**Psychiatrist v. Clinical Psychologist – Degree Options**

The difference between a psychiatrist and clinical psychologist is pretty significant. A psychiatrist receives a medical degree and a clinical psychologist receives a PhD in Clinical Psychology.

**MD**

* A **psychiatrist** is a medical doctor who has graduated from medical school, passed the medical board exam, and completed a four-year residency in psychiatry.
* Medical school and psychiatry residencies focus on the body and brain and medicine to treat psychiatric disorders.
* Psychiatrists are trained to do therapy like clinical psychologists, but many times they focus on medication management. Clinical psychologists, however, are not able to prescribe medications.
* If you are interested in becoming a psychiatrist, check out **The Mental Health and Psychiatry (MHP) Interest Group and Mental Health Advocates at OUWB School of Medicine**. It is comprised of medical students who are interested in the field of psychiatry. This group advocates for expanding awareness regarding mental health and starting dialogue about the need for mental health support in our community.
  + From the President of this group (Monique Waltman) –
    - Degree level – Doctor of Medicine or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine
    - Degree field – Medicine
    - Licensure and Certification – License required in all states; certification may also be required.
    - Key Skills – Good social awareness, communications, and active listening skills; familiarity with psychiatric and general computer software, such as SoftPsych Psychiatric Diagnosis, UnisonCare, and UniCharts
    - Salary - $193,680 (2015 average of psychiatrists)

**PsyD or PhD**

* A **clinical psychologist** has a bachelor's and a master's degree in a psychology-related field. They also have a PsyD or Ph.D. in clinical psychology.
* A doctorate program in clinical psychology is more concerned with the human mind, cognition, mental health conditions, and therapy techniques.
* Many clinical psychologists need to get field experience for a year or two under the supervision of another clinical psychologist before getting licensed.
* For more information, please see the Clinical/Counseling Degree Options Form available outside of the Psychology Student Success office (Room 107, Pryale Hall)