



सत्यमेव जयते

भारतीय पुनर्वास परिषद्
सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय का एक सांविधिक निकाय
दिव्यांगजन सशक्तिकरण विभाग
भारत सरकार
REHABILITATION COUNCIL OF INDIA
A Statutory Body of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
Government of India



3-2/Cl.Psy./RCI/2024

12 .09.2024

Public Notice

Sub: Launching of B.Sc. Clinical Psychology (Hons.) from the academic session 2024-25:-reg.

Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) is a statutory body constituted by the Government of India under an Act of Parliament namely the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992 and mandated among other things to regulate and monitor the training of rehabilitation professionals and personnel, promote research in rehabilitation and special education and to maintain a Central Rehabilitation Register (CRR) of professionals and personnel. The training programmes in special education and disability rehabilitation are developed, standardized & regulated by RCI.

This is for information to all concerned that the Council has developed norms and guidelines for B.Sc. Clinical Psychology (Hons.) course which will be offered from the academic session 2024-25. Copy of the norms and guidelines of B.Sc. Clinical Psychology (Hons.) course is enclosed for kind information.

In light of the above, the Council has decided to invite expressions of interest from all eligible institutions/universities who desires to offer B.Sc. Clinical Psychology (Hons.) course from the academic session 2024-25. The expression of interest may be sent to this Council latest by 24.09.2024 on email id ddprci-depwd@gov.in.

(Vikas Trivedi)
Member Secretary

Encl: as above

Copy to:

1. PS to Chairperson, RCI for kind information please
2. PA to Member Secretary, RCI for kind information please
3. Computer Section for uploading on the Council's website



Rehabilitation Council of India

Course Name: B.Sc. Clinical Psychology (Hons.)

Duration of Course: 4 years

1.0 Preamble

To a large extent, mental illnesses are preventable. This is possible, if there is adequate sensitization in the community. Lack of promotive as well as preventive measures have significant impact on the burden of mental illness on the society. For instance, in the formative years of life, if children undergo life-skills training, it can safeguard them from mental health issues. Similar is the case of families with psychopathology. Given this, there is an urgent need for manpower development, particularly those who would work as frontline mental health professionals, to conduct mental health promotional activities, help in the early identification, and conduct first level psychoeducational activities for people with mental illnesses. In this background, the present B.Sc. Clinical Psychology (Hons.) course has been envisaged. As this is an undergraduate course requiring the student to have exposure to the field of psychology first, followed by an understanding of the field of clinical psychology, the roles and responsibilities of these professionals have been accordingly (with the limited exposure to the field of Clinical Psychology, they cannot be assigned deeper assessment and intervention works).

It is crucial to keep in mind that the field of Clinical Psychology deals with sensitive mental health issues and caters to a vulnerable population. Dealing with this population at a deeper level, without having enough exposure, runs the risk of causing them harm. For example, these professionals can effectively impart awareness in society about steps to prevent suicide, how to talk to a person having suicidal ideations, and where to refer such individuals for appropriate intervention. However, if they are allowed to conduct deeper level counseling and psychotherapies with such individuals, they may do more harm than good. Likewise, they can do basic assessments; however, they can not be allowed to do an intricate psychological assessment with patients or do an assessment for certification purposes independently as they may not have adequate exposure, running the risk of wrong certification. It can have severe repercussions. For example, an individual wrongly certified as having an intellectual disability can take the plea of not understanding the consequences of their behaviour in case they are implicated in any criminal case.

Thus, this course can be treated as preparing a professional under a tier system for clinical psychology in which they are the first level who work under the supervision of Masters level trained Clinical Psychologists. Such a system ensures the availability of human resources for preventive and early identification (of mental illness) activities and, simultaneously, ensures that they engage in only those services for which they have been adequately trained (see table 1 for roles and responsibilities of these professionals. It enumerates what they are supposed to do and what they are not supposed to do).

Since these professionals will be at the first level of the tier system of the clinical psychology services, the regulatory body (the Rehabilitation Council of India) will ensure that there is no infringement of activities at different levels.

Also, since the students will get an academic degree, it is the responsibility of the regulatory body (the Rehabilitation Council of India) to ensure that the course is recognized by bodies such as the University Grants Commission so that the progression of the students is ensured. For example, the course must be recognized in a manner that the students can pursue higher studies after completion of B.Sc. Clinical Psychology (Hons.) and their choices for higher education is open as any other student pursuing an undergraduate degree. Their option to pursue higher education MUST not be limited to Clinical Psychology only; rather they should have the option to pursue masters in other branches of psychology as well.

1.1 Nomenclature and Nature of the Programme

The nomenclature of the program will be B.Sc. Clinical Psychology (Hons.). It will be a regular four-year program without any midway entry and exit owing to professional nature of the course and an indispensable requirement for holistic training. This course will not be, in any case, run in virtual/online/distance mode. After four years of course completion, they will get the licensure under RCI as **“Clinical Assistant (Clinical Psychology)”**. They will have a separate category of CRR, which will distinguish a Clinical Psychologist from a **“Clinical Assistant (Clinical Psychology)”**.

1.2 Requirements

The program has to be conducted in a Medical College/Mental Health Institution/University in an independent Department of Clinical Psychology Department, which is headed by a duly qualified Clinical Psychology faculty at the level of either Professor or Associate Professor, duly registered with Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI). For an intake of 20 seats following requirements must be met.

1.2.1 Faculty

Minimum three full-time Clinical Psychology faculty members, having valid CRR numbers registered as Clinical Psychologists, out of which, at least one should be at the Professor/Associate Professor level. Out of these three faculty members, at least two MUST be working on a regular basis (not Ad-hoc/Contract). Apart from the above mentioned faculty members (from Clinical Psychology background), there MUST be three more faculty members who can be from any other branch of psychology relevant to the course content. The above faculty should be exclusively dedicated to this course.

1.2.2 Infrastructure

The institute conducting this program MUST have either its own clinical set-up or have MoU with a clinical set-up with a minimum of 250 patients with mental illness consulting for services every month. Out of these 250, a total of 100 patients MUST be newly registered. The department MUST be adequately equipped with tools/tests/equipments to provide training according to their responsibilities (at least, five sets of tools/tests/equipments). Other requirements will be as per RCI norms for for the same such as ICT-enabled classroom, Departmental Library, Psychological Testing Cubicles, Psychoeducation Rooms, Barrier-free environment as specified in the RCI Assessment Report Format for Inspection. It is to be mentioned that an institute can be allowed to start the program by having an MoU with a clinical facility; however, this arrangement can be only for the initial three years. Later, they MUST have their own clinical set-up.

1.2.3 Clinical Training

The clinical training of the students MUST be supervised by Clinical Psychology faculty members, both, in the clinical and community setting. The students should have varied exposures in settings like schools, juvenile homes/forensic settings, organizational settings, and rehabilitation and disability-related institutions and community settings such as slums, urban housing settlements, village, outreach communities, and disaster affected areas. This may include experiential learning though educational trips.

1.2.4 Eligibility

Students who have completed 12th class with science stream of equivalent will be eligible to apply for this programme. The selection will be based on their performance in the Entrance Test and selection will be determined by the basis of marks obtained in entrance test conducted by the respective university/affiliating university/institution.

1.2.5 Increase in seats

If the department running the course intends to increase the number of seats, the faculty:student ratio, and clinical infrastructure and services must be in proportion to the requirements stated for 20 seats as stated above. Any increase in the number of intake (of students) MUST be proportionate to the student-faculty ratio and number of clinical population.

1.3 Roles and responsibilities

These professionals will primarily work as frontline mental health workers. Their roles and responsibilities, after the successful completion of the program and after having obtained the CRR number of the RCI, will be as following:

What they can do	What they cannot do
Conduct awareness/ information/ education/communication program related to mental health and illnesses in the community.	Work in an independent capacity in clinical settings such as hospitals, and clinics, or engage in independent practice.
Basic screening using rating scales and interviews for an early identification of people with mental illness in the community and making appropriate referral	SLD assessment, conducting projective tests, neuropsychological assessment, structured clinical interviews in clinical settings, and submitting reports for clinical use.
Psychological First Aid in a crisis situation	Intensive and deeper rehabilitation activities, such as, neuropsychological Rehabilitation.
Psychoeducation (one-to-one and group) related to mental health promotive life-skills activities, disease awareness, and preventive activities.	Psychological therapies and counselling for diagnosable psychiatric disorders.
IQ assessment and simple behavioural and community interventions for children and adults with intellectual disability	Any therapy and counselling approaches (for example, Cognitive Behaviour Therapy, Family therapy, couple therapy, or long-term therapies requiring specialized clinical training, or specific approaches within psychotherapy, such as interventions for personality disorders, psychosis etc.).
Caregiver support and psychoeducation	Conduct clinical supervision of others.
Simple psychosocial rehabilitative activities	Independently certify any disability.

1.4: Yearwise Course Structure

Year 1

Courses	Semester I	Credit	Semester II	Credit
Foundation course	Fundamentals of Psychology-I	6	Foundations of Psychology-II	6
Core courses	Systems & theory of Psychology-I	6	Systems & theory of Psychology-II	6
Discipline-specific elective course	Social Psychology	4	Community Psychology	4
Skill enhancement courses	Behavioural & Communication Skills-I	2	Behavioural & Communication Skills-II	2
Clinical Placement	Psychology Practical-I (Lab Based)	4	Psychology Practical-II (Lab Based)	4
	Total	22	Total	22

Year 2

Courses	Semester III	Credit	Semester IV	Credit
Core courses	Theories of Personality	6	Health Psychology	6
	Lifespan Development-I	6	Lifespan Development-II	6
Discipline-specific elective course	Educational Psychology	4	Positive Psychology	4
Skill enhancement courses	Applied Psychometric Test/Scale Development	2	Community Survey : How	2
Clinical Placement	Psychological Assessment-I	4	Community Survey: Practical	4
	Total	22	Total	22

Year 3

Courses	Semester V	Credit	Semester VI	Credit
Core courses	Research Methodology	6	Statistics	6
	Psychopathology I	6	Psychopathology II	6
Discipline-specific elective course	Psychological Testing-I	4	Psychological Testing-II	4
Skill enhancement courses	Computer Application in Psychological Research	2	Psychological First Aid	2
Clinical Placement	Clinical Training : Community Based	4	Clinical Training : Clinical Based	4
	Total	22	Total	22

Year 4

Courses	Semester VII	Credit	Semester VIII	Credit
Core courses	Clinical Assessment: Interviewing, MSE, Case History	4	Diagnostic Systems	4
Discipline-specific elective course	Clinical Psychology-I	4	Clinical Psychology-II	4
	Rehabilitation Psychology	4		
Skill enhancement courses	Ethical Practices in Mental Health	2		
Clinical Placement	Internship 3-6 months (Non-credit)	4	Case Submissions and Viva-voce	6
Research Dissertation	Dissertation: Synopsis preparation and presentation	4	Dissertation: Submission and Viva-Voce	8
	Total	22	Total	22
