

Department of Psychology

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The Department of Psychology offers a Master's Program in Psychology and a Master's Program in Clinical Psychology. Applicants to the Master's Program in Clinical Psychology are welcome to apply for fall admission only. There will be no spring admission into the Clinical Psychology program. Applicants to the Master's Program in Clinical Psychology must have completed a major, minor or the equivalent (15 credits) in Psychology¹.

MA in Psychology

Mission Statement

The overall mission of the graduate program in 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 on 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 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 Psychology is required to complete 21 graduate credit hours in addition to 9 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 advisor.

Psychology MA students will follow the following stream of courses:

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, PSYC 360; in addition to the Comprehensive Exam, PSYC 395 and Thesis, and GPSY 399. Students are required to pass PSYC 302 to be allowed to sit for the Comprehensive Exam.

^P) Part-time

¹) the graduate program in Psychology is currently frozen. It is expected to be available in the near future.

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 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 in 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.

The clinical psychology program has a two-track option. A candidate for the MA degree in Clinical Psychology must select either the research-track or the practitioner-track. Both tracks involve the completion of 30 credit hours in graduate coursework and 6 credit hours of Clinical Training Practicum. Students in the research-track must also complete 6 credit hours of Thesis, which involves the completion of an independent, empirical study, for a total of 42 credits. Student in the practitioner-track must complete 3 credit hours of a Clinical Project involving a comprehensive case study for a total of 39 credits.

Clinical MA students will follow the following stream of courses:

Clinical Psychology Stream

PSYC 301, PSYC 302, PSYC 305, PSYC 350, PSYC 352, PSYC 354, PSYC 356, PSYC 358, PSYC 360, PSYC 362, PSYC 364, PSYC 366; in addition to the Comprehensive Exam, PSYC 395 and Thesis, CPSY 399 or Clinical Project, CPSY 398. Students are required to pass PSYC 302 to be allowed to sit for the Comprehensive Exam.

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 designs, 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 a theoretical or computational approach to studying human behavior (e.g., signal detection theory, Bayesian inference), with an emphasis on experimental techniques and procedures used to study one or more aspects of cognition, including perception, attention, memory and decision-making. *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 term to term. 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 disruptive behavioral disorders, various anxiety and mood disorders and 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 Introduction to Cognitive and Behavioral Interventions 3.0; 3 cr.
 This course provides an introduction to the theory and practice of cognitive and behavioral psychological interventions. These approaches will be contextualized within

a critical discussion of the empirically supported treatments and evidence-based practice movements. The course will survey key cognitive and behavioral approaches, including mindfulness and acceptance based “third wave” approaches. *Annually.*

PSYC 358 Introduction to Family Therapy 3.0; 3 cr.
A course on theories and practices 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 362A Clinical Practicum 3.12; 3 cr.
Clinical training at AUBMC, an approved clinical setting, under the direct supervision of qualified clinical academic faculty and/or qualified clinical staff in the practicum setting. 14 hours per week. *Annually.*

PSYC 362B Clinical Practicum 3.12; 3 cr.
Clinical training in an approved clinical setting outside AUBMC, under the direct supervision of qualified clinical academic faculty and/or qualified clinical staff in the practicum setting. 14 hours per week. *Annually.*

PSYC 364A Advanced Clinical Practicum 3.12; 3 cr.
Advanced clinical training at AUBMC, an approved clinical setting, under the direct supervision of qualified clinical academic faculty and/or qualified clinical staff in the practicum setting. 14 hours per week. *Annually.*

PSYC 364B Advanced Clinical Practicum 3.12; 3 cr.
Advanced clinical training in an approved clinical setting outside AUBMC under the direct supervision of qualified clinical academic faculty and/or qualified clinical staff in the practicum setting. 14 hours per week. *Annually.*

PSYC 366 Introduction to Psychodynamic Clinical Methods 3.0; 3 cr.
This course provides an introduction to the theory and practice of contemporary psychodynamic interventions. The course will cover current evidence-based psychodynamic approaches including transference-based psychotherapy, dynamic interpersonal therapy and mentalization therapy. *Annually.*

PSYC 395A/B Comprehensive Exam 0.0; 0 cr.
Prerequisite: PSYC 302 and consent of advisor.

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

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