

College of Arts and Science
Master of General Psychology Program

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**For Additional information please refer to the graduate handbook.*

Degree Offered: Master of Science Degree in General Psychology

Mission/Purpose: The Master of General Psychology Programs mission is to provide a broad base of knowledge with strong research, critical-thinking skills, and an appreciation for diversity. The program blends the expertise of the biological and social bases for behavior with the fascinating process of human development and the amazing history of psychology and its impact on today's culture, and the role of ethics and diversity training in psychology. The program design equips graduates with a strong foundation to pursue a doctoral degree in Psychology or related fields of study. The program graduates work in a wide range of industries, including academic; research; health care organizations; community; and businesses.

Program Overview: The Master's [Degree Program](#) in [General Psychology](#) is a 36-credit hybrid program that will prepare students to develop foundational knowledge in psychological theory and research. Local, national, and international students may select this M.S. degree as an opportunity to obtain prerequisite courses to meet eligibility requirements for [application](#) to other psychology programs, including advanced doctoral studies in Applied Behavior Analysis. The programs specialty tracks will also allow a variety of professionals within the fields of education, human services, counseling, and allied health to access coursework both as degree seeking and non-degree seeking students in order to advance their psychological knowledge and use of psychological applications in their respective fields. A unique quality of the curriculum design is its attention to the development of basic interpersonal skills, cultural sensitivity, and additional knowledge and skills that enhance the preparation of students for professional work in increasingly diverse social agencies, school and community settings, in business and industry environments, and in hospitals.

*** Important Note:**

Graduate students who earn this degree can also obtain certification in Health Disparities and Applied Behavior Analysis which will aid in the preparation for state licensing examination. However, certification will not meet the educational requirements for licensure in the state of Alabama for Applied Behavior Analysis and students should not expect to provide psychological services as an independent practitioner without completing the state licensing requirements.

Admission Requirements: To be considered for the Master of Science degree program in General Psychology, applicants must have completed the B.S degree from a department from an accredited institution in the following areas for the Master's program in:

- o Biology
- o Chemistry

- o Psychology
- o Sociology
- o Political Science

☐ Prerequisite academic work should provide evidence that the application shall be able to pursue the graduate course effectively in addition to having taken: Introduction to Psychology, Experimental Psychology, Personality, Statistics, and Social Psychology.

❖ *Note: Students may be admitted conditionally if they have not completed the necessary foundational courses in Psychology.*

- ☐ Applicants must also have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better and a science GPA of 3.0.
- ☐ Applicants must have the following GRE score: verbal at least 150; quantitative at least 150.
- ☐ Official Transcripts from all colleges/universities attended (International Students must have transcripts translated through World Education Services -WES)
- ☐ Completed Application along with the required amount of application fees
- ☐ 3 Letters of Recommendation
- ☐ Personal Statement
- ☐ Financial Support Statement (International Students –only)—Note: If accepted to the department, then department can submit financial support statement if funds available.
- ☐ Test of English as Foreign Language (TOEFL) Scores (International students only).

Graduation Requirements:

Core Courses: 12 hours

Elective Courses: 15 hours

Thesis Research: 6 hours 1-6 credit ours

Internship/Practicum 1-3 credit hours

Advisory/Examination Committee:

During the first semester of his/her study in the Master of Science program, the student and his/her Major Professor must recommend to the Head of the Department for approval, the student's Advisory Committee consisting of a minimum of five members including the Major Professor. Two of the members can be from outside of the department as long their research interests align with that of the student.

Successful graduate students will be expected to complete a minimum of 36 hours of rigorous course work which would encompass three primary areas:

- 1) Core (12 hours)
- 2) Electives (15 hours)
- 3) Thesis (1 to 6 hours) and Internship/Practicum (1 to 3 hours)

Because many doctoral programs require students to have both written a thesis and have research experience, the psychology program offers a thesis and non-thesis option and internship/practicum. The program requires a master's thesis or a demonstration of program graduates, mastery of the field of psychology through the presentation of the research process. In addition, program graduates are offered the opportunity to obtain hands on experience through research internships and practicum's, with university faculty and state organizations. Students are not required to specialize in the general psychology program.

Curriculum

COURSES	CREDIT HOURS
Core	Credits
PSYC 0522 Applied Experimental Psychology	3
PSYC 0523 Applied Behavior Analysis	3
PSYC 0670 Tests, Measurements, and Evaluation	3
PSYC 0563/0564 Graduate Seminar	3
Total	12 credit hours required
Electives	Credits
PSYC 0560 Microcomputer Application in Psychology and Education	3
PSYC 0561 Theories of Learning	3
PSYC 0562 Readings in Psychology	3
PSYC 0567 Abnormal Psychology	3
PSYC 0570 Social Psychology	3
PSYC 0671 Mental Tests	3
PSYC 0672 Human Factors Psychology	3
PSYC 0675 Advanced Educational Psychology	3
PSYC 0677 Advanced Developmental Psychology	3
PSYC 0679 Psychology of Guidance	3
PSYC 0688 Comparative Theories of Child Development	3
Total	15 credit hours required
PSYC 0689 Internship/Practicum	(1 to 3)
PSYC 0700 Thesis	(1 to 6)

**Courses in bold letters will have to be developed*

Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 grade average in all courses to remain in the program. Students may enroll in more than the minimum Thesis (1 to 6) and Internship/Practicum (1 to 3) hours.

Course Descriptions

PSYC 0522: Applied Experimental Psychology (3 Hours)

Application of theory, methods, and data from experimental psychological research and practice to topics such as design of human-machine interfaces, legal profession, consumerism and environmental systems. Graduate student status.

PSYC 0523: Applied Behavior Analysis (3 Hours)

Designed to provide students with knowledge of applied behavior analysis (ABA), including principles of, reinforcement, data collection, functional behavioral assessment (FBA), teaching procedures, teaching complex behaviors, generalization, and maintenance of skills. Graduate student status.

PSYC 0560: Microcomputer application in Psychology and Education (3 Hour)

An overview with hands-on experiences of the microcomputer with special attention given to learning applications. CAI, CMI, discovery learning, educational games, simulations, artificial intelligence, and some elementary programming experiences given in BASIC, LOGO, and Pilot.

PSYC 0561: Theories of Learning (3 Hours)

A comparative study of the major scientific accounts of the learning process. Emphasis is on the evaluation of each theory in terms of structure, scope, research, and potential applications, and in relation to other forms of psychological theory.

PSYC 0562: Readings in Psychology (3 Hours)

Individual investigation and reports on advanced psychological topics.

PSYC 0563/0564: Graduate Seminar (3 Hours)

This course is designed for graduate students in psychology in partial fulfillment of the seminar requirement in the Master of Science program. The course will provide students with experience in critically reading, discussing and formally presenting scientific literature and data in a public forum. Additionally, students will gain proficiency in the exploration of the latest theoretical and empirical research in different areas in the biological sciences. Prerequisite PSY 522, PSYC 523, and PSYC 570 and graduate student status.

PSYC 0567: Abnormal Psychology (3 Hours)

The field of psychopathology, including etiology, prevalence, classification, and treatment of mental inadequacies and disturbances and various interpretations of abnormal behavior.

PSYC 0670: Tests, Measurements, and Evaluation (3 Hours)

Provide instruction on theories, principles and methods of tests construction and application. Attention to the use and interpretation of intelligence, achievement, aptitude, and interest tests. Includes adjustment and personality test.

PSYC 0671: Mental Tests (3 Hours)

Theory of psychological testing: selection, evaluation, administration scoring, and interpretation of group test; demonstration of practice in interpretation of individual test results. Prerequisite PSC 567 and PSYC 670.

PSYC 0672: Human Factors Psychology (3 Hours)

A survey of the field of human factors psychology. Explores the physical and psychological capabilities of the human operator and how these should be used to guide the design of technologies and systems with which people interact. This class includes a laboratory research experience in the area of aviation human factors psychology. PSYC 567 and PSYC 670.

PSYC 0677: Advanced Developmental Psychology (3 Hours)

An examination of the social, emotional, behavioral, physical and cognitive changes and developmental task that individuals face throughout the life span. Includes current theories and research.

PSYC 0679: Psychology of Guidance (3 Hours)

Principles of guidance based on relevant principles of child development, psychological foundations of education, psychology of adolescents, human growth and development, learning principles, mental hygiene, theories of personality, social psychology, abnormal behavior and guidance, counseling, and clinical practices. Prerequisite: Six hours of Psychology

PSYC 0688: Comparative Theories of Child Development (3 Hours)

A critical analysis of theories of child development emphasizing the work of various theorist.

PSYC 0689: Practicum/Internship (1 to 3 Hours)

The practicum experience provides students the opportunity to apply and integrate knowledge acquired through coursework. In clarifying and broadening career goals, the practicum experience assists students in discovering, developing and refining necessary competencies and skills for their proposed career objectives in the field of Psychology.

PSYC 0700: Thesis (1 to 6 Hours)

Arranged under the supervision of a major professor areas of research interest resulting in an approved Thesis. Graduate student status