

Student Learning Overview and Goals

Overview

The Department of Psychology offers an MA degree in General Psychology. With this degree, you would be eligible for a career right after graduation or you would be prepared for further graduate education in a variety of fields, such as law, business, economics, health sciences, social work, public health, geography, and psychology. Many of our MA graduates have applied their advanced training in psychology to work as researchers, mental health workers, administrators, and managers, or they have gone on to pursue a Ph.D.

Our MA program is appropriate both for students with a limited background in psychology and those who hold an undergraduate degree in the field. The MA program is not intended to qualify students for the independent practice of professional psychology. In order to work as a professional psychologist, it is necessary to earn a Ph.D. (a doctorate).

Curriculum

Students are required to complete a total of 30 credit hours distributed as follows:

- 1 graduate statistics course (PSY 608 or PSY 607, 3 credits)
- One distribution course from each of our four areas (12 credits)
 - Behavioral Neuroscience (513 Biological Bases of Behavior)
 - Clinical (618 Developmental Psychopathology, 624 Psychopathology)
 - Cognitive (627 Perception, 639 Cognitive, Processes, 642 Psycholinguistics, 728 Memory)
 - Social-Personality (680 Advanced Social Psychology, 725 Attitudes and Social Cognition)
- Electives (15 credits)
- No more than 6 credits of PSY 600 or 799

Students must: (a) obtain a grade of B- or higher in Data analysis and in all four distribution courses and (b) maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Research Requirements

The Mentored MA project is a well-organized and thoroughly documented scholarly paper with an identifiable research question. The project can take several forms depending on the needs of the student, including but not limited to, an original empirical study, a critical review paper, or a

paper reporting meta-analysis. This project is evaluated by an MA committee of at least TWO members, composed of Department faculty of professorial rank. The committee chairperson must also be a member of the faculty of the Graduate School. Faculty with qualified academic rank (research, clinical, adjunct) may be an additional member on an MA project committee, but may NOT count as one of the required members. Faculty with qualified rank may chair an MA project committee if she or he is a member of the Graduate School faculty, in which case, the committee must consist of three members, two of which hold regular appointments in the department. Successful completion of the MA project requires a positive vote by the MA committee.

Specific Goals and Objectives for MA students

Goal 1: Students will exhibit competence in statistical methods.

Expected Competencies: This will be evidenced by successful completion of the required course in statistics.

Goal 2: Students will have both broad and deep exposure to current ideas and evidence in the study of behavior.

Expected Competencies: This will be evidenced by successful completion of the four required course distribution across the four areas of the Department and the successful completion of elective courses.

Goal 3: Students will exhibit competence in the execution of a well-organized and thoroughly documented scholarly paper on a substantive topic area in psychology.

Expected Competencies: Students will prepare and successfully defend a quality MA project as evaluated by the MA committee.