship, personal injury (tort), and, sexual harassment and hostile environment in the work place. The substantive areas of family law to be examined are: child custody, parental rights, visitation, adoption, child maltreatment. The substantive areas of juvenile law are: waiver of jurisdiction, emancipation, rights of minors to consent to treatment.

**FPSY 889 Forensic Mental Health Assessment:** This course will address the advanced skills and competency needs of students that are required for assessments performed in legal referrals. The historical development of FMHA will be discussed including the formulation of specialty guidelines and clinical procedures responsive to legal directives. The FMHA course will train students in the selection, administration, correction and analysis of psychological tests most used in forensic referrals. The FMHA will provide training in interviewing techniques; clinical observation; and, integration of documents and third party data into clinical case conceptualization. Students will be trained in the model of personality analysis of Kellerman and Burry, used by graduate clinical training programs since 1981.
**FPSY 891 Psychology and Law: Expert Testimony:** This course will address the skills and competencies necessary for effective legal collaboration and expert testimony. Students will perform a forensic mental health assessment in collaboration with a legal aid clinic, district attorney’s office, or court referrals. The assessment findings will be presented as expert testimony in a moot court in the classroom. Should the case go to trial, the student will be expected to present the assessment findings in court.