

# JAMES WILLIAM NEELY

jameswilliamneely@gmail.com  
linkedin.com/in/willneely  
Los Angeles, CA 90036  
310-508-3074

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

---

Clinical Psychology Graduate Student | Former Senior Director of Strategy & Analytics

Graduate student in Clinical Psychology transitioning from a decade-long career in strategy and analytics to mental health. Experienced in synthesizing complex data to generate actionable insights—now applied to clinical assessment, case formulation, and treatment planning. Skilled in high-pressure environments, collaboration, and problem-solving, mirroring core competencies in therapeutic alliance and client engagement. Passionate about integrating evidence-based approaches to support diverse populations. Currently pursuing clinical training opportunities to develop hands-on psychotherapy and psychological assessment skills in preparation for a career in clinical practice.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

---

**EVERGREEN FUND – Red Door Life Treatment Center**

Los Angeles, CA

**Client Advocate & Recovery Partner**

2023 - 2024

- Provided direct client support in a high-acuity inpatient drug and alcohol rehabilitation center, ensuring safety, emotional well-being, and adherence to treatment plans.
- Conducted regular wellness checks and crisis interventions, de-escalating situations involving clients experiencing withdrawal symptoms, emotional distress, or behavioral dysregulation.
- Facilitated group discussions and psychoeducational activities, reinforcing skills in group dynamics, motivational interviewing, and client engagement.
- Collaborated with interdisciplinary treatment teams, including therapists, medical professionals, and case managers, to track client progress and implement individualized treatment plans.
- Assisted clients in navigating recovery challenges by providing emotional support, conflict resolution, and crisis management—developing foundational therapeutic skills applicable to clinical settings.

**ANHEUSER-BUSCH - InBev**

Denver, CO/New York, NY

**E-Commerce & New Ventures, Strategy & Finance Director**

2015 - 2022

- Led strategic analysis and decision-making for a Fortune 250 company—demonstrating expertise in data-driven problem-solving and organizational development.
- Provided guidance and mentorship to cross-functional teams, honing skills in leadership, communication, and team dynamics—key competencies for managing group dynamics in therapeutic settings.
- Designed and implemented data-driven strategies that improved team efficiency and decision-making, highlighting an ability to assess behavioral patterns and develop structured intervention plans.
- Developed and monitored key performance indicators (KPIs) to track growth and performance, skills transferable to evaluating client progress and treatment effectiveness.
- Engaged in collaborative decision-making with senior leadership, refining skills in active listening, negotiation, and interpersonal communication, which are critical for therapeutic rapport-building.
- Developed standardized reporting systems to improve communication and decision-making, reinforcing strong analytical and problem-solving skills applicable to clinical case formulation.
- Selected for a highly competitive Global Management Trainee program and earned multiple promotions due to exceptional analytical and interpersonal skills—highlighting adaptability, emotional intelligence, and leadership, all of which are critical in clinical practice.

## EDUCATION & TRAINING

---

**ANTIOCH UNIVERSITY, LOS ANGELES**

Los Angeles, CA

**Master of Arts – Clinical Psychology, Expected Graduation: June 2026**

*Emphasis in Trauma and Addiction & Recovery*

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY**

Berkeley, CA

**Master of Science – Business & Engineering**

**UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON**

Lexington, KY

**Bachelor of Science - Chemical Engineering**

## Opportunity for Change Scholarship Essay

I never thought I'd be grateful for the day I hit rock bottom, but now I see it as the beginning of everything good in my life. I was 30 years old and in rehab for a meth addiction that had taken over my entire world. I had a master's degree in chemical engineering, a good resume, and a future that looked great on paper. But inside, I was falling apart. Addiction stripped away every illusion I had about control and success and forced me to face the pain I had been avoiding for years.

Rehab was the first place I ever told the full truth about myself. I said things out loud that I had been ashamed of for decades. I stopped performing and started healing. And in that process, I discovered something I didn't expect. I realized I wasn't just meant to get through this. I was meant to use it.

That realization changed everything. I left rehab and slowly started rebuilding my life. I got involved in recovery communities and started sponsoring others. I showed up to meetings early just to make coffee and stayed late to talk to the newcomers who looked like they didn't want to be there. I listened to people cry. I watched people grow. I started to understand that everything I had been through—every relapse, every dark night, every horrible choice—was preparing me for something. I wasn't just surviving. I was being called to serve.

Now I'm earning my master's in Clinical Psychology at Antioch University in Los Angeles, training to become a therapist. My goal is to work with people in recovery, especially LGBTQIA+ clients who, like me, struggled to see themselves reflected in traditional models of treatment. When I was first getting clean, I didn't know many people who looked like me or loved like me or talked about recovery in a way that felt honest. I want to help change that.

I grew up in rural Kentucky in a home where mental health and addiction weren't talked about. Being gay was not safe. Being vulnerable was not an option. I internalized a lot of shame before I ever picked up a drug, and I carried that shame into every part of my life. Even in recovery, I had to work hard to undo the idea that I was broken or unlovable or too far gone. I know how much it matters to have someone across from you who truly understands that struggle. Not just because they studied it, but because they lived it.

Since getting sober, I've leaned into service work in every way I can. I sponsor other men. I speak on recovery panels. I've shared my story at treatment centers, at AA conventions, and in small living rooms where people are just trying to stay clean one more day. I've shown up for others because others showed up for me. And the more I give, the more I realize that this work is what I'm meant to do. It doesn't feel like a backup plan or a second act. It feels like the truest thing I've ever stepped into.

I've also become passionate about advocacy and systems-level change. I want to help shift the conversation around addiction away from punishment and shame and toward healing and connection. I want to be part of building models of care that include people of color, queer people, trans people, people without money or access, and people who have been told their whole lives that they're the problem. I want to train in trauma-informed, culturally competent

therapy and eventually offer sliding-scale or pro bono services to communities that have been historically underserved.

This scholarship would help me stay focused on my clinical training by easing some of the financial pressure of grad school. I'm currently living off student loans and slowly drawing down the small savings I have left. Every bit of support allows me to keep showing up fully—to my clients, to my coursework, and to my ongoing service in the recovery community.

More than anything, receiving this scholarship would feel like a reminder that I'm not just trying to fix the past. I'm building something with it. I want to help people who feel like they've ruined their lives realize that it's never too late. That healing is possible. That their pain can be transformed into something powerful.

Addiction tore my life apart. But it also gave me a new one. A better one. And every day I get to walk this path, I feel a little more grateful that I lived through it. Not just so I could recover, but so I could turn around and offer someone else a hand.

Name: James William Neely  
DOB MM/DD: 04/08  
Active Program(s): MA in Clinical Psychology: Marriage and Family Therapy  
Active Location: Antioch Univ Los Angeles

=====

Program: MA in Clinical Psychology: Marriage and Family Therapy started 04-01-2024  
Location: Antioch Univ Los Angeles

TERM 2024 Spring Quarter 04-01-2024 to 06-30-2024

Course#	Course Title	Eval	QTR	QTR
			Cred Att	Cred Earned
PSY 5450	SOCIETY AND THE INDIVIDUAL	CR	3.00	3.00
PSY 5410F	ASSESSMENT OF PSYCHOPATH (90)	CR	3.00	3.00
PSY 5100	INTRO TO PSYCH THEORY, PRACTIC	P	0.00	0.00
PSY 5000W	WRITING FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL AN	P	0.00	0.00
PSY 5000	CLINICAL TRAINING ORIENTATION	P	0.00	0.00
-----				
Term Total(Qtr)			6.00	6.00

TERM 2024 Summer Quarter 07-01-2024 to 09-29-2024

Course#	Course Title	Eval	QTR	QTR
			Cred Att	Cred Earned
PSY 5350	SYSTEMS THEORIES & THE FAMILY	CR	3.00	3.00
PSY 5010A	PROCESS OF PSYCHOTHERAPY I	CR	2.00	2.00
PSY 5310A	PERSONALITY THEORY I: PSYCHODY	CR	3.00	3.00
PSY 5440K	CONTEMPORARY ISSUES OF AGING	CR	2.00	2.00
-----				
Term Total(Qtr)			10.00	10.00

TERM 2024 Fall Quarter 09-30-2024 to 12-18-2024

Course#	Course Title	Eval	QTR	QTR
			Cred Att	Cred Earned
PSY 5120A	FIELD STUDY: PSYCH AND SOC	CR	2.00	2.00
PSY 5410G	PSYCHOPATHOLOGY&TREATMENT(90)	CR	3.00	3.00
PSY 5480	PROFESSIONAL ETHICS, LAW	CR	3.00	3.00
PSY 5450A	COMM PSYCH: THEORIES & METHODS	CR	3.00	3.00
-----				
Term Total(Qtr)			11.00	11.00

TERM 2025 Winter Quarter 01-02-2025 to 03-30-2025

Course#	Course Title	Eval	QTR	QTR
			Cred Att	Cred Earned

\*\*\*Continued on next page\*\*\*

UNOFFICIAL  
TRANSCRIPT

Name: James William Neely  
DOB MM/DD: 04/08

=====

PSY 5220A	PERSPECTIVES: TRAUMA & ITS	CR	3.00	3.00
PSY 5470	HUMAN SEXUALITY	CR	3.00	3.00
PSY 5500B	ASSESSMENT & TREATMENT OF ADDI	CR	3.00	3.00
PSY 5000A	CLINICAL READINESS	P	0.00	0.00
PSY 5390D	PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY	CR	3.00	3.00

-----  
Term Total(Qtr) 12.00 12.00

TERM 2025 Spring Quarter 03-31-2025 to 06-30-2025

Course#	Course Title	Eval	QTR Cred Att	QTR Cred Earned
PSY 5721H	FAM VIO&ABUSE W/IN LGBTQIA CO	CR	3.00	3.00
PSY 5430C	CHILD AND ADOLESCENT DEVELOPME	CR	3.00	3.00
PSY 5320A	PERS THEORY II: COMPARATIVE	CR	3.00	3.00
PSY 5420	PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING	CR	3.00	3.00

-----  
Term Total(Qtr) 12.00 12.00

TERM 2025 Summer Quarter 07-01-2025 to 09-28-2025

Course#	Course Title	Eval	QTR Cred Att	QTR Cred Earned
PSY 5360D	RESEARCH FOR MENTAL HEALTH PRO		--	--
PSY 5510B	GROUP TREATMENT METHODS		--	--
PSY 5660B	COUPLES COUNSELING		--	--
PSY 5670T	TREATMENT OF CHILDREN & ADOLES		--	--
PSY 5640F	QUEER COUNSELING AND NARRATIVE		--	--
PSY 6210	CLINICAL PRACTICUM		--	--
PSY 6200	APPLIED PSYCHOTHERAPEUTIC TECH		--	--

-----  
Term Total(Qtr) 0.00 0.00

Master's Level Cumulative Total	QTR Cred Att	QTR Cred Earned
	51.00	51.00

\*\*\*Academic Record as of 07-10-2025\*\*\*

UNOFFICIAL  
TRANSCRIPT