

# RESEARCH PSYCHOLOGY (MS)

This program offers a terminal Master of Science degree which serves as a foundation for students interested in pursuing doctoral training. It also provides students with the basic knowledge and skills appropriate for a range of occupations in business, government, and human services (excluding the provision of clinical services). The master's program has two goals. The first is to provide the student with sufficient breadth in the methodology and content of psychology to demonstrate competence in two major areas: (1) Core areas of the discipline of psychology; and (2) Methods of the discipline of psychology. A second goal of the program is to provide the student with sufficient information and skills to apply the knowledge of the discipline competently in their daily lives and careers. This includes course work in the theory and techniques of the application of psychological principles, and also includes a thorough grounding in ethical and professional standards of psychologists. Although the program builds upon a core of basic courses, it provides some flexibility for students (with the approval of their advisors) to shape their course of study to fit special interests and needs.

Program Requirements	Quarter Hours
Core Requirements	36
Elective Requirements	12
<b>Total hours required</b>	<b>48</b>

## Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- Identify major theoretical concepts in psychology, trace their historical development, and integrate theory, research, and domain-specific knowledge to explain and interpret how the field of psychology currently advances knowledge.
- Critique and synthesize theoretical and empirical articles from peer-reviewed scholarly journals in terms of theory, methods, data analyses, and conclusions in order to compose novel perspectives and ideas.
- Develop testable research questions, identify the strengths and limitations of research designs and data analysis techniques, conduct appropriate research and analytic strategies, and interpret the findings to situate them within the extant research literature in psychology.
- Describe and discuss the ethical issues associated with human subjects/participant protection and the sequence of procedures needed for IRB approval of research projects, and apply these ethical practices in research.

## MS Degree Requirements

### Course Requirements

Students must complete at least 48 quarter hours and maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.00.

#### Core Courses

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
PSY 406	PHYSIOLOGICAL PROCESSES	4
PSY 410	ADVANCED STATISTICS I	4

PSY 411	ADVANCED STATISTICS II	4
PSY 420	QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH DESIGN	4
Select one of the following:		4
PSY 439	COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT	
PSY 554	EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT	
PSY 555	SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	
Select one of the following:		4
PSY 404	PERCEPTION AND COGNITION	
PSY 426	LANGUAGE AND COGNITION	
PSY 473	THE PSYCHOLOGY OF JUDGMENT AND DECISION-MAKING	
Select one of the following:		4
PSY 430	SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY OF THE SELF	
PSY 435	SPECIAL SEMINAR IN PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE	
PSY 556	PREJUDICE AND INTERGROUP RELATIONS	
PSY 560	SOCIAL COGNITION	

#### Diversity Core Courses

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
Select one of the following:		4
PSY 520	PRINCIPLES OF HUMAN DIVERSITY	
PSY 521	PSYCHOLOGY OF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN CHILD	
PSY 561	ADVANCED PSYCHOLOGY OF WOMEN AND GENDER	
PSY 554	EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT	
PSY 555	SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	
PSY 556	PREJUDICE AND INTERGROUP RELATIONS	

#### Graduate Capstone

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
Select one of the following:		4
PSY 597	MASTER'S THESIS RESEARCH (empirical only)	
PSY 592	DIRECTED RESEARCH (empirical only)	

#### Sample Psychology Elective Courses

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
Select three of the following:		12
PSY 416	METHODS IN QUALITATIVE RESEARCH	
PSY 418	MULTIVARIATE STATISTICAL ANALYSIS	
PSY 419	FACTOR ANALYSIS AND STRUCTURAL EQUATION MODELING	
PSY 422	COMPUTING FOR THE BEHAVIORAL SCIENTIST	
PSY 435	SPECIAL SEMINAR IN PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE	
PSY 440	PSYCHOLOGY OF WORK AND MOTIVATION	
PSY 441	PSYCHOLOGY OF LEADERSHIP	
PSY 442	PERSONNEL PSYCHOLOGY	
PSY 444	PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT	

PSY 446	PSYCHOLOGICAL THEORIES OF ORGANIZATIONS
PSY 448	CONCEPTS, METHODS, AND ETHICS FOR INDUSTRIAL-ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY
PSY 450	PSYCHOLOGICAL MEASUREMENT
PSY 461	ETHICS & HISTORY OF PSYCHOLOGY SEMINAR
PSY 473	THE PSYCHOLOGY OF JUDGMENT AND DECISION-MAKING
PSY 486	ADVANCED PSYCHOPATHOLOGY
PSY 487	PSYCHOPATHOLOGY OF THE CHILD
PSY 491	TREATMENT METHODS WITH CHILDREN
PSY 492	PRINCIPLES OF CONSULTATION
PSY 493	ADVANCED COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGY
PSY 511	HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY
PSY 554	EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT
PSY 555	SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
PSY 556	PREJUDICE AND INTERGROUP RELATIONS
PSY 558	SEMINAR IN ADVANCED STATISTICS
PSY 559	SEMINAR IN INDUSTRIAL-ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY
PSY 560	SOCIAL COGNITION
PSY 680	INDUSTRIAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

With the permission of the Program Director, students may be able to substitute other psychology or non-psychology courses for the diversity and elective requirements detailed above.

### Additional Requirements

In addition, program requirements include two options for demonstrating successful completion of the program: 1) a traditional master's thesis involving an empirical study; or 2) a research study or program evaluation "Capstone" project based on the student's internship or employment experience. Upon completion of coursework, students are required to maintain active student registration status until graduation.

### Time Limitation

All degree requirements must be successfully completed within a maximum period of five years.

## Program Graduate Academic Student Handbook

The content on this page is shared from another website. If you are seeing this message, the referring website is not available or is experiencing technical difficulties.

### Minimum Grades

1. The minimum grade considered acceptable for a graduate course is a B-. This applies to courses taken both within and outside of the department for psychology graduate students. Grades below that (i.e., C+ and below) indicate that the student has not mastered the relevant content of the course.
2. If a graduate student earns a grade lower than B- in a particular course, the student, instructor, and advisor will discuss the situation and circumstances and a remediation plan will be required. The

student, his or her advisor, and the instructor, will work together to create a plan through which the student can (a) gain competence in the course material, and (b) demonstrate that competence. The remediation plan might include, for example, requiring the student to complete additional assignments, retaking the class, taking a substitute class, completing an independent study, or pursuing other options. The remediation plan must be approved by the instructor, advisor and the program director.

3. A second occurrence of a grade lower than a B- (for the same or different course) will put the student on academic probation. Once placed on academic probation, the student's record and any mitigating circumstances will be evaluated by a Psychology Department review board comprising the student's advisor, the program director, and the department associate chair (the department chair might be included in special circumstances). Additional remediation and intervention might be suggested by the review board.
4. If there is a third occurrence of a grade below B- (for the same or different course), the student will be dismissed from the program. The student may choose to appeal this decision, in which case the Chair of the Psychology Department will appoint a committee of three tenured Psychology Department faculty outside the student's program to hear the appeal. Depending on the student's academic record and any mitigating circumstances, he/she may be allowed to complete his/her Master's degree but will not be permitted to continue onto the PhD (not applicable to terminal Department of Psychology MS degrees) without a successful appeal.

### Academic Probation

Students are expected to maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.00. If a student's cumulative GPA falls below this minimum, the student will be put on academic probation and will have one quarter of coursework to raise it up to the minimum.

### Academic Dismissal

If the student does not raise their cumulative GPA to at least a 3.00 after one quarter of coursework while on academic probation, the student will be academically dismissed from the program. If the student's cumulative GPA falls below the minimum a second time, they will be academically dismissed from the program without a second academic probationary period.

### Graduation Requirements

Students need a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.20 in courses required by the program. In addition to meeting the minimum cumulative GPA requirement, lack of progress towards degree completion, and/or unsatisfactory evaluation could result in dismissal. See individual program policies for more details.

### Graduation with Distinction for MS

The criteria for graduating "with distinction" are a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.75 and the recommendation of "with distinction" by the thesis committee.

### Time Limitation

Students must complete their degree requirements within a five-year period from the first registration date for a course in the program.