

The WMU Clinical Psychology Ph.D. program has been targeted for elimination by the current administration. This document shows how consideration of the facts fails to justify the decision to eliminate this established, nationally accredited, highly competitive and productive program.

WMU CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY PHD PROGRAM FACT SHEET

How the Clinical Psychology Ph.D. Program fares according to 10 criteria that have been put forth by the WMU Administration as critical in their determination of the strategic priorities for graduate programming at WMU.

1. External demand and competitiveness of the clinical psychology Ph.D. program
 - a. The nationally accredited Clinical Psychology Ph.D. program receives over 100 applicants annually from prospective graduate students from across the United States and world for 5 positions, making it an extremely competitive and in demand program.
2. Quality of student and program outcomes
 - a. The average GRE of students admitted to the Clinical Psychology Ph.D. program is 1145, exceeding the national averages for life, physical, and social science programs collectively. The average undergraduate GPA for students admitted to the program is over 3.5. The program graduates on average 4 Ph.D.'s per year and has a 100% placement rate of students in jobs primarily in medical and academic settings both within and outside Michigan. To illustrate, we have recent graduates employed full-time in positions at DeVos Children's Hospital in Grand Rapids, C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, University of Michigan Health Services, Eastern Michigan University Department of Psychology, Boston University School of Public Health, University of Massachusetts Medical School at Amherst, Grand Valley State University, Gonzaga University, University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, West Virginia University Medical School, and University of North Carolina to illustrate a few.
 - b. Responses (n=19/25) from a 2006 survey of recent alumni (2000-2005) indicated that their mean rating of the quality of graduate education in the Clinical Psychology Ph.D. program was 4.2 (1=very poor; 5=excellent). Alumni reported a diverse range of professional activities including direct clinical service, research and evaluation, supervision, program planning or administration, and classroom teaching. Seventy nine percent of respondents reported that they had published a scholarly paper since graduating from WMU, 100% had delivered a professional presentation, 68% had obtained professional licensure, and 37% had been awarded a grant or contract.
3. Quality of program administration and planning
 - a. The program has been fully accredited by the American Psychological Association since 1991, received the highest ratings possible from Dr. Thomas Kent, Dean College of Arts & Sciences, during the WMU Graduate Program review, has awarded 21 Ph.D.s in the past 5 years, and has an average time to graduation that is below national averages. These data speak to the effective administration, careful planning, and well-designed curriculum of the program. This curriculum has received high marks/judgments from external APA reviewers in the last site visit report.
 - b. The program has a well articulated mission statement and has been held up as exemplary with respect to program administration and planning. In addition to allowing rigorous self-assessment to guide on-going program improvement, the strategies used within the program have been commended and adopted by other programs across the university. For example, several graduate programs across campus have implemented the annual graduate student review process developed by members of the clinical faculty to monitor and provide feedback on specific curriculum-based milestones.

4. Compelling program factor
 - a. The WMU clinical psychology program is one of a handful of Ph.D. clinical programs in Michigan and boasts a strong behavioral science emphasis and specific mission to train students in the development, implementation, and evaluation of evidence-based psychological interventions. This mission is consistent with the national and worldwide movement to develop and implement empirically established best practices that is becoming widespread in medicine and related health care disciplines. In addition, because of our moderate size, clinical faculty is directly involved in all aspects of a graduate student's training: graduate teaching, clinical supervision, and research mentorship and thus, develop strong connections with students both personally and professionally, epitomizing the student-centered research university mission of WMU.
5. Size, scope, and program productivity with number of students and faculty research/scholarship results
 - a. The clinical faculty is comprised of five full-time tenured or tenure-track faculty and two half-time tenured faculty, mentoring approximately 30-35 matriculated students. During 2004-2005 clinical psychology graduate students participated in 65 professional presentations or scholarly publications and upon graduation 100% of students have collaborated with faculty on these activities. Program faculty are also highly productive, contributing 63 professional publications and presentations in 2004-05. These data indicate high professional productivity and regular student-faculty collaboration.
6. Impact, justification, and essentiality of the program
 - a. Loss of the Clinical Psychology Ph.D. program will result in a reduction in grants and contracts, which currently total \$265,000 per year. In addition, numerous clinical services provided to residents of the greater Kalamazoo region will be eliminated or reduced, including: closing the WMU Psychology Clinic, which provides ~1300 hours/year of clinical services to ~180 clients who are often uninsured and have minimal financial means; loss of sex offender services, loss of depression treatment programs in Kalamazoo and Vicksburg Public Schools, curtailed services to autistic children, lost connections with Kalamazoo County Mental Health, US Probations Office, etc.
7. Opportunity analysis for interdisciplinary or new program opportunities
 - a. The clinical program is actively involved in the community and has made many contacts with other disciplines in the greater Kalamazoo region. Faculty sit on interdisciplinary assessment teams, work on projects with Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Van Buren/Cass County mental health practitioners, collaborate with school administrators and personnel in Kalamazoo and Vicksburg, substance abuse treatment providers in Kalamazoo, and Michigan State Prisons in Coldwater, Ionia, Jackson, and Muskegon.
8. Need to focus on programs with strong health care relevance
 - a. Using disability adjusted life years, major depression ranks second only to ischemic heart disease in magnitude of disease burden in established market economies. In addition, projections suggest mental illnesses will account for 15 percent of the total global disease burden by 2020 (NIMH Fact Sheet, 2001). The Clinical Psychology Ph.D. program is active in training, developing, and conducting scientific research evaluating interventions for depression and a variety of other mental disorders in children, teens, and adults (e.g., autism, Aspergers, conduct disorders, ADHD, PTSD, personality disorders). For instance, we have several ongoing clinical outcome studies in child and adult depression treatment, including a 1.2 million dollar grant. The director of the Clinical Psychology Ph.D. program also sits on the Evidence Based Task Force for the Michigan Department of Community Health as well as the Scientific Advisory Panel on Children's Mental Health Treatment for Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Community Mental Health contributing to the quality of mental health services offered to Michiganders. Another faculty

member is on the Board of Directors at Residential Opportunities Inc., an organization that provides services for individuals with disabilities in southwest Michigan. In addition to mental disorders, clinical psychology students and faculty are also actively engaged in research and scholarship targeting physical health problems and social ills that compromise the quality of life for the citizens of Michigan (e.g., smoking cessation, sexual victimization, sexual offending, compliance with asthma and diabetes medical regimens, etc.). Across all of these domains, the Clinical Psychology program is unique regionally and nationally in its consistent emphasis on the use of interventions the American Psychological Association has identified as having strong scientific support.

9. There should be an intimate relationship between undergraduate and graduate education.
 - a. The Psychology Department is home to a high demand undergraduate program that averages over 800 majors. Currently undergraduate students interested in careers in the clinical area can take courses in Abnormal Psychology, Abnormal Child Psychology, Introduction to Clinical Psychology, Health Psychology, Human Sexuality, Psychology of Aging, Forensic Psychology, and Cross-Cultural Psychology. These courses are taught by clinical faculty and clinical graduate students that not only have past experience in these areas, but are actively working in, contributing to, and conducting research in these areas. In addition, without the Clinical Psychology Ph.D. program, the number of opportunities for undergraduate students to participate in sophisticated clinical research and to conduct related honors theses (activities critical to becoming prepared for graduate study in clinical psychology and for making oneself marketable the highly competitive admissions process) will be significantly reduced. The elimination of the program will also likely result in the loss of undergraduate practicum opportunities at local sites such as Center for Autism, Lakeside Home for Boys and Girls, Gerontology Assessment Center, Residential Opportunities, the ARK, Gryphon Place, Family Independence Agency, YWCA Sexual Assault Center, among others.
10. The Clinical Psychology Ph.D. program requires too many financial resources to maintain
 - a. No detailed accounting of the excessive cost of the clinical psychology program has been presented to the clinical program or Psychology Department by the administration. But based on the typical GA/DA allocations made to the clinical program, the 7000+ undergraduate student credit hours generated by clinical graduate students teaching undergraduate courses each year results in revenue totaling over 2.6 million dollars. The cost to WMU for graduate assistantships allocated to the Clinical Psychology Ph.D. program is only \$200,084. This represents a substantial rate of return on investment. Furthermore, the total amount of revenue, excluding any grants or contracts, generated by the Psychology Department as a whole is nearly 7.3 million dollars with total personnel costs of 3.2 million dollars. Clearly, the department is an asset rather than a financial liability to the university. Any high demand Ph.D. program will require graduate assistantship support and laboratories. Those used by the Clinical Program are fully in line with what might be expected of any competent training program; and considerably less than those required of other natural sciences.

Using the criteria articulated by the WMU upper administration it is hard to fathom a rationale for eliminating the Clinical Psychology Ph.D. program. Furthermore, no attempt to problem solve with the program to consider less drastic measures was undertaken by the administration. What if the administration is wrong in its assessment and the American Psychological Association, Dean Kent, thousands of applicants, a hundred graduates, and several dozen current students are right? Elimination is permanent, other options exist, let's explore them.