



ERRATA to Divine Mercy Academic Catalog 2024-2026

The following update to the Academic Catalog 2024-2026 is considered incorporated into this publication beginning on page 82.

Reason for change: Out of State Complaints Procedures for Online Students

Effective May 1, 2025

Out-of-State Complaints Procedures for Online Students

State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement - SARA

Divine Mercy University is a member of the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) and follows the complaint resolution policies and procedures outlined within the [SARA Policy Manual](#) and summarized here: <https://nc-sara.org/student-complaints>.

SARA consumer protection provisions require the institution's home state, through its SARA State Portal Entity, **to investigate and resolve allegations of dishonest or fraudulent activity by the state's SARA-participating institutions, including the provision of false or misleading information.**

Student complaints relating to consumer protection laws offered under the terms and conditions of the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) must first be filed with the institution to seek resolution.

Procedure for Filing Complaints (for Students Residing Outside VA)

Divine Mercy University is committed to investigating consumer protection concerns raised by students in distance learning courses and/or programs taken outside of the Commonwealth of Virginia, including but not limited to truthfulness in advertising and accuracy of data related to course offerings, job placements, tuition, fees, and financial aid.

Consumer protection complaints resulting from distance education courses, activities, and operations may be submitted to Divine Mercy University by sending the complaint to complaints@divinemercury.edu for investigation and resolution.

Student complaints will be submitted to the vice president of academic affairs for digital learning, and examined objectively and thoroughly. The vice president will convene an ad hoc committee to evaluate the merit of the complaint and make any appropriate recommendation(s) for resolution and/or redress to the vice president. The vice president will make a final determination and communicate to the student the institution's official response to the complaint as well as any warranted redress.

NC-SARA Complaint Process

If students at Divine Mercy University are not satisfied with the outcome of the institution's complaint resolution process in connection with a SARA matter, they should contact the **State Council for Higher Education for Virginia** at the following webpage <https://www.schev.edu/students/resources/student-complaints> in accordance with [NC-SARA complaint procedures](#).

Student Complaints
101 N. 14th Street, 10th floor
James Monroe Building
Richmond, VA 23219
804.225.2600

Please note, this does not include complaints related to grades or student conduct violations, both of which are to be fully addressed via Divine Mercy University processes, not through the NC-SARA complaint resolution procedures.

NC-SARA Licensure Notifications

Any institution operating under SARA policies that offers courses or programs potentially leading to professional licensure must keep all students, applicants and potential students who have contacted the institution about the course or program informed as to whether successful completion of such offerings will meet state licensing requirements.

Additional information can be found here:
<https://www.nc-sara.org/resources/professional-licensure>

A list of [NC-SARA State Portal Entity Contacts](#) is available through the NC-SARA webpage.

Since California is not an NC-SARA member, students can direct complaints to the [California Department of Consumer Affairs](#).

The following update to the Academic Catalog 2024-2026 is considered incorporated into this publication beginning on page 79.

Reason for change: Expansion and update for Pet Policy

Service Dogs at DMU Facilities

Divine Mercy University is committed to providing equal access and opportunity for individuals with disabilities. DMU welcomes those visitors with documented disabilities who use trained and registered service dogs, [as provided for under the Code of Virginia](#). To better serve you, we encourage (although do not require) proactive communication with our Disability Support Services (DSS) at DSS@divinemercury.edu or if you are an employee, with Human Resources (HR) at hr@divinemercury.edu.

Guidelines for Students, Employees, and Staff When Around Service Animals

[Under the Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#), when unsure what service a dog provides, employees and other staff may only ask the following two questions:

- "Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability?"
- "What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?"

Employees and other Staff **may not**:

- Ask about the person's disability
- Require medical documentation
- Require special identification or training certification for the service dog
- Demand that the service dog demonstrate its ability to perform tasks

General Considerations

- Service dogs must be under the control of their handlers at all times. In general this means
 - Guide dogs for individuals who are blind or visually impaired must be in a harness.
 - Hearing dogs for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing must be on a blaze orange (or safety orange) leash.
 - All other service dogs must be on a leash of six feet or shorter, in a service dog harness, backpack, or vest.
 - Under control means that the service dog must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered while in public places unless these devices interfere with the service dog's work or the person's disability prevents the use of these devices. In that case, the person must use voice, signal, or other effective means to maintain control of the dog. For example, a person who uses a wheelchair may use a long, retractable leash to allow her service dog to pick up or retrieve items. She may not allow the dog to wander away from her and must maintain control of the dog, even if it is retrieving an item at a distance from her.
 - Under control also means that a service dog should not be allowed to bark repeatedly in a lecture hall, theater, library, or other quiet places. However, if a dog barks just once, or barks because someone has provoked it, this would not mean that the dog is out of control.

- Handlers are responsible for the care and behavior of their service dogs, cleaning up any messes made by their dog and assume all financial responsibility for any damage to property or injury to individuals caused by the dog.
- DMU reserves the right to remove a service dog that poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others, or that is not under the control of its handler.

A Note on DMU-related activities held at off site facilities All residency programs must include a notification that service dogs are welcome at the site and in designated hotel accommodations, per American with Disabilities Act Guidelines and applicable state law. For the comfort of all individuals, students with a service dog will be provided a single room at the cost of a double room.

Emotional Support Animals

Emotional support animals that do not otherwise qualify as a service animal under the American with Disabilities Act or applicable state law are not permitted on campus or hotels with an applicable no pets policy.

No Other Animals Permitted on Campus

As pets can pose various health, safety, and general distraction concerns to the campus community, only service dogs are allowed at Divine Mercy University.

Effective March 1, 2025

The following update to the Academic Catalog 2024-2026 is considered incorporated into this publication beginning on page 100

Reason for change: Updated course descriptions for the PsyD Program

PSY 803 – Advanced Clinical Practicum/Externship III (3 credit hrs) This is an ad hoc course designed for students who have not begun the pre-doctoral internship and who are in an advanced clinical experience at the externship site during the summer semester. This course reflects time spent gaining clinical experience at the externship site, providing psychotherapy and psychological assessments. Students also attend and present regularly scheduled case consultation groups which focus on skill development in the areas of diagnosis, treatment planning, clinical skills, and provision of services from an integrated perspective. (see Prerequisite: PSY 802 for additional details)

PSY 721 – Cognition & Emotion (3 credit hrs) This is a survey course in cognition and emotions. Topics in cognition include: theories of learning, perception, attention, memory, knowledge, imagery, language, problem solving, reasoning, and decision making. Emotion is examined in terms of its separation from and interaction with cognition.

PSY 801 – Advanced Clinical Practicum/Externship I (3 credit hrs) This course reflects time spent gaining clinical experience at the externship site, providing psychotherapy and psychological assessments. Students also attend and present at regularly scheduled case consultation groups which focus on sharing the diversity of clinical experiences obtained through the variety of external site placements, with input from the University faculty on how these experiences interface with the perspective of the University training model. (Corequisite: Placement in an University approved externship. Typically completed by students in their fourth year of the Psy.D. Program. (Prerequisite: PSY 703)

PSY 802 – Advanced Clinical Practicum/Externship II (3 credit hrs) Second of two required semesters of advanced clinical experience at the externship site, providing psychotherapy and psychological assessments. This course reflects time spent gaining clinical experience at the externship site. Students also attend and present regularly scheduled case consultation groups which focus on skill development in the areas of diagnosis, treatment planning, clinical skills, and provision of services from an integrated perspective. (see Prerequisite: PSY 801 for additional details)

PSY 901 – Advanced Clinical Practicum/Externship IV (3 credit hrs) This is an ad hoc course designed for students who have not begun the pre-doctoral internship and who are in an advanced clinical experience at the externship site. This course may be repeated as needed. This course reflects time spent gaining clinical experience at the externship site, providing psychotherapy and psychological assessments. Students also attend and present regularly scheduled case consultation groups that focus on skill development in the areas of diagnosis, treatment planning, clinical skills, and provision of services from an integrated perspective. (Prerequisite: PSY 801)

PSY 902 – Advanced Clinical Practicum/Externship V (3 credit hrs) This is an ad hoc course designed for students who have not begun the pre-doctoral internship and who are in an advanced clinical experience at the externship site. This course may be repeated as needed. This course reflects time spent gaining clinical experience at the externship site, providing psychotherapy and psychological assessments. Students also attend and present regularly scheduled case consultation groups that focus on skill development in the areas of diagnosis, treatment planning, clinical skills, and provision of services from an integrated perspective. (Prerequisite: PSY 901)

PSY 903 – Advanced Clinical Practicum/Externship VI (3 credit hrs) This is an ad hoc course designed for students who have not begun the pre-doctoral internship and who are in an advanced clinical experience at the externship site during the Summer semester. This course may be repeated as needed. This course reflects time spent gaining clinical experience at the externship site, providing psychotherapy and psychological assessments. Students also attend and present regularly scheduled case consultation groups that focus on skill development in the areas of diagnosis, treatment planning, clinical skills, and provision of services from an integrated perspective. (Prerequisite: PSY 902)

The following update to the Academic Catalog 2024-2026 is considered incorporated into this publication beginning on page 30.

Reason for change: Update the conferral date policy

ERRATA to Divine Mercy University Academic Catalog 2024-2026 Graduation Requirements

Effective January 1, 2025

Graduation Requirements

In order to qualify for graduation, all coursework and curriculum requirements must be completed and all degree requirements met within the degree time-limit and by the official graduation date. It is the responsibility of each student to successfully fulfill all of their degree requirements, as detailed in each respective program section of the catalog published at the time of their enrollment in the degree which they seek. In addition to the academic requirements, it is necessary for students to be cleared of all library obligations and to present a satisfactory clearance of financial accounts prior to graduation. Students who have not made satisfactory financial arrangements will not have access to any student services, including transcripts, diploma verifications, transfer credits, or enrollment in courses or for another program.

The University confers degrees upon the recommendation of the faculty and by the authority of the Board of Directors 12 times a year (monthly). Graduates will need to complete their graduation applications in Populi in their last term. Graduation applicants must meet all graduation requirements, including any financial obligations, and be approved by the program director and registrar. Generally degrees will then be conferred on the 15th of the month after final grades of the student's last term are submitted. Degree conferral and commencement dates are posted in the academic calendar. All graduates are encouraged to participate in the annual May commencement exercises. Students who will complete graduation requirements by the end of the summer semester may participate in the preceding May ceremony.

The graduation fee covers all aspects of the degree completion process and will be applied to all student accounts of degree candidates, regardless of participation in the commencement ceremony. The graduation fee will be applied to the student account upon approval.

[For clinical programs]

Because of the unique schedule of some internship and practicum/externship experiences, students of clinical programs who have completed all other degree requirements prior to the commencement, except for outstanding internship or practicum/externship hours (which can be reasonably completed in the summer), may be eligible to walk at the commencement with the approval of the program director and registrar and must meet all graduation requirements. Please refer to your academic program handbook for specific graduation requirements. This special participation does not signify degree conferral. Once all degree requirements have been completed with the successful conclusion of the internship or externship, degree conferral will occur in August or September.

