Department of Psychology

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The Department of Psychology offers a Master’s Program in General Psychology and a Master’s Program in Clinical Psychology

MA in General Psychology
Mission Statement

The overall mission of the graduate program in General Psychology is to provide students with a strong foundation in psychological science. The program is characterized by both an emphasis on advanced research and statistical training as well as a strong commitment to critical thinking. The faculty possesses expertise in social, cultural and political psychology, and in areas of learning, cognition, and neuroscience. In realizing its mission, the Master’s Program in General Psychology is committed to the following goals and objectives: to provide education and training in the use of the scientific method in psychological research; to provide education and training in ethical practices in psychology; and to provide supervision of an empirical research study of publishable quality.

A candidate for the MA degree in General Psychology is required to complete 21 graduate credit hours in addition to nine thesis hours. The student must complete PSYC 301 and PSYC 302 and five additional graduate-level courses in psychology. One of these courses can be chosen from other graduate-level courses outside the department, according to the student’s interest and with the consent of the adviser.

General MA students will follow the following stream of courses:

**General Psychology Stream**

PSYC 301, PSYC 302 and five of the following: PSYC 305, PSYC 310, PSYC 312, PSYC 314, PSYC 316, PSYC 318, PSYC 320, PSYC 350, PSYC 352, in addition to the Comprehensive Exam, PSYC 395 and Thesis, GPSY 399.

*Part time*
MA in Clinical Psychology
Mission Statement

The mission of the Master’s Program in Clinical Psychology is to educate and train graduate students in the science and the practice of clinical psychology. Following the scientist-practitioner model, students will be prepared for doctoral study in clinical psychology or competent, ethical, and socially responsible professional practice. In realizing its mission, the Master’s Program in Clinical Psychology is committed to the following goals and objectives: to provide education and training in the scientific and professional foundations of the field of clinical psychology; to provide education and training for consideration of cultural diversity in the science and practice of clinical psychology; and to provide education and training in the ethics of research and professional practice.

A candidate for the MA degree in Clinical Psychology is required to complete 27 graduate credit hours in coursework, in addition to six credit hours of Clinical Practicum and six credit hours of Thesis, for a total of 39 credits.

Clinical MA students will follow the following stream of courses:

Clinical Psychology Stream


Course Descriptions

PSYC 301  Research Design in Psychology  3.0; 3 cr.
This course is the first part of the core research requirements for graduate students in psychology. It provides students with a solid foundation in the basic quantitative research methods and design, addresses ethical issues in psychological research, and introduces students to statistical analyses that will be needed for PSYC 302 and the master’s thesis. Annually

PSYC 302  Statistical Analyses in Psychology  3.0; 3 cr.
An advanced course in statistical analyses for the social sciences. The course explores bivariate, multivariate and structural statistical analysis using SPSS, the course combines both lecture and lab based sessions. Prerequisite PSYC 301. Annually.

PSYC 305  Ethics and Community-Based Learning in Psychology  3.0; 3 cr.
An in-depth-exploration of the ethical and professional issues in scientific and applied psychology, with a special focus on the role psychology plays in civic engagement and community-based learning. Topics include confidentiality, informed consent, competence, integrity, and social responsibility. Optional opportunities to engage in community-based learning are available to students registered in this course. Annually.

PSYC 310  Advanced Social Psychology  3.0; 3 cr.
A critical survey of social-psychological theory and research, with special emphasis on cross-cultural variations, the course covers topics in social cognition and group processes. Alternate years.
PSYC 312 Systems Neuroscience 3.0; 3 cr.
An advanced course on the underlying neural mechanisms of human mental processes. Using primary and secondary literature, topics are approached from a systems level and include, but are not limited to, decision-making, social cognition, control of action, creativity, language, cultural evolution, attention, memory, consciousness, and brain-computer interfaces. Alternate years.

PSYC 314 Cognitive Methods 3.0; 3 cr.
This course provides students with an in-depth review of the information processing paradigm with a particular emphasis on cognitive experimental techniques and procedures. Alternate years.

PSYC 316 Experimental Analysis of Behavior 3.0; 3 cr.
An advanced course in the psychology of learning and behavior analysis concerned with the theories of associative learning and operant conditioning. It explores the classical and operant conditioning paradigms from an experimental perspective. Alternate years.

PSYC 318 Special Topics in Psychology 3.0; 3 cr.
The topic varies from semester to semester. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

PSYC 320 Graduate Tutorial in Psychology 3.0; 3 cr.
May be repeated for credit. Prerequisites: graduate standing and consent of instructor. Annually.

PSYC 350 Advanced Psychopathology I 3.0; 3 cr.
A critical examination of the symptomatology, etiology and treatment of adult psychological disorders including but not limited to mood and anxiety, psychotic, personality, eating and substance-related disorders. Annually.

PSYC 352 Advanced Psychopathology II 3.0; 3 cr.
A course on the critical examination of childhood disorders including the disruptive behavioral disorders, the various anxiety and mood disorders, and the pervasive development disorders. Focus is placed on diagnosis and etiology including environmental and neurobiological influences of childhood psychopathology. Annually.

PSYC 354 Psychological Assessment 3.0; 3 cr.
The objective of this course is to provide students with the knowledge base and skills required to conduct a psychological assessment of a variety of mental health and neurological disorders. The course covers both psychometric and behavioral approaches to psychological assessment. Annually.

PSYC 356 Clinical Interventions I 3.0; 3 cr.
A critical examination of the theories and practices of individual psychotherapy. Students will be exposed to the various evidence based approaches to psychotherapy including, but not limited to, the cognitive, behavioral and short-term psychodynamic therapies. Annually.

PSYC 358 Clinical Interventions II 3.0; 3 cr.
A course on theories and practice of psychotherapy with families, couples and children. Students will gain a broad theoretical understanding of the various approaches to conducting family and couples therapy, including family systems, structural, strategic, solution-focused, behavioral and emotion-focused approaches. Annually.
PSYC 360  Psychopharmacology 3.0; 3 cr.
A course on the principles of neuropharmacology, neurochemical systems, and the current medications used to treat psychological disorders, including psychotic disorders, mood disorders, anxiety disorders, eating disorders, drug addictions, conduct disorders, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Annually.

PSYC 362  Clinical Practicum 3.12; 3 cr.
Clinical training at a designated clinical site with the primary focus on the observation of clinical cases at the diagnosis and assessment stages. Students will be trained in case formulations and treatment planning. Annually.

PSYC 364  Advanced Clinical Practicum 3.12; 3 cr.
At a designated clinical site, students will be assigned their own individual cases under the direct supervision of a qualified clinical psychologist. Students will be trained to diagnose and administer evidence-based psychotherapy. Annually.

PSYC 366  Graduate Tutorial in Clinical Psychology 3.0; 3 cr.
May not be repeated for credit. Prerequisites: graduate standing and consent of instructor. Annually.

PSYC 395A/B Comprehensive Exam 0.0; 0 cr.
Prerequisite: Consent of adviser.

GPSY 399  General MA Thesis 9.0; 9 cr.
Annually.

CPSY 399  Clinical MA Thesis 6.0; 6 cr.
Annually.