

NAPPP RXP Certificate Program Information

The NAPPP Professional Certificate Program in Clinical Psychopharmacology requires the completion of 10 courses for a total of 450 hours. The program is consistent with the model curriculum guidelines for training in psychopharmacology developed by the American Psychological Association. NAPPP is an APA approved provider of continuing education, and we maintain responsibility for the program. The entire program is completed online. Enclosed is a detailed recitation of the required courses. Individuals who require CE hours for the course, should request this in writing.

For those psychologists who intend to practice in Louisiana, please note that Louisiana only recognizes a post doctoral masters degree in psychopharmacology to satisfy the educational requirement to prescribe in that state. Those psychologists who intend to practice in Louisiana should enroll in a masters degree program and not in a certificate program.

Certificate programs are recognized and acceptable to satisfy the educational requirement for prescribing in New Mexico. However, applicants should review the New Mexico legislation on their own or speak directly with the New Mexico Board of Psychology about their requirements.

Psychologists who enroll in the NAPPP certificate program are expected to complete one course every five to six weeks. Courses are taken in a specific order as detailed in the course descriptions.

Preceptorship

All students are encouraged, but it is not required, to start a preceptorship while completing the didactic requirements for the certificate. NAPPP and the Academy of Medical Psychologists have an online tracking system that will provide a complete tracking and verification of the preceptorship experience. At the end of the preceptorship, students will receive a report of everything that was completed along with verification forms for a supervisor to review. AMP will also provide any state agency with verification that your preceptorship was completed. Note: The preceptorship is not required to complete or receive your certificate but it is strongly encouraged so that you can become comfortable collaborating with physicians in matters pertaining to medications

Tuition

Tuition is \$2000 for NAPPP members and \$2500 for non-members. NAPPP membership can be obtained at www.nappp.org. Courses may be paid in quarterly or monthly installments. However, a one-time credit card processing fee of \$200 will be added to the tuition if this option is selected.

Tuition Reimbursement

Should a participant wish to terminate from the program or request a refund of the program tuition, the following schedule of reimbursement shall apply:

1. Before registering for the program: 100% reimbursement.
2. Reimbursement after completion of additional courses will depend on the number of courses completed. There will be no reimbursement after 5 courses have been completed.

Requests for reimbursement must be made in writing.

Application Process

An application form is provided at the end of this document. You will need to mail us a filled out application together with a copy of your doctoral degree and current license to practice. When the information in your application is verified, you will be asked to remit the tuition fee and be directed to the program site. There, after registration, you will have access to the materials and the first course. All students will be required to participate in scheduled conference calls with the mentor for the course.

Information About Examinations

Final examinations are required in every course. All examinations will require outside research as many of the examination questions do not come directly from the reading materials. We utilize this procedure for several reasons. First, this is a post doctoral program. The subject matter is in many ways very different from that studied for your doctoral degree in psychology. It is more technical and requires a very different approach. The expectation that examination questions directly mirror reading materials would, in fact, not prepare psychologists for psychopharmacological practice where decisions, many times, must be made without prior information.

Second. The model of a prescribing psychologists is very different from that of other prescribing professions. Psychologists typically work in solo practices. Psychology differs from other professions in that psychologists are trained to understand and interpret research results. This is what makes us different in the ways we recommend medications and eventually prescribe psychotropics. One way to address the issues that differentiate psychologists from others is to focus and prepare the practitioner to research issues and problems. This skill is essential, particularly if one is in solo practice. Students, therefore, can expect that final examinations will require extra work. It is part of what it will take to become a prescribing psychologist.

Third. It is probable that legislation authorizing psychologists to prescribe will require the successful completion of a national examination in psychopharmacology. Presently, in both New Mexico and Louisiana, two states that allow psychologists to prescribe, one must pass the Profession Examination in Psychopharmacology commonly known as the "PEP" exam. Many of the questions used in the final examination mirror what one can expect to encounter on the PEP. We purposely integrated these questions to familiarize students with PEP type questions.

Grading Policy

In order to earn full credit for a course, participants must obtain a 75% passing grade for the course.

In conclusion, we hope that this explains the examination process and the reasons underlying the philosophy associated with our testing. Students will have ample time to research every examination question as the final product is what counts. Should additional information be needed, please contact Dr. John Caccavale at ce@napp.org or you can call at 714 927-4439.

National Alliance of Professional Psychology Providers Grievance Procedure

NAPPP is fully committed to conducting all activities in strict conformance with the American Psychological Association's Ethical Principles of Psychologists. NAPPP will comply with all legal and ethical responsibilities to be non-discriminatory in promotional activities, program content and in the treatment of program participants. The monitoring and assessment of compliance with these standards will be the responsibility of the Education Chair in consultation with the members of the continuing education committee, the NAPPP Ethics Chairperson and the Program Chairperson.

While NAPPP goes to great lengths to assure fair treatment for all participants and attempts to anticipate problems, there will be occasional issues which come to the attention of the staff which require intervention and/or action on the part of the program staff or an officer of NAPPP. This procedural description serves as a guideline for handling such grievances. When a participant, either orally or in written format, files a grievance and expects action on the complaint, the following actions will be taken:

1. If the grievance concerns a mentor, the content presented by the mentor, or the style of presentation, the individual filing the grievance will be asked to put his/her comments in written format. The CE Chair will then pass on the comments to the mentor, assuring the confidentiality of the grieved individual.
2. If the grievance concerns a course offering, its content, level of presentation, or the format in which the course was offered, the CE Chair will mediate and will be the final arbitrator. If the participant requests action, the CE Chair will move the participant to another mentor. We will also provide a partial or full refund of the tuition fee. All complaints will require a written letter, documenting the grievance, for record keeping purposes. The letter will need to be signed by the individual requesting action.
3. If the grievance concerns the NAPPP CE program, in a specific regard, the CE Chair will attempt to arbitrate the complaint.

Course Descriptions

1. **COURSE TITLE:** Introduction To Pharmacotherapeutics

PREREQUISITES: none

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides an in-depth introduction to psychopharmacology and pharmacotherapeutics. It provides the teaching materials that are the foundation for the entire program. Moreover, the wide array of subject coverage is designed to allow the student to start the required practicum/internship/preceptorship upon completion of the course, should a student decide to do so. Three modules are required to complete the course.

Module 1 -

This module orients the student to the foundation necessary to become an proficient psychopharmacologist. A primary review of neuroscience, biochemistry, anatomy, and physiology is presented.

Module 2 -

An introduction to the major classification of psychopharmacological agents and their uses are presented. Antidepressant, anxiolytic, antipsychotic, antiparkinsonian, psychostimulant, and mood stabilizing agents are discussed.

Module 3 -

This module builds on previous modules and provides greater depth with respect to psychopharmacological and non-medication interventions.

2. COURSE TITLE: Introduction To Biochemistry

PREREQUISITES: Introduction To Pharmacotherapeutics

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Introduction and overview of the biochemistry underlying chemical and physiological processes. Topics covered include: basic inorganic and organic chemistry, cellular organization and metabolic processes, nucleic acids, hormones, enzymatic processes, metabolism, and biochemistry of selected compounds Other include topics as energy production, nutrition, glycolysis, gluconeogenesis, lipids, genetics, biochemical cycles and other biochemical principles important to human life. Materials focus on pathophysiological and pharmacological applications of this knowledge base. Three modules comprise this course.

3. COURSE TITLE: Neuroanatomy Neurophysiology & Neurochemistry

PREREQUISITES: Introduction To Biochemistry

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Neuroanatomy/neurochemistry provides participants with a thorough understanding of the structure of the nervous system. Students will learn how to identify important neuroanatomical structures and their functions. Neurophysiological topics include: cellular physiology, pre and post synaptic processes, neural basis of sleep and arousal, hemispheric specialization and processes, and neuroendocrinology. Neurochemistry topics cover all major neurotransmitter systems affected by psychotropic medications. Topic include: dopamine, serotonin, norepinephrine, and acetylcholine neurotransmitters

Module 1 - Anatomy & Physiology

Materials cover the organs systems of the human body from the cellular level to the organ system level. Both structure and function will be focused upon and coursework will be directed toward clinical applications of content.

Module 2 - Neuroscience 1

This module serves as an introduction of neuroscience to the student. An orientation to neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, and neurochemistry will be had. A continued focus on the applications in clinical practice will be conducted.

Module 3 Neuroscience 2

This module continues the student's learning of neuroscience. Greater depth in neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, and neurochemistry will be had. A continued focus on the applications in clinical practice will be conducted.

4. **COURSE TITLE:** Clinical Medicine and Pathophysiology

PREREQUISITES: Courses #1,2, &3

2. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

All major anatomical systems and physiological processes involved in illnesses that prescribers must be aware of are covered. Diseases of the cardiovascular, hepatic, renal, endocrine and gastrointestinal systems are discussed in detail. Major illnesses that can disguise as psychological disorders receive particular attention. All of the above are considered in terms of the relationship to their response to medications.

Module 1 - A Review Of Human Systems

This module introduces the various parts of the human organizational system focusing on cardiac and respiratory functioning and disorders

Module 2 - Hepatic and Renal System

This module introduces structure, function and disorders of the hepatic and renal systems. A focus on the applications in clinical practice is conducted.

Module 3- Pathophysiology

This module serves as an integration of the prior modules with special emphasis on the pathophysiology of neurological and neuropsychological disorders. Treatment protocols inclusive of a biopsychosocial approach will be thoroughly reviewed.

5. **COURSE TITLE:** *Introduction to Pharmacology*

PREREQUISITES: Courses 1-4

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Topics covered include: pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, side effects of drugs, adverse errors, mechanisms of actions, drug-drug interactions, and effects of drugs on physiological function

Module 1 - Pharmacology I

This is an introductory course to pharmacology. Topics covered will include pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, side effects, potency, efficacy, and drug classes.

Module 2 - Pharmacology II

Pharmacology II through Pharmacology IV successively build upon each other in developing an understanding of pharmacological agents used in immunology, cardiology, neurology, family practice, pulmonology, and other areas of medicine. Specific attention is paid to the interaction of differing agents, contraindications, side effect profiles, drug-disease interactions and over the counter interactions.

Module 3 - Pharmacology III

This module presents drug-drug interactions of all major medication groups: cardiac, antibiotics, opioid, antifungal, and psychotropic medications. Specific attention is paid to the interaction of differing agents, contraindications, side effect profiles, drug-disease interactions and over the counter interactions.

6. **COURSE TITLE:** Advanced Pharmacology

PREREQUISITES: Courses 1-5

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides greater depth of the pharmacology of medications for non-psychotropic medications. Drug-drug interactions, adverse drug events, and reducing prescribing errors receive particular attention. This course comprises three modules.

7. **COURSE TITLE:** Integration of Pharmacotherapy Into Practice

PREREQUISITES: Courses 1-6

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Focus of this course is on the use of psychotropic medications in clinical practice. Topics covered include: when are psychotropics appropriate, assessment protocols, risks and rewards when using psychotropics, controlling adverse events, psychotherapy and medications, terminating psychotropic treatment.

Module 1

This module reviews the interaction of psychological treatments and psychopharmacological treatments for the varying disorders found in the day-to-day practice of a clinical psychologist as defined by the International Classification of Diseases (Current Edition).

Module 2 and 3

Builds and continues on materials presented in module one.

8. **COURSE TITLE:** Physical And Lab Assessment

PREREQUISITES: Courses 1-7

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Topics covered include: body functions and systems affected by psychotropic medications, performing physical assessments, neurological examinations, how to read blood panels and neurophysiological tests, neuroimaging techniques. This class will prepare participants to order and evaluate lab tests commonly used in prescribing psychotropic medications.

Module 1 - Assessment and Laboratory I

This series of modules review and discuss the current physical assessment and laboratory procedures applicable to medical psychological disorders. Upon completion, a student will have an excellent understanding of the common history and physical and associated laboratories that are utilized to arrive at physical diagnoses.

Module 2 - Assessment and Laboratory II

This module presents materials that introduce students to various methods of physical examination including taking a blood pressure and other methods to assess physical health. Focus is on detecting physical ailments that can disguise as psychological disorders.

Module 3- Online Training Videos

This module presents several extensive and detailed videos demonstrating how perform integrated physical, neurological, cardiac and blood pressure examinations.

9. **COURSE TITLE:**Advanced Topics In Psychopharmacology

PREREQUISITES: Courses 1-8

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course covers advanced clinical application of psychotropic medications to the treatment of major mental disorders. major drug classes: Anxiolytics, Antidepressants, Neuroleptics, Mood Stabilizers, Hypnotics, and drugs that treat side effects from these medications are presented in detail. Pharmacological effects, diagnostic and indicators for use are discussed along with when not to prescribe. Research on these medications and drug classes receive particular attention including placebo response and gender and ethnic responses to medications

Module 1 - Special Populations & Ethnopsychopharmacology

This module covers the application of psychopharmacological principles and agents to emerging populations. Furthermore, a discussion of the differing effects, side effects, interaction effects, and drug success profiles will be had in regards to differing patient demographic variables.

Module 2 - Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics I

This module integrates the student's prior doctoral learning, areas of expertise, and present postdoctoral training in psychopharmacology. The student will gain an understanding of the application of biopsychosocial treatment plans across a wide variety of patient populations and diagnostic presentations.

Module 3 - Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics II -

This module focuses on child psychopharmacology and the medication treatment of elderly patients.

10. **COURSE TITLE:** Special Topics In Psychopharmacology

PREREQUISITES: Courses 1-9

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course covers all aspects of the ethical and technical aspects of pharmacological research as it relates to prescribing. Students will also Learn key concepts in the language of medical terminology.

Module 1 - Ethical Aspects of Pharmacological Practice

This module covers the ethical relationships of psychopharmacological principles and agents typically encountered in clinical practice.

Module 2 - Research Issues In Pharmacology

This module integrates and builds on the psychologist's prior knowledge of research issues but applied this to pharmacological agents. Student's will learn how to evaluate new drug research and gain knowledge of the pitfalls of clinical trials.

Module 3 - Medical Terminology

This module features a programmed learning approach to mastering medical terminology.

(Application follows on next page)

APPLICATION

**National Alliance of Professional Psychology Providers
Professional Certificate Program in Clinical Psychopharmacology**

Name: _____ Date: ___/___/___
Address: _____ City: _____
State: _____ ZIP Code: _____ Telephone: _____

Degree: Ph.D. _____ Psy.D. _____ Ed.D. _____

School Doctorate was earned: _____ Year Obtained: ___/___/___

Email Address: _____

State Where Licensed: _____ License Number: _____

Is your license current: Yes _____ No _____

Are you now under investigation for any ethical or criminal complaint? Yes _____ No _____

Can you briefly describe your practice?

Do you have any formal training in psychopharmacology? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please detail your training.

Please explain why you desire to obtain training in psychopharmacology?

This application must be mailed along with a copies of your doctoral degree and current license to practice to:

NAPPP
John Caccavale, Ph.D., M.S.
PO Box 6263
Garden Grove, CA 92846