PSYCHOLOGY PH.D.

All students must meet the Requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy Degree

OVERVIEW

Additional clinical, research, and adjunct faculty supervise students in clinical and research placements.

The Ph.D. program in General/Experimental Psychology admits students in four broad areas of concentration ("clusters"): Biobehavioral Psychology; Developmental Psychology; Social Psychology; and Behavioral Psychopharmacology.

The Ph.D. program in Clinical Psychology places equal emphasis on research and clinical training. The Clinical Psychology program is fully accredited by the American Psychological Association.

Further information about both programs can be obtained electronically from the Department of Psychological Science website, or by requesting a department graduate studies brochure from the Department of Psychological Science. Both contain details of requirements, funding opportunities, clinical and research facilities, specialty areas, ongoing research, and faculty, as well as general information about the university and the area.

Applicants must apply for the Ph.D. degree only. Students whose goal is a terminal master’s degree are not accepted. The application deadline for admission is December 1st for the clinical program, January 2nd for the general/experimental program.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Requirements for Admission to Graduate Studies for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

A major or its equivalent in undergraduate psychology including courses in statistics and experimental psychology; and satisfactory scores on the Graduate Record Examination, including the subject subtest in psychology. A telephone interview is required of top applicants to the clinical program.

Minimum Degree Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

Both the general/experimental and the clinical programs require a minimum of eighty-one credits. A minimum of twenty credits must be accumulated in dissertation research and the remainder in course credits numbered in the 200 through 400 sequences of the psychology curriculum, or acceptable courses at 200- or 300-level from other curricula. Detailed information on courses of study is available from the department. Satisfactory performance on the department final oral examination is required. There is no foreign language requirement. Although the requirement differs, both programs have a required preliminary examination.

Comprehensive Examination

In the General/Experimental Psychology program, the comprehensive exam ("preliminary exam") is taken in the next academic year after the academic year of the successful defense of a master’s thesis. The examination consists of a two-day written examination on select primary literature within the student’s broad research area. The details of the examination are decided upon by a committee of faculty members within the student’s research area.

In the Clinical Psychology program, the comprehensive examination is structured to provide assessment in four formats: two oral and two written. The four phases of this exam should be satisfactorily completed before the end of the third year and before the dissertation is proposed: (1) Phase I Written Examination constituting a proposed study. Timing: By end of second year; (2) Phase II Oral Examination on scientific knowledge in area of study. Timing: By end of second year; (3) Phase III Written Examination constituting the completed study in manuscript form. Timing: By end of third year; (4) Phase IV Oral Examination on completed study. Timing: By end of third year.

Requirements for Advancement to Candidacy for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

For the general/experimental program, satisfactory completion of the minimum degree requirements for the Master of Arts degree or equivalent; for the clinical program, satisfactory performance of the Ph.D. comprehensive examination.