

Oral Defense Announcement

University of Missouri – St. Louis Graduate School

An oral examination in defense of the dissertation for the degree
Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology with an emphasis in Clinical – Community Psychology

Abigail Jordan Laine

M.A. in Psychology, May 2022, University of Missouri-St. Louis
M.A. in Clinical Psychology, May 2020, Minnesota State University, Mankato
B.A. in Psychology, May 2015, Butler University

Assessing Psychologists' Clinical Knowledge of Geriatric Depression: A Validation Study of the Later Life Depression Knowledge Questionnaire

Date: February 12, 2025
Time: 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Place: Remote

Abstract

Because the US population is rapidly aging, generalist clinicians will increasingly be called upon to provide mental health services to older adults. Unfortunately, most generalist clinicians do not possess the specialized knowledge to provide clinical services to this population and will require training. Professional training efforts are currently hindered by the lack of psychometrically supported scales of clinical disorders specific to aging. Without such scales, it is difficult to evaluate the impact of continuing educational programs. The purpose of the present study was to investigate the psychometric properties and scale dimensionality of the Later Life Depression Knowledge Questionnaire (LLD-KQ), a 25-item measure assessing clinical knowledge of later life depression. Psychologists ($N = 800$) selected from license registries in California and Texas were mailed a survey packet, to be completed via mail or online. Of the 772 delivered packets, 250 participants (32.4%) returned surveys with usable data. The LLD-KQ demonstrated adequate internal consistency, convergent validity, and divergent validity. Scale dimensionality showed support for a three-factor model, although the difference between the three-factor model and single factor model was minimal. The LLD-KQ may be used in dissemination science and practice to evaluate improved knowledge from participation in post-licensure education courses as well as to assess current clinical knowledge of later life depression.

Defense of Dissertation Committee

Ann Steffen, Ph.D., ABPP (Chair)
Erin Emery-Tiburcio, Ph.D., ABPP (Committee Member)
Kamila White, Ph.D. (Committee Member)
Emily Gerstein, Ph.D. (Committee Member)