MASTER OF SCIENCE

CLINICAL

PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
• Live classroom instruction
• Interdisciplinary curriculum and faculty
• Interprofessional education and practice
• Strong biomedical focus

LOCATION HIGHLIGHTS
• State-of-the-art anatomy and physiology labs
• Beautiful Treasure Valley locale
• Top 50 Best Places to Live in America (MONEY, 2017)
Idaho lawmakers approved initial legislation in 2017, giving appropriately-trained psychologists the ability to prescribe psychotropic medications within their scope of practice. This legislation was largely in response to the criticality of unmet mental and behavioral health care needs in our state. Idaho is now the 5th state to allow prescribing by psychologists.

In early 2018, the Kasiska Division of Health Sciences (KDHS) at ISU was granted ongoing funding from the Idaho State Legislature for additional faculty and administrative positions. According to Idaho state law, the MS program is to be ‘substantially equivalent to that of a psychiatric nurse practitioner’ and our health science students from different disciplines will train together in classroom and other settings. We are projecting a Fall 2019 launch date.

Candidates for the Master of Science in Clinical Psychopharmacology (MSCP) program must have completed a doctorate in psychology from an accredited institution of higher learning. The two-year MSCP degree will consist of classroom instruction and experiential educational activities congruent with the American Psychological Association’s recommendations and Idaho state law.

This degree will include at least 450 contact hours in didactic education in courses such as biochemistry, neuroanatomy and physiology, physical assessment, pharmacology, and pharmacotherapy. In addition, at least 480 hours are also required in clinical practice, working alongside physicians and other health care professionals in the provision of patient care.

Once the educational requirements have been met and the candidate has passed the national board examination, he/she will be granted ‘provisional certification’ by the Idaho Board of Psychologist Examiners. Candidates must then document additional practice under a licensed provider for two years. They will then be granted ‘certification’ as a prescribing psychologist and may prescribe medications independently for mental health disorders in collaboration with the patient’s primary care provider.