


[search the site](#)
 site people |

[Home](#)
[Academics](#)
[Research](#)
[Admissions](#)
[Athletics](#)
[Offices](#)
[More](#)
[Home](#) » [Academics](#) » [Arts & Sciences](#) » [Psychology](#) » [DMHI](#)

disaster mental health institute

// menu

- » [DMHI Home](#)
- » [Innovations in Disaster Psychology 2008: IASC Guidelines](#)

» [DMHI Academic Programs](#)

[Overview of DMHI Academic Programs](#)

[Undergraduate Minor in Disaster Response](#)

[Psychology Major Specialization in Disaster Response](#)

[Doctoral Specialty Track in Clinical/Disaster Psychology](#)

[Graduate Certificate in Disaster Mental Health](#)

[Continuing Education Program](#)

» [Summer Intensive Program 2008](#)

[Description](#)

[Graduate Certificate in Disaster Mental Health](#)

[Tuition and Fees](#)

[Registration](#)

[Lodging](#)

» [DMHI Faculty](#)

Choose...

» [Disaster Handouts & Educational Material](#)

» [International Involvement](#)

» [Affiliates](#)

Choose...

Academic Components of the DMHI Center of Excellence

The undergraduate and graduate academic programs of the DMHI Center of Excellence received fin January 21, 1999 by the South Dakota Board of Regents. In addition to the undergraduate and gr. programs, the DMHI recognizes the need for continuing education for professionals in the field. Th Mental Health Institute is approved by the American Psychological Association to offer continuing e psychologists. The DMHI maintains responsibility for the program.

DMHI Academic Programs

Undergraduate Components	Graduate Component
Undergraduate Minor in Disaster Response	Doctoral Specialty Tra Clinical/Disaster Psych
Specialization in Disaster Response for Psychology Majors	Graduate Certificate Disaster Mental Hea
Continuing Education Program (this link will take you to a separate page)	

Undergraduate Minor in Disaster Response

This minor requires 18 hours (15 required, 3 elective) of courses in disaster response, including bo and practical course work. It provides skills useful in any career and to any citizen, as well as skills useful to students hoping to pursue a career in mental health. This minor is not available to psychc (see **Specialization in Disaster Response for Psychology Majors** below)

Required courses include: 15 hours

PSYC 255, **Introduction to Disaster Response**, 3 credit hours
 PSYC 256, **Psychological First Aid**, 3 credit hours
 PSYC 258, **Children and Trauma**, 3 credit hours
 PSYC 359, **Practicum in Disaster Response**, 3 credit hours, and
 PSYC 456, **Introduction to Disaster Psychology**, 3 credit hours.

Elective courses include: 3 hours

PSYC 455, **Advanced Disaster Response**, 1-3 credit hours
 PSYC 457, **Directed Readings in Disaster**, 1-3 credit hours
 PSYC 458, **Directed Research in Disaster**, 1-3 credit hours
 PSYC 459, **Advanced Seminar: Selected Topics in Disaster**, 1-3 credit hours
 SOC 100, Introduction to Sociology, 3 credit hours
 PSYC 241, Social Psychology, 3 credit hours
 PSYC 429, Psychology of Safety, 3 credit hours

Performance Requirement

Students pursuing the Minor in Disaster Response are required to maintain a "B" average in course the minor. Students completing the coursework for the Minor in Disaster Response are required to

Contact Information:

Disaster Mental Health Institute

The University of South
Dakota - SDU 114
414 East Clark Street
Vermillion, SD 57069-2390
phone: +1 (605) 677-6575
phone2: +1 (800) 522-9684
fax: +1 (605) 677-6604
dmhi@usd.edu

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nationally normed assessment of problem solving and to successfully perform a capstone exercise.

Capstone Exercise

The capstone exercise will be judged by an external team composed of disaster response personnel members of the DSHR, the ARC national disaster team. These examiners will be asked to compare performance of these students on a practical disaster response examination with the skills and knowledge level disaster response personnel with whom they have worked in disaster.

Alumni of the minor will be tracked to determine if they continue participation in disaster response community service.

Courses Eligible to be Psychology Electives for Psychology Majors:

Three of these new courses are also acceptable electives for psychology majors (at least at USD): First Aid, Children and Trauma, and Introduction to Disaster Mental Health.

[Return to list of DMHI academic programs](#)

Specialization in Disaster Response for Psychology Majors

Since the undergraduate Minor in Disaster Response is a psychology minor, psychology majors may also complete a minor. The USD Department of Psychology will allow undergraduate psychology majors to complete Specialization in Disaster Response. (Psychology departments at other campuses are also welcome to complete specialization if they choose.) This specialization requires six hours beyond the 31 hours which is the minimum requirement for psychology majors at USD.

Required courses include: 15 hours

PSYC 255, **Introduction to Disaster Response**, 3 credit hours
PSYC 256, **Psychological First Aid**, 3 credit hours
PSYC 258, **Children and Trauma**, 3 credit hours
PSYC 359, **Practicum in Disaster Response**, 3 credit hours, and
PSYC 456, **Introduction to Disaster Psychology**, 3 credit hours.

Elective courses include: 3 hours

PSYC 455, **Advanced Disaster Response**, 1-3 credit hours
PSYC 457, **Directed Readings in Disaster**, 1-3 credit hours
PSYC 458, **Directed Research in Disaster**, 1-3 credit hours
PSYC 459, **Advanced Seminar: Selected Topics in Disaster**, 1-3 credit hours
SOC 100, Introduction to Sociology, 3 credit hours
PSYC 241, Social Psychology, 3 credit hours
PSYC 429, Psychology of Safety, 3 credit hours

Students completing the Psychology Specialization in Disaster Response are required to also complete requirements for the Psychology Major. Therefore, psychology majors wishing to complete the specialization are required to complete six hours beyond the 31 hours which is the minimum requirement for psychology majors.

Performance Requirement

Students completing the Psychology Major Specialization in Disaster Response are required to maintain a minimum average in courses applied to the Specialization. Students are required to successfully perform a capstone exercise to complete the Specialization. They are also required to complete the Graduate Record Examination subject test in psychology and submit their scores to the DMHI.

Capstone Exercise

The capstone exercise will be judged by an external team composed of disaster response personnel members of the DSHR, the ARC national disaster team. These examiners will be asked to compare performance of these students on a practical disaster response examination with the skills and knowledge level disaster response personnel with whom they have worked in disaster.

Alumni of the psychology major Specialization in Disaster Response will be tracked to determine if they continue participation in disaster response and community service, and whether they pursue graduate training in health fields.

[Return to list of DMHI academic programs](#)

Doctoral Specialty Track in Clinical/Disaster Psychology

Within the USD American Psychological Association-accredited doctoral Clinical Psychology Training psychology, a Doctoral Specialty Track in Clinical/Disaster Psychology is offered.

Total semester credit hours: 21

Required courses: 18 hours

PSYC 655, **Crisis Intervention**, 3 credit hours
 PSYC 656, **Disaster Mental Health**, 3 credit hours
 PSYC 657, **Posttraumatic Stress Disorder**, 3 credit hours
 PSYC 658, **Serving the Diverse Community in Disaster**, 3 credit hours
 PSYC 754, Introduction to Behavior Therapy, 3 credit hours
 PSYC 780, Rural Community Mental Health (a required Clinical Training Program Course)

Elective Courses: 3 hours

PSYC 659, **International Disaster Psychology**, 3 credit hours
 PSYC 755, **Management in Disaster Mental Health**, 3 credit hours
 PSYC 757, **Directed Readings in Disaster Psychology**, 3 credit hours
 PSYC 758, **Directed Research in Disaster Psychology**, 3 credit hours
 PSYC 759, **Selected Topics in Disaster Psychology**, 3 credit hours

If a student chooses all her or his elective courses from this pool of disaster courses, he or she only nine hours beyond the minimum courses required for the doctoral clinical degree. All students in the track are required to complete all requirements for the clinical doctoral degree as well as the required Doctoral Specialty Track in Clinical/Disaster Psychology. Doctoral students pursuing this specialty track are required to complete their theses and/or their dissertations in a trauma- or disaster-related field of

Performance Requirement:

A grade of "C" or lower in any course required for the Doctoral Specialty Track in Clinical/Disaster Psychology is unacceptable and will necessitate the student repeating the course if he/she wishes to complete the track.

Capstone Exercise:

Students in the Doctoral Specialty Track in Clinical/Disaster Psychology are required to complete a disaster response scenario simulation for the DMHI faculty and national figures in the field. This will be a capstone measure of the student's mastery of Clinical/Disaster Psychology. The goal for this assessment is that all students will be evaluated by the national team members as superior to entry level disaster mental health professionals.

Return to list of DMHI academic programs

Graduate Certificate in Disaster Mental Health

The DMHI offers a Graduate Certificate in Disaster Mental Health to graduate students in accredited programs in counseling, psychiatric nursing, and marriage and family therapy programs, to students in doctoral programs in clinical and counseling psychology, and students in psychiatric residency programs. (The certificate is not awarded until graduation from one of these programs.) This certificate is also available to existing licensed mental health professionals. Licensed mental health professionals may complete the certificate through continuing education or for graduate credit.

Total semester credit hours: 12

Required courses: 9 hours

PSYC 655, **Crisis Intervention**, 3 credit hours
 PSYC 656, **Disaster Mental Health**, 3 credit hours
 PSYC 658, **Serving the Diverse Community in Disaster**, 3 credit hours

Elective Courses: 3 hours

PSYC 659, **International Disaster Psychology**, 3 credit hours

PSYC 657, **Posttraumatic Stress Disorder**, 3 credit hours
PSYC 755, **Management in Disaster Mental Health**, 3 credit hours
PSYC 757, **Directed Readings in Disaster Psychology**, 3 credit hours
PSYC 758, **Directed Research in Disaster Psychology**, 3 credit hours
PSYC 759, **Selected Topics in Disaster Psychology**, 3 credit hours

All graduate students enrolled in mental health programs who wish to receive the Graduate Certificate in Mental Health are required to complete all requirements for their degrees in addition to the requirements for the proposed certificate.

Performance Requirement:

A grade of "C" or lower in any course required for the graduate certificate is unacceptable and necessitates the student repeating the course if she/he wishes to complete the certificate.

Capstone Exercise:

Students in the Graduate Certificate program are required to complete a tabletop disaster response exercise with the DMHI faculty and national figures in the field, which normally takes place at the end of the Sun Program. This provides a capstone measure of the success of the graduate certificate program. The assessment is that all students will be evaluated by the national team members as superior to entry-level mental health personnel.

[Return to list of DMHI academic programs](#)

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[site index](#) | [feed](#)