

# Renewal of the Mind Through the Study of Catholic-Christian Psychological Practice



DIVINE MERCY  
UNIVERSITY

# Our unique approach to a Doctorate in Psychology

---

So you're considering getting a doctorate in psychology (PsyD). You've felt the call on your heart for a while now to become a mental health advocate or healer – after all, you've always been quick to help others in need and have been told you're a great listener and problem solver.

The only problem is, you view psychology a little differently than your peers or professional circle. You understand the importance of the integration of mind and body and its impact on mental health and healing, but you also see the unique aspect that faith and the spiritual life have on them as well. Spirituality informs so much of a person's psyche, and yet it is often disregarded in the study of psychological science. In essence, you wish there was a way to integrate mind, body, and soul in the practice of clinical psychology.

There is. We call it the Catholic-Christian Meta-Model of the Person, and here's why we think it should be the foundation of your PsyD.

# Clinical psychology is an act of loving your neighbor.

---

Clinical psychology is a sector of health care devoted to the mental and behavioral fullness of the person. It requires deep empathy and understanding to walk alongside a person who has experienced anxiety, trauma, depression, or mental illness and provide them with the tools for healing.

As such, clinical psychologists undergo rigorous education and training to be able to adequately assist their patients. Thus, those interested in this field must pursue a doctorate in psychology and earn licensure before practicing. It is truly a gift of self for the purpose of helping others that takes place through research, course study, and clinical practice.

It's this extensive education and practical training that clinical psychologists receive that allows them to be in the professional business of helping facilitate the charge of St. Paul in Romans 12:2 – "Be transformed by the renewal of your mind."

Simply put: clinical psychology is the professional undertaking of loving your neighbor as yourself.



# What does that have to do with faith?

---

We call it the Catholic Christian Meta-Model of the Person (or CCMMP). It was developed right here at Divine Mercy University, and it provides the framework for how we teach the psychological sciences.

The CCMMP finds its core in three principles founded in the Catholic-Christian view of creation: the person as a fundamentally good creation (1) who has fallen and is therefore affected by disorders (2) and is capable of healing and flourishing through (3) redemption. It frames psychology within the understanding of a person's inherent goodness and dignity as a being created in the image of God.

From the client perspective, psychology and mental health are extremely personal, woven throughout every aspect of life, and many people of faith would prefer to be cared for by someone who understands not just their struggles, but also how their faith integrates into their psychological needs. Those who are prepared using this model see mental health from a uniquely holistic standpoint that takes into account relationships, spiritual life, diversity, vocational commitments, and more.



# Will this integrated approach to psychology affect me as a clinician?

---

The CCMMP isn't just beneficial for the client – it's also a way to integrate the practice of your profession and your faith. The virtues needed for spiritual life are also essential for the practice of psychology and are the foundation of ethical practices within the field.



It also promotes generosity and inclusivity, with a focus on underserved populations and religious ministries, and provides an ethical and moral framework for psychological sciences.

In sum, the CCMMP blends faith and reason through the intersection of science and religion. With a scientific understanding of mind, body, and soul and their interconnectedness, we believe you'll be a more holistic and collaborative practitioner, benefitting both your clients and your own professional work.

# But am I qualified to do this work?

---

We strongly believe that God doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies the called. If He has placed this desire in your heart, then we believe that He will guide you to discover the tools you need to serve others. And we like to think that Divine Mercy University is one of those tools He can provide for you.

The most important qualification you need to enter any PsyD program is a desire to help others. But, there are additional experiences and background requirements that can prove helpful in entering this kind of program.

For example, here are some characteristics that make a strong candidate for Divine Mercy University's PsyD program:



Bachelor's degree (preferably in Psychology – if your degree is in another field, you will have to take some prerequisites prior to starting the doctoral program)



Strong research and communication skills (oral and written)



GPA of 3.0 or higher



Above average GRE scores

A photograph of two women sitting on a couch and talking. The woman on the left is seen in profile, wearing a pearl necklace and a blue patterned top. The woman on the right has curly hair, wears glasses, and a light pink cardigan over a white top. They are in a bright, indoor setting with plants and a window in the background.

## What career path can I take with this degree?

---

Having your PsyD will help you wherever God leads you, but here are a few common paths for those with a doctorate in psychology.

- **Licensed clinical psychologist:** The most traditional role within the field of psychology of a therapist in clinical or counseling settings
- **Clinic or group home director:** Leading an organization that provides clinical or counseling resources
- **Psychiatric technician:** A psychiatrist in a rehabilitation setting
- **Psychological behavioral therapist:** Work with youth within school settings to assist with behavior management
- **Social worker:** Those with their PsyD are qualified to work in community mental health, drug abuse, and alcohol social work settings

Some of these require additional education/certification or licensure following the completion of PsyD requirements.

When you get your PsyD from Divine Mercy University, you're not only offered preparation for these roles, but you're also able to do so through a unique lens: that of faith.

# What's the DMU Difference?

With your enthusiasm and heart for this work, we're sure you could be successful anywhere, but here's why we think DMU is for you.

## **Founded in science through the lens of faith**

At DMU, psychological studies are integrated with Catholic-Christian principles. This enhances your studies and provides the opportunity to stand out when applying for faith-based psychology jobs.

## **Scholarships and financial aid**

Education is an investment, and we want to invest in not just you, but also the people you'll serve. That's why we offer several scholarships for students and share additional financial aid opportunities.

## **Accredited for your success**

DMU is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards, and the American Psychological Association. What does that mean for you? It means you are receiving top quality training to prepare you for your future.

## **More training to stand out**

At DMU, you'll earn six unique credits that are not offered through most other programs to provide even further assessment of your knowledge and practical skills, a qualification that will make you stand out to future employers.





# Step into the future God has planned for you.

---

Are you ready to make a real difference in the lives of those you've been called to serve? We invite you to take the next step by applying to the PsyD program at Divine Mercy University!

To apply, simply head to [enroll.divinemercy.edu/psy-d-in-clinical-psychology/apply-now/](https://enroll.divinemercy.edu/psy-d-in-clinical-psychology/apply-now/)

No need to wait any longer. It's time to use your God-given talents and gifts to serve Him by serving others. Apply for your PsyD today.

>> Need a bigger sign? We believe in this call that God has placed on your heart so much that we'll **waive your \$55 application fee** (use code CCMMMP1999).