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Clinical psychology Ph.D. receives approval at UM

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CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY PH.D.
RECEIVES APPROVAL AT UM

MISSOULA--

The doctoral program in clinical psychology at the University of Montana, Missoula, recently received approval for certification by the American Psychological Association (APA).

This is the first time for the Ph.D. program, which has been in effect at UM since the academic year 1963-64, to win approval and listing under approved programs in a forthcoming issue of the "American Psychologist."

According to Dr. John Watkins, UM professor of psychology and director of clinical training, over the next two years the program will be developed and strengthened in order to meet APA standards and win permanent accreditation when APA reviews the program in 1972.

The recent APA approval, Dr. Watkins indicated, means that now "doctors will be graduated from an accredited program and so will be more desired in clinical settings. Accreditation should also bring in more stipends for the psychology department," he added.

To date, five persons have graduated with Ph.D. degrees in clinical psychology. Two are in practice in Great Falls, one is directing a counseling center at Alfred University in New York, one is on the staff of a clinic in upstate Minnesota and one is on the faculty of Western Illinois University.

Besides serving in private practice, with universities or clinics, graduates may also serve in hospitals, prisons, schools, mental health centers and institutions for the mentally retarded.

The five-year program involves practical training at UM's Clinical Psychology Center in Missoula and a one-year internship, usually in a hospital or medical center elsewhere. Main purpose of the program is to ready prospective doctors to deal with the emotional problems of people.

Dr. Watson said that every state in the West except Montana, now certifies clinical psychologists. Besides the clinical training, the Department of Psychology at UM, under the chairmanship of Dr. Harold Babb, also has a general experimental program.