

PSYCHOLOGY M.A.

All Experimental and Clinical PHD students must meet the Requirements for the Master's Degree prior to advancement to candidacy for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

OVERVIEW

The terminal Master of Arts in Experimental or Clinical Psychology is aimed at students who wish to pursue a doctorate and want to strengthen their credentials to be competitive for doctoral programs, students who wish to pursue careers that require research skills, or students who wish to gain an understanding of research as it pertains to intervention and prevention. A thesis-based and a non-thesis based option is offered. For students who wish to pursue research-related careers and/or increase their competitiveness for PhD programs, the thesis option is recommended. For students who need a Master's degree for a non-research related career, for example in education, law, or business, the non-thesis option is recommended.

For the thesis-based option, applicants are required to identify a thesis mentor among the faculty in the Department of Psychological Science.

Learning goals for Master of Arts in Psychology students are:

- Development of a foundational understanding in the area of research specialization.
- Development of effective skills in communicating Psychological Science.
- Thesis option: Development of strong research skills

NOTE: It is not the program's goal to train licensed therapists pursuing a career in clinical practice. Hence, this program's curriculum does not provide any supervised practicum or internship hours necessary for licensure. Students interested in a career as a licensed therapist should pursue that goal via the Master's program in Counseling through the College of Education and Social Services.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Requirements for Admission to Graduate Studies for the Degree of Master of Arts

A major or its equivalent in undergraduate psychology is recommended, with a recommended minimum overall GPA of 3.3 and a GPA of 3.5 in the major. For the thesis-based option, applicants to the concentration in Experimental Psychology should have coursework in experimental psychology, and applicants to the concentration in Clinical Psychology should have completed abnormal psychology. 3 letters of recommendation are required, and letter-writers should comment on the readiness of the applicant for a graduate program. For the thesis-based option, 1 of the 3 letters of recommendation must be from the prospective faculty mentor and there must be completion of 3 or more undergraduate research credits with the prospective mentor prior to admission. Satisfactory scores on the Graduate Record Examination are required. Subject

scores (Psychology) are not required but are strongly recommended for students applying without a psychology major. An interview is required of top applicants.

Minimum Degree Requirements

Students pursue the thesis-based option with either a Experimental Psychology or Clinical Psychology concentration. The non-thesis based option does not have a concentration. For students pursuing the thesis-based option in Experimental Psychology, 9-15 credits must be accumulated in Master's Thesis research, in addition to successful defense of an empirical Master's Thesis. For students pursuing the concentration in Clinical Psychology, 9 credits must be accumulated in Master's Thesis research, in addition to successful defense of an empirical Master's Thesis. Detailed information on courses of study is available on the department website.

THESIS-BASED OPTION: EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY CONCENTRATION

Requirement Description		Credits
CATEGORY A: RESEARCH (6 credits)		
1 of the following combinations:		
PSYS 6000 & PSYS 6005	Adv Statistical Methods I and Adv Statistical Methods II	
PSYS 6010 & PSYS 6000	Seminar in Psyc Research Meth and Adv Statistical Methods I	
CATEGORY B: EXPERIMENTAL (minimum of 6 credits)		
At least 2 of the following:		
PSYS 6400	Biobehavioral Proseminar	
PSYS 6500	Proseminar in Exp Social Psych	
PSYS 6600	Developmental Proseminar	
CATEGORY C: ELECTIVES (minimum of 3 credits)		
At least 1 additional 6000-level Psychology course		3
CATEGORY D: MASTER'S THESIS RESEARCH		
PSYS 6391	Master's Thesis Research	9-15

THESIS-BASED OPTION: CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY CONCENTRATION

Requirement Description		Credits
CATEGORY A: RESEARCH (6 credits)		
1 of the following combinations:		
PSYS 6000 & PSYS 6005	Adv Statistical Methods I and Adv Statistical Methods II	
PSYS 6010 & PSYS 6000	Seminar in Psyc Research Meth and Adv Statistical Methods I	

CATEGORY B: CLINICAL (minimum of 9 credits)		
At least 1 course from each pair below is required:		
PSYS 6705	Child Psychopathology	3
or PSYS 6720	Adult Psychopathology	
PSYS 6715	Behavior Therapy: Children	3
or PSYS 6730	Adult Cognitive & Behav Thrpy	
PSYS 6710	Child & Adolescent Psyc Assess	3
or PSYS 6725	Adult Psychological Assessment	
CATEGORY C: ELECTIVES (6 credits)		
2 additional 6000-level Psychology courses.		6
Students may substitute 1 of the following 2 courses for 1 of the additional 6000-level Psychology courses:		
PSYS 6990	Special Topics (Advanced Fit Kids: Applied Res)	
PSYS 6990	Special Topics (Advanced Fit Kids: Special Populations)	
CATEGORY D: MASTER'S THESIS RESEARCH		
PSYS 6391	Master's Thesis Research	6-9

NON-THESIS OPTION

Requirement Description		Credits
CATEGORY A: STATISTICS AND RESEARCH METHODS (6 credits)		
1 of the following combinations:		
PSYS 6000 & PSYS 6005	Adv Statistical Methods I and Adv Statistical Methods II	
PSYS 6010 & PSYS 6000	Seminar in Psyc Research Meth and Adv Statistical Methods I	
CATEGORY B: ELECTIVES (24 credits)		
8 additional 6000-level Psychology courses		

Comprehensive Examination

For the thesis-based option, a written thesis proposal and an oral examination serves as the comprehensive examination. For the non-thesis option, a written examination based on coursework serves as the comprehensive examination. The Comprehensive Examination requirement should be completed by the end of the first semester of the second year in the program.

Requirements for Advancement to Candidacy for the Degree of Master of Arts

Satisfactory completion of the comprehensive examination.