

Graduate Certificate in Islamic Psychology and Psychotherapy (GCIPP)

كلية الدراسات الإسلامية
College of Islamic Studies
جامعة حمد بن خليفة
HAMAD BIN KHALIFA UNIVERSITY



Graduate Certificate in Islamic Psychology and Psychotherapy (GCIPP)

The Graduate Certificate in Islamic Psychology and Psychotherapy (GCIPP) uniquely offers an integrated perspective within an Islamic framework for the modern professional practice of psychology. The certificate program fills a gap in the training of current mental health professionals by exposing and teaching trainees how to incorporate Islamic traditions into their professional practice. The program draws upon the existing mental health experiences of such professionals and provides a tailored course sequence designed to fill in the gaps in their training.

This certificate aims to address the pressing need for spiritually competent mental health practitioners who can skillfully work with the religious nuances of Muslim communities. The program's holistic approach will produce a generation of scholars and practitioners to enrich the nascent field of Islamic psychology both locally and globally.

Program Focus

The GCIPP aims to empower practitioners with the knowledge and skills to integrate Islamic spiritual concepts into their clinical practice. Students will benefit from the rich Islamic academic atmosphere of the college to enhance their clinical experiences and scholarship.

Curriculum

An 18-credit degree program, taught over one year in English, that includes:

Four core courses (12 credits)

- ▶ Advanced Techniques and Interventions
- ▶ Ethical, Professional, and Legal Issues in Psychology
- ▶ Introduction to Psychology in the Islamic Tradition
- ▶ Introduction to Psychotherapy and Counseling Theories

A choice of two electives out of five options (6 credits)

- ▶ Career and School Counseling
- ▶ Cross-Cultural Psychotherapy
- ▶ Group Therapy
- ▶ Marital and Family Therapy
- ▶ Substance Abuse and Addictions

Core Courses

Code	Credits	Course Title	Description
PSYC 600	3 credits	Introduction to Psychology in the Islamic Tradition	This course explores the Islamic intellectual heritage in relation to psychology. It familiarizes students with classical Islamic scholarly literature, drawing from primary sources such as Tibb, Falsafa, Tasawwuf, Kalam, and Fiqh. The course combines lectures, reading original texts with commentary, classroom discussions, and critical thinking exercises. It emphasizes comparative analysis between classical Islamic texts and modern psychology, encouraging students to examine convergence and divergence, and explore potential theoretical developments and clinical applications through critical thinking and synthesis of disparate knowledge.
PSYC 604	3 credits	Introduction to Psychotherapy and Counseling Theories	This course provides an overview of counseling theories and practices, emphasizing their philosophical and theoretical foundations. It explores mainstream counseling theories and then delves into Islamically integrative orientations to psychotherapy, including Islamic epistemology and an ontological framework of the human psyche. Students will learn how to conceptualize and treat psychological disorders using Islamically integrative models, targeting cognitive, behavioral, spiritual, and emotional aspects of the human psyche. Concrete skills and therapeutic goals related to Islamic cognitive restructuring, behavioral reformation, spiritual growth, and emotional regulation will be demonstrated.
PSYC 607	3 credits	Ethics, Professional and Legal Issues in Psychology	This course examines the ethical and legal aspects of psychology and counseling. It covers various domains, including ethical guidelines, mental health laws, ethical case studies, and best practices. Students will learn about Islamic ethical guidelines and the conduct expected of mental health practitioners. The course explores ethical dilemmas that arise at the intersection of Islamic values and international professional codes of ethics, emphasizing strategies for reconciliation. Students will reflect on and develop their professional identity as mental health care providers throughout the course.
PSYC 702	3 credits	Advanced Techniques and Interventions	This advanced course expands on the Introduction to Psychotherapy & Counseling Theories, focusing on Islamically-integrated psychotherapy. Students explore the practical application of these principles in different therapeutic contexts and pathologies using case vignettes. They engage in discussions, present their own cases, and collaborate on treatment goals. The course emphasizes the development of integrative skills and techniques for addressing psychological disorders within an Islamic framework. Advanced interventions targeting cognition, behavior, spirit, and emotions are covered, including adaptations of mainstream and Islamic approaches. Complex case demonstrations and the nuances of providing psychological care within an Islamic context are explored, and hands-on components enhance the learning experience.



Elective Courses

Code	Credits	Course Title	Description
PSYC 605	3 credits	Cross-Cultural Psychotherapy	This course focuses on client diversity and challenges cultural biases in mental health services. It examines ethnographic, demographic, and status variables and explores multicultural psychotherapy models, cultural identity development, and the impact of culture on psychopathology, health, well-being, and service delivery. Students learn skills for cultural attunement, adapting interventions, and considering cultural factors in diagnosis and assessment. The course aims to promote awareness and sensitivity to diverse populations, ensuring culturally appropriate and effective mental health care.
PSYC 606	3 credits	Group Therapy	This course explores the fundamental principles of group dynamics and their application in group therapy. It examines the formation, sustainability, and dynamics of groups, as well as how change is facilitated by the group leader. The course covers the different phases of group development, including factors such as composition, structure, selection, preparation, and overall group process. While focusing on general group concepts, the course also explores various theoretical approaches to group therapy. An experiential component is included, allowing students to participate in a group process experience as members, enhancing their learning and understanding.
PSYC 608	3 credits	Career and School Counseling	This course provides an introduction to career and school counseling, covering theories, assessment tools, and their application in various educational and vocational settings. It includes career development theories, vocational counseling, decision-making models, career planning, and sources of educational and occupational information. The course also explores mental health needs of students in different school settings, including etiology, symptomology, treatment approaches, and crisis intervention strategies. Additionally, it covers socio-emotional program development, curriculum consultation, and strategies for supporting students' well-being in early childhood, elementary, middle, and high school settings.
PSYC 609	3 credits	Substance Abuse and Addictions	This course is designed to provide a supportive, structured learning environment for acquiring substance use and addictive behavior counseling skills. The course will provide students with an understanding of correlates of physiological and psychological effects of drugs and the significance of treatment planning in diverse settings. It will help student use the knowledge of individual, group, and family counseling strategies as they are applied to behavior change and relapse prevention. Students will learn about the diagnostic criteria of substance use and addictive behavior, models of etiology, and approaches to treatment.
PSYC 700	3 credits	Marital and Family Therapy	This course provides an overview of the development and conceptualizations of marital and family therapy. It explores different theories used in the field, including various schools of family therapy, and addresses current trends and issues in marriage and family therapy with a specific focus on the Muslim family. The course examines Islamic Family and marital therapy models, emphasizing the reinforcement of Islamic family values and the integration of Islamically oriented strategies and interventions to enhance marriages and strengthen the family unit.

Faculty

Dr. Hooman Keshavarzi

Program Director, Assistant Professor
of Islamic Psychology

Dr. Fahad Habib Khan

Assistant Professor of Islamic Psychology

Dr. Omar Mendoza Mahmood

Clinical Director, Assistant Professor of Clinical
and Counseling Psychology

Dr. Vahdet Görmez

Professor of Cognitive and Developmental Psychology

Muhammed Yakup Inan

Academic Affairs Specialist

Admission Requirements

Applicants seeking admission to the Graduate Certificate in Islamic Psychology and Psychotherapy (GCIPP) should have a master's degree in a mental health profession (such as clinical social work, counseling psychology, counselor education, clinical psychology, clinical pastoral care, or similar) from a recognized institution. Applicants must have completed at least 200 clinical practice hours at the graduate level of clinical practice.

Please refer to the following table for a summary of the admission criteria:

Program	Graduate Certificate in Islamic Psychology and Psychotherapy (GCIPP)
Required Field of Study	Psychology, counseling, social work, or a related field.
Language Proficiency	IELTS: 6.5 or TOEFL: 79 Applicants may be exempt from this requirement if they provide an official letter confirming that they obtained their degree from a university where the medium of instruction is English.

Application Requirements

A completed online application form:
admissions.hbku.edu.qa

Academic transcripts

Official electronic copies of transcripts should be submitted as part of the online application. Final transcripts and graduation statements are required for all previous university studies. All transcripts submitted should include an explanation of the grading system. Transcripts in languages other than English or Arabic must be accompanied by an official translation.

Standardized test results

Official copies (where required) must be sent directly to HBKU. Please refer to the institutional codes below:

- ▶ GRE: 7551
- ▶ GMAT: H6S
- ▶ TOEFL: 4981
- ▶ IELTS: No code required. Students should ask the IELTS center where they tested to send the IELTS TRF to HBKU

Applicants should also submit copies of their test scores with the online application.



Letters of recommendation

Applicants should submit two letters of recommendation, one of which must be from an academic referee. Applicants should include their referees' names and email addresses in the online application. Referees will receive an email requesting them to complete their references.

Personal statement of interest

Applicants should submit a personal statement as part of the online application. The statement should explain why the candidate is applying to the program, and how their studies will contribute to the achievement of their personal objectives, including information about the applicant's research interests and achievements (minimum of 300, maximum of 500 words).

Resume/Curriculum vitae

Applicants should submit a copy of their current resume or curriculum vitae as part of the online application.

This should include the following information:

- ▶ Academic Qualifications
- ▶ Academic Awards or Honors
- ▶ Conference Presentation
- ▶ Professional Experience
- ▶ Publications
- ▶ Research Projects

Identification document

Applicants should submit an electronic copy of their passport as part of their online application. Nationals and residents of Qatar should also submit their valid Qatar ID.

Tuition fees

Program	Graduate Certificate in Islamic Psychology and Psychotherapy (GCIPP)
Total Program Tuition Fees	QAR 36,000
Tuition Fees per Credit Hour	QAR 2,000
Total Program Credit Hours	18
Program Duration	1 year

Contact Information

Admission inquiries

admissions.cis@hbku.edu.qa

 [hbku_cis](#)

 [hbku_cis](#)

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