CLINICAL

1. **Coursework**
   The minimum course requirements for the Ph.D. set by the Graduate School is 27 courses.

Core Clinical Psychology Courses

- 421-1 Psychopathology (first or second year)
- 494 Personality and Development Psychology (first or second year)
- 495-1 Clinical Assessment (first or second year)
- 496-1 Psychotherapy (first or second year)
- 412-1,2,3 Assessment Practicum (second year and as interested)
- 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418 Practicum (second through fourth year)
- 420-1 History, Ethics, Diversity, and Consultation
- 497-2 The Social-Emotional Brain

Research Design, Methodology, and Statistics

- 405 Psychometric Theory (first year)
- 434 Clinical Research Methods (first or second year)
- 451-1 Statistics in Experimental Design (first year)
- 453-1 Correlation and Regression (first year)

Additional Required Courses (first year)

- 401-1 Proseminar (Biological and Cognitive Bases of Behavior)
- 401-2 Proseminar (Social and Personality Bases of Behavior)
- 519 Ethics – Responsible Conduct of Research

Highly Recommended Courses

- 312-1 Neurobiology and Behavior
- 497-3 Developmental Psychopathology
- 450 Fundamentals of Statistics
- Clin_Psy 402-0 Assessment I
- 454 Latent variable models

The Clinical Psychology doctoral program at Northwestern Feinberg offers our students the opportunity to take their classes, space permitting. Most commonly, students enroll in their psychological assessment sequence, but a full list of their courses can be found here:
https://www.psychiatry.northwestern.edu/education/clinical-psychology-phd/curriculum/courses.html

Other courses available for students include all "300," "400," and "500" level courses offered by the Department of Psychology as well as a variety of courses offered in other departments of the University (Psychiatry, Counseling,
etc.). Arrangements can be made for students to take courses at any of the other universities in the Chicago metropolitan area (e.g., University of Chicago, University of Illinois-Chicago campus)

2. **First Year Project**: Requires completion and brownbag presentation during 2nd year. A paper on the project must be submitted by the end of winter quarter during the 2nd year. Must be approved by primary advisor.

3. **Third Year Project**: Requires written approval of the final written research document and oral defense by a three-person faculty committee by July after the third year. This serves as the student's Master's Thesis. The three person faculty committee includes the mentor and can consist of additional clinical faculty but is not required to.

4. **Comprehensive Qualifying Exam**: Can be satisfied in multiple ways, following consultation with the student's primary advisor:
    - substantive review paper on a topic of interest to the student that has been approved by a committee chaired by someone other than the primary mentor
    - conducting an empirical study under the supervision of a faculty member other than the primary mentor, and writing a manuscript describing the study and its results
    - NIMH NRSA application or fellowship applications of similar magnitude

    Requires approval of committee of three faculty members for the paper and oral defense. At least two but potentially three can be clinical.

5. **Admission to Candidacy**: Both defense of the Third Year Project and completion of the Comprehensive Qualifying Exam are required for Admission to Candidacy. TGS (The Graduate School) requires Admission to Candidacy by the end of the third year. However, in recognition of the additional burden of clinical training, there is an understanding that clinical students will typically take longer. In practice, our students generally are admitted to candidacy during their fourth year, by spring quarter (i.e., before March). Students who have not been admitted to candidacy by this time will be placed on probation by The Graduate School.

6. **PhD Dissertation Proposal**: The first step in the dissertation process is a written research proposal ("prospectus"). The dissertation prospectus is presented at a proposal defense with a committee of three faculty members, at least two of whom are core clinical faculty. As with Admission to Candidacy, clinical students get a bit longer than other students. TGS requires that students defend their dissertation proposals by the end of their fourth year. Clinical students must do so by the spring quarter (March) of their fifth year. Otherwise, they will be placed on probation by The Graduate School. Clinical students who plan to go on internship after the fifth year must complete the dissertation proposal defense prior to applying, which would be October of the fifth year.

7. **PhD Dissertation:** After completing the dissertation proposal, the student then follows the plan of the proposal and completes their research project(s). The student writes the dissertation, and the written doctoral dissertation is submitted

for approval to the dissertation committee, which is a committee of three faculty members, at least two of whom are core clinical faculty. The doctoral dissertation must be defended in a final oral examination (dissertation defense) in front of that committee.

For all milestones, students must complete a TGS form to officially register completion of the milestone. Students can do this by logging in to CAESAR and clicking on Main Menu, then TGS Forms. Print out a hard copy of the completed form (the Graduate Program Coordinator can print the qualifying exam form for you), and take it to the meeting for committee members to sign. The signed copy should be given to the Graduate Program Coordinator for submission to TGS.