

**AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT**  
Department of Psychology  
**The Masters Graduate Programs in Psychology**  
**(2017-2018)**

**The Faculty:**

Chairperson: Dr. Charles Harb

Professors: Dr. Arne Dietrich

Assistant professors: Drs. Julien Besle, Tania Bosqui , Tima El-Jamil, Alaa Hijazi, Zahra Hussain, Reem Saab, Pia Zeinoun,

Lecturer: Dr. May Awaida

**About the Program:**

The Department of Psychology offers a Masters Program in General Psychology and a Masters 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 9 thesis hours, for a total of 30 credits. 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 or in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, 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, PSYC310, 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.

**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 twenty-seven graduate credit hours in coursework, in addition to six credit hours of Clinical Practicum and six credit hours of Thesis, for a total of thirty-nine credits.

Clinical MA students will follow the following stream of courses:

### **Clinical Psychology Stream**

PSYC 301, PSYC302, PSYC 305, PSYC 350, PSYC 352, PSYC 354, PSYC 356, PSYC 358, PSYC 360, PSYC 366, PSYC 362A/B, PSYC 364A/B in addition to the Comprehensive Exam, PSYC 395 and Thesis, CPSY 399a.

### **Financing and Graduate Assistantship:**

#### *Graduate Assistantships*

Assistantships covering tuition and partial living expenses are available for students at the graduate level in return for a specified number of hours of work each week for the Department of Psychology. Number of hours varies depending on whether the assistantship is part-time or full-time and whether the student is enrolled in the General Program or Clinical Program. A full-time graduate assistantship in the General program requires 12 hours of work and a full-time assistantship in the Clinical program requires 21 hours of work. Assistantships are made on the dual basis of academic record and departmental needs. Application forms for new students are within the admissions application package. Continuing students may obtain application forms from the Office of the Dean of the faculty in which they are enrolled and submit them early in the semester preceding the semester for which one is applying, according to the deadline set a University level.

After being accepted as a Graduate Assistant (GA), each student is assigned by the Department to one or more faculty members of the Department of Psychology. The GA will be expected to engage in research-related, teaching-related and/or administrative tasks assigned by the faculty member. Acceptance of a graduate assistantship **does not** ensure yearly renewal. Renewal will be based on the performance of the graduate student, based upon the student's professionalism, work ethic, and productivity. Graduate student performance will be evaluated at the end of each semester by the faculty member(s) whom the student is assisting. These evaluations will be shared with the GA in both oral and written form.

### *Work Study Program*

As part of its financial aid program, the University provides full-time undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to participate in the *Work Study Program*. Students contribute toward their educational expenses while developing job skills in various campus offices and the Medical Center. Application forms are available at the *Office for Students Affairs* and should be made early in the semester. Placement is made on the basis of capability, need, and job availability. Students may work a maximum of twenty hours per week; the hourly rate is based on the type of work performed.

### **Probation and Dismissal**

A student working for a master's degree may be placed on academic probation by the faculty Graduate Committee. A graduate student is placed on academic probation if s/he:

- is admitted to graduate study on probation,
- fails in any course taken for graduate credit, or
- does not maintain the cumulative average of 80%

The department or program in which the student is enrolled may recommend probation even though the student may have attained an adequate cumulative average. The probation of a master's student may be removed through action of the appropriate faculty committee and if both of the following conditions are satisfied:

- The student has completed a minimum of nine credits of graduate level courses within the two consecutive semesters after being placed on probation, has passed all courses, and has obtained the 80% cumulative average. If the student fails to meet any of these conditions, s/he will be dropped from the program.
- The department or program in which the student is studying recommends removal of probation.

The faculty graduate committee may discontinue a master's student graduate study if:

- Probation status is not removed within a period of two semesters in which the courses that are taken are for credit, or
- In the opinion of the department or program, and irrespective of the grades obtained, the work of the student is deemed unsatisfactory, or
- The student fails the comprehensive examination twice, or fails the thesis defense twice.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

As per the graduate catalogue, "plagiarism, falsification of data, cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty are serious violations of academic integrity" (p. 47) and are subject to disciplinary action. In cases where such violations are suspected by a faculty member, a formal meeting will take place between that faculty member and the student, giving the student the opportunity to present his/her position on the matter. If an academic violation is still suspected, the faculty member is required to convey this information to the Department

Chairperson and consult the University Disciplinary Committee. The Disciplinary Committee will then conduct an independent investigation of the case, with disciplinary action ranging from a Dean's warning to dismissal from the program.

### **Departmental Services**

Computer lab, experimental lab, study room, library access

### **Thesis Registration:**

The Thesis proposal defense should be completed by the **end of the Fall semester of the second year for all students who wish to register for Thesis in the Spring semester of the second year**. Students must register for their Thesis (GPSY 399a for General students and CPSYC 399a for clinical students) in the Spring term after defending their proposals, to ensure that the GAsip (if applicable) will cover the cost of the thesis. GAsip will cover the cost of credits for two years only. Once the thesis is registered and the fee is paid, students will then be allowed to register for thesis up to three subsequent semesters with no additional costs. The student must register for the thesis course on AUBsis (0 credits) each semester that he/she is preparing for the final thesis defense, without skipping any regular semester. Not registering for the thesis without an approved Leave of Absence throughout subsequent semesters will cause the student to forfeit the registration due him/her for each semester of unexcused absence.

### **Thesis Proposal and Defense:**

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the master's degree, a student must submit a thesis based on results of **original, independent and empirical research**.

#### *Thesis Committee*

The master's thesis committee should be composed of the student's thesis advisor and at least two committee members recommended by the department or program and approved by the faculty thesis advisor. The thesis advisor and one of two other committee members must be full-time faculty from within the Department of Psychology (FAS policies and procedures). Committee members from outside the department or from outside the university must be full-time faculty of professorial rank and will be required to submit their professional vitae before the committee is approved. Students are advised to seek committee members who will contribute to the development and depth of their research, regardless of the members' disciplinary specialization. The thesis topic, the selection of the adviser and the members of the thesis committee for candidates for the master's degree should be approved by the faculty at least four months before the student defends the thesis.

#### *Thesis Proposal Guidelines*

There are several general guidelines: (1) The thesis proposal consists of a written proposal and an oral presentation. The oral defense is open to the public. (2) The written proposal must first be approved by the thesis supervisor before a date for the oral defense can be set. Copies of the proposal should be submitted by the student to the members of the thesis committee **at least two weeks before the oral defense**. (3) The student must pass the combined written proposal and oral defense, the methodology part of the comprehensive

examination, and obtain approval (or exemption) from the IRB before the proposed research can be undertaken. (4) “Pass” or “fail” is reported for the combined proposal and proposal defense. If “fail” is reported, the student may resubmit the proposal if changes suggested by the thesis proposal committee have been made. (5) Failure on the second attempt results in discontinuation from graduate work. More detailed information on guidelines and procedures is contained in the AUB catalogue.

### *Thesis Structure*

Regarding the **proposal** structure, the written proposal must follow proper APA style and is to contain the following. (1) **Front pages** (cover page, table of content, and, if appropriate, figure page, etc.). Samples of how front pages should be formatted can be found in the APA manual. (2) **Abstract** not exceeding 120 words. (3) **Introduction**, containing the following main components: (a) introduction to the research topic, (b) a concise review of the relevant literature (both regional and international) that places the topic into a larger context, (c) literature guiding the rationale for the hypothesis, including clear conceptual definitions of the variables of interest, and (d) the aims of the study and specific hypotheses. As a general guideline, introduction sections should run about 10 pages in length for the proposal and then expanded for the final thesis. (3) **Methods**. This section is the most important part of a proposal. It must contain, in detail, the methodology the student plans to use in the proposed research (e.g., sample description, research design, instruments used, their validity with respect to the sample, procedure of data collection, ethical considerations, etc.). It must also provide the rationale for the type of statistical analysis that will be performed on the data. (4) **References**. Figures can be either embedded or attached at the end.

### *Thesis Defense*

“Pass” or “fail” is reported for the combined thesis and thesis defense. If “fail” is reported, the student may resubmit the thesis and defend it after a period of at least three months. Failure on the second attempt results in discontinuation from graduate work. Students must be registered for the thesis in order to present their defense.

### *Deposit of the Thesis in the Library*

As soon as approval for writing a thesis is granted, students must access the Thesis Manual (available in the library), which provides instructions on the preparation of theses. Its application is mandatory, and theses not conforming to its requirements will not be accepted.

After passing the final thesis defense examination, the student is required to deposit two copies of the MA thesis at the Jafet Memorial Library. A library receipt of these copies must be delivered to the Office of the Registrar before the student is awarded the degree. The student should sign a release form indicating whether or not the library is authorized to supply copies of the thesis to other libraries or to individuals. The non-authorization option is valid for a period of two years only, after which copies of the thesis will be supplied on request. The following deadlines are university-wide deadlines for all graduate programs at AUB.

<b>For graduation in:</b>	<b>Summer</b>	<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>
Deadline for approval of thesis topic and committee	First Monday of the Summer	First Monday of the Fall term	Last Monday of the preceding

	term		Fall term
Deadline for thesis defense	Fourth Monday of the following Fall term	One week after the end of Fall term	One week before the end of Spring term
Deadline for deposit of thesis at library	Ten days after the deadline of the thesis defense	Ten days after the deadline of the thesis defense	Ten days after the deadline of the thesis defense

**Comprehensive Exam:**

*The Methodology Part*

This first part of the comprehensive exam will take place after completion of research design and statistics courses, PSYC 301 and PSYC 302 in the first year. It is a common exam for all students and will be taken at the end of the first year of the program. As such, students must register for Comprehensive Examination PSYC 395A (0 credits) for the Spring Term of their first year in order to sit for the exam. Passing the methods comprehensive exam will require a grade of 75%. Students who do not get a grade of 75% on the final cumulative exam will be allowed ONE rewrite (For further details see Graduate Program Coordinator or instructors of the above courses).

*The Specialization Part*

The specialized exam is what is called the “comprehensive exam” in the AUB catalogue (see the section on Graduate Studies). It is a combination of the written thesis proposal and its oral defense. Students will present their thesis proposal in a public meeting within the department, which will then be examined by the thesis supervisor and thesis committee members. As per the AUB catalogue, “A student who does not pass the comprehensive examination may take it a second time after a period of at least three months” (page 514).

**Contact Numbers:**

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