

Virginia-Based Training Program for M.S. in Clinical Psychopharmacology through Fairleigh Dickinson University

If there is enough interest in Virginia to create a local group, FDU will pursue authorization as a Virginia institution of higher education. This has proven an effective method of assuring local legislators about the integrity of the training program when prescriptive authority legislation is introduced.

The M.S. Program in Clinical Psychopharmacology at Fairleigh Dickinson University is considered one of the premier postdoctoral programs for psychologists interested in intensive training in psychopharmacology. It is intended for individuals who would like to collaborate more effectively in their patients' medication management, or who would like to prepare themselves for a future as a prescribing professional. The program has been designed only one of two programs consistent with APA's curriculum outlined in document, *Recommended Postdoctoral Education and Training Program in Psychopharmacology for Prescriptive Authority*.

The program consists of 10 courses completed over a two-year period. These cover a variety of topics including anatomy and physiology, clinical medicine, neuroscience, clinical pharmacology, professional issues, and psychopharmacology for a broad spectrum of disorders. The courses are completed on a distance basis using your computer and textbooks, emphasizing both didactic and clinical training in case formulation and medication management. Each course follows an academic calendar, and there is a deadline for each learning activity to make sure participants move along at a steady pace. However, except for a one-hour online chat each week that everyone attends, you complete the learning activities at your convenience. You watch video lectures when it is best for you, you read the materials at your speed, you complete projects when it is convenient for you.

The participating psychologist receives 45 CE credits and 3 academic credits for each course passed. After completing the 10 courses there is a comprehensive examination taken online that represents the final requirement for the degree. You are then eligible to participate in a supervised clinical experience intended to prepare you for independent practice as a prescriber. This experience is tailored so it reflects the nature of your practice and, if you are eligible for prescriptive authority, the regulations of the state in which you plan to practice.

The tuition for the didactic program is \$1400 per course, for a total of \$14,000, though members of VPA are eligible for a discount of \$100 per course. The university offers a variety of payment options, and participants are eligible for student loans and deferment of existing loans. **If we can get a class size of 14-15, a further discount will be offered.

If you would like more information about the program, please visit our website, www.rxpsychology.com.



Post-Doctoral Master of Science in Clinical Psychopharmacology

School of Psychology • Metropolitan Campus, Teaneck, NJ

The Post-Doctoral Master of Science (M.S.) in Clinical Psychopharmacology is an academically stringent program, consistent with the gravity of the role for which it is intended to prepare the student.

The distance-based format utilizes a combination of online discussion, readings, and videos. The format allows participants the flexibility they need to integrate program demands into their busy schedules.

The curriculum was developed under the guidance of Anita Brown, Ph.D., one of the graduates of the Department of Defense Psychopharmacology Demonstration Project, the program that trained psychologists to serve as independent prescribing practitioners. The program meets or exceeds the requirements of the APA model curriculum for Level 3 Training.

The program emphasizes both pedagogy and the development of clinical skills. The latter is provided through weekly chats and weekend regional meetings three times a year focusing on clinical problem-solving and activities.

The didactic portion of the program is a 10-course, five-semester sequence, completed in two years, leading to the Post-Doctoral M.S. in Clinical Psychopharmacology degree. Students are then eligible to participate in the clinical practicum. Courses include:

- *Biological Foundations of Clinical Psychopharmacology I & II*
- *Neuroscience*
- *Neuropharmacology*
- *Clinical Pharmacology*
- *Professional Issues & Practice Management*
- *Treatment Issues in Clinical Psychopharmacology:*
 - *Affective Disorders*
 - *Psychotic Disorders*
 - *Anxiety Disorders*
 - *Other Disorders*

The faculty includes nationally recognized researchers in the fields of pharmacy, nursing and psychology.

The program is available nationwide. Current students hail from across the country and overseas.

For more information, visit our web site at www.rpsychology.com or contact the Post-Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychopharmacology at 866-247-2411 or msclinpharm@fdu.edu.

