PSYCHOLOGY M.S.

Graduate Arts and Sciences

Jodi A. Mindell, Ph.D., Director
Graduate Psychology Program

Program Description

The Saint Joseph's University graduate program in psychology offers students a general curriculum of study emphasizing experimental psychology. The program is designed to complement the strengths and interests of the present psychology faculty and facilities and reflects the current state of the discipline of psychology. It consists of a traditional and academically oriented forty-eight credit curriculum and requires the successful completion of a qualifying comprehensive examination and an empirical thesis project. The program is designed for successful completion over two academic years. Additionally, a 4+1 combined Bachelor/Master of Science degree is offered.

For more information about our program, please visit our web page (https://sites.sju.edu/psychology/)

Academic Dismissal

Students enrolled in the graduate psychology program who receive 2 grades of C+ or below will be dismissed from the degree program. Students who receive a grade of C+ or below in either of the Common Core Courses (i.e., PSY 551 PSY 552) must repeat the course and receive a grade of B- or higher.

It is anticipated that students will complete the graduate psychology program in two academic years. Students who do not complete the program by the end of their second year of enrollment may at their request have their enrollment in the program extended by one academic year. In order to obtain an extension, a student must request one in writing in a letter to the director of the graduate psychology program before the end of the student's second year of study. Failure to complete the requirements of the program by the end of this additional year will result in dismissal from the program.

If due to unforeseen circumstances a student anticipates that he/she will not complete the requirements of the program before the end of the additional year, the student may apply for an one-time extension of the deadline. The student must request the extension in writing before the end of the additional year in a letter to the director of the graduate psychology program. The letter must be co-signed by the faculty member supervising the Master's thesis research of the student. The letter must include a date by which the student will have completed the requirements of the program. This completion date must be within 180 days of the last day of the additional year. Failure to complete the requirements of the program by the date specified in the letter requesting the extension will result in the student's dismissal from the program.

A continuing enrollment fee will be charged for each semester or portion thereof that a student remains enrolled in the graduate psychology program beyond two academic years from the time of initial enrollment.

Program Structure and Curriculum

The curriculum is composed of three major components: (1) eight-credit Common Core required of all students; (2) twenty-four credits of content courses, and (3) sixteen-credit Research Component in which students complete the comprehensive examination and research thesis.

The graduate psychology program is a full-time course of study. Classes are scheduled on weekdays. Students are expected to attend these classes regularly. Attendance is also required at colloquia, lab meetings, and other functions of the Department of Psychology. In addition, students are expected to have time available during weekdays to conduct scientific research.

The comprehensive examination is taken by students during the second year. Students are eligible to sit for the exam if they have submitted an acceptable draft of their thesis proposal. The examination is scored as a 3 (superior), 2 (acceptable), or 1 (failure). A student must achieve a total score of 2 or higher to pass the comprehensive examination. If the student fails, remediation must be completed by December 15th of that year. No student is permitted to fail the examination more than once. Failure to pass or complete the comprehensive examination terminates further graduate study. Completion of the thesis must occur within two years following the completion of the comprehensive examination.

Learning Goals and Outcomes

Learning Goals:

Goal 1: Students will gain fundamental knowledge and comprehension of experimental psychology.

Goal 2: Students will engage in scientific inquiry and develop critical thinking.

Goal 3: Students will develop communication skills.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the curriculum in the graduate program in experimental psychology, students will:

Outcome 1: Demonstrate fundamental knowledge and comprehension of experimental psychology, with an emphasis on experimental methods and statistical applications.

Outcome 2: Develop scientific reasoning and problem solving skills, including effective research methods and the ability to interpret, design, and conduct psychological research.

Outcome 3: Demonstrate competence in writing and in oral and interpersonal communication skills. Students should be able to write a cogent scientific argument, present information using a scientific approach, engage in discussion of psychological concepts, and express their own ideas with clarity.

Outcome 4: Produce research and explain scientific results.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSY 551</td>
<td>Adv Research Methods &amp; Stats I (first semester)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 552</td>
<td>Adv Research Method &amp; Stats II (second semester)</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>II. Content Courses</td>
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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSY 610</td>
<td>Learning and Behavior</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 611</td>
<td>Adv Physiological Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 612</td>
<td>Adv Sensory Processes</td>
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<td>PSY 613</td>
<td>Psychopharmacology</td>
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PSY 614  Cognitive Science
PSY 615  Health Psychology
PSY 616  Principles of Neuropsychology
PSY 617  Memory Organiz & Retrieval
PSY 618  Comparative Psychology
PSY 620  Hormones, Brain and Behavior
PSY 621  Systems Neuroscience
PSY 622  Bio Basis of Behavioral Health
PSY 623  Brain and Brain Injury
PSY 650  Gerontology
PSY 651  Adv Psychopathology
PSY 652  Assessment and Evaluation
PSY 653  Behavioral Medicine
PSY 654  Developmental Psychology
PSY 656  Social Cognition
PSY 659  Adv Child Psychopathology
PSY 660  Ethics in Psychology
PSY 661  Cross-Cultural Psychology
PSY 662  The Nature of Emotion
PSY 663  Psychology and Architecture
PSY 664  Psychology and the Law
PSY 665  Autism Spectrum Disorder
PSY 666  Human Factors Psychology
PSY 667  Forensic Psychology
PSY 668  Motivation
PSY 669  Social Development
PSY 680  Special Topics

III. Research Component
PSY 591  Directed Studies I (first semester) 4
PSY 592  Directed Studies II (second semester) 4
PSY 691  Master's Research I (third semester) 4
PSY 692  Master's Research II (fourth semester) 4

Two-Year Course Sequence
Course                        Title                        Hours
First Year                      
Fall                           
PSY 551                        Adv Research Methods & Stats I 4
PSY 6XX: Content Course 1 4
PSY 591                        Directed Studies I 4

Spring                        
PSY 552                        Adv Research Method & Stats II 4
PSY 6XX: Content Course 2 4
PSY 592                        Directed Studies II 4

Hours 12

Second Year                   
Fall                           
PSY 6XX: Content Course 3 4

Spring                        
PSY 6XX: Content Course 5 4
PSY 6XX: Content Course 6 4
PSY 692                        Master's Research II 4

Hours 12

Total Hours 48

4+1 B.S./M.S. Sequence
Course                        Title                        Hours
Senior                        
Fall                           
Undergraduate course 3
Undergraduate course 3
PSY 551                        Adv Research Methods & Stats I 4
PSY 6XX: Content Course 1 4
PSY 591                        Directed Studies I 4

Hours 18

Spring                        
Undergraduate course 3
Undergraduate course 3
PSY 552                        Adv Research Method & Stats II 4
PSY 6XX: Content Course 2 4
PSY 592                        Directed Studies II 4

Hours 18

Fifth Year                    
Fall                           
PSY 6XX: Content Course 3 4
PSY 6XX: Content Course 4 4
PSY 691                        Master's Research I 4

Hours 12

Total Hours 60

Saint Joseph's University combined 4+1 B.S./M.S. program in Psychology offers students an exciting and challenging curriculum emphasizing experimental psychology. The program, which is designed to complement the strengths and interests of the present Psychology faculty, also reflects the current state of the discipline of psychology. This unique program is designed for successful completion over five academic years.

Undergraduate psychology majors at Saint Joseph's who apply for the 4+1 combined B.S./M.S. program will be evaluated for acceptance into the program following the completion of the first semester of the junior year. These undergraduate applicants will be asked to submit a complete application along with their undergraduate academic transcripts.
undergraduate transcript, two letters of recommendation/reference, and an essay describing their interests and goals of graduate education in psychology.

Six of the credits taken as part of the 4+1 program will count toward your graduate degree, and not toward the 120-credit undergraduate requirement.

Acceptance into the 4+1 program will not affect the GEP Common Courses or University Distribution Requirement.