

Master of Arts in Psychology

Administrative Unit

This program is administered by the Office of Graduate Studies and Research through the faculty of Psychology, Department of Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences.

Objectives

The Master of Arts program in Psychology offers concentrations in both Clinical Psychology and Applied Research Psychology. The program provides students with instruction related to working in a wide range of settings, including mental health centers, juvenile detention centers, child service agencies, specialized school services, residential treatment facilities, family counseling agencies, governmental and community agencies, teaching in community colleges, or preparing for study at the doctoral level (Ph.D.).

Admission Requirements

Applicants must provide three letters of reference, must have taken the Graduate Record Examination general aptitude test (GRE) and meet minimum University requirements. Applicants are also required to submit a letter of no more than two typed pages which explains reasons for applying to a Master's degree program in Psychology. The applicant should also indicate their reasons for selecting UTPB and their preferred option of either clinical or applied research studies.

Note: Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission to the program. Admission deadlines are April 1 for summer and fall semesters, November 1 for spring semester.

Four upper level (12 hours minimum) undergraduate psychology courses are required for admission to the graduate program in psychology. These four courses must include one course in statistics (i.e., PSYC 3301) and one course in experimental psychology or research methods in psychology (i.e., PSYC 3404) and one course in biological foundations of behavior (i.e., PSYC 4304). In addition, students interested in the clinical psychology graduate program are encouraged to take PSYC 4351 Tests and Measurements, as it is required for several clinical graduate courses. Students with deficiencies in these prerequisites must take the appropriate courses and earn a minimum grade of B during the first two semesters the student is enrolled provisionally in the graduate program. Students may enroll in the necessary undergraduate courses (PSYC 3301, Statistics; and/or PSYC 3404, Experimental Psychology; and/or PSYC 4304, Physiological Psychology) and in selected graduate courses concurrently.

Options

Clinical Psychology (45 hours)

The Clinical Psychology concentration is aimed at training students in the assessment and treatment of mental disorders, through individual, family, and group therapies. The program offers instruction in child, adolescent, and adult disorders.

Applied Research (39 hours)

The Applied Research Psychology concentration focuses on advanced psychological theory (i.e., developmental, personality, social, etc.), research methods, statistics, and manuscript preparation. All students are expected to be involved in research activities throughout their graduate program. Research activities are coordinated with faculty members depending, in part, on the students' interests. During the first year, students develop, with their faculty committees, a plan of study for their graduate programs. The plan specifies students' long-range goals, the specialties they expect to pursue in psychology, the fields of psychology or related disciplines in which they will become proficient, the kinds of research skills they intend to acquire, the sequence of courses, research, and teaching experiences they hope to follow, the kinds of examinations by which they will demonstrate mastery of different kinds of material, and an approximate timetable for accomplishing these ends. The details of these plans can, of course, be changed by agreement of the student and the committee. However, the plan serves as a general framework that permits the students' graduate work to be adapted to their interests and abilities and provides a standard against

which their progress can be assessed. This plan is to be completed during the first semester after admission. It forms the basis of the Graduate Study Plan the student must submit by the end of the first year of graduate study.

Core Requirements - Clinical Psychology

- A. Required "Foundation" Courses (9 hours):
 - PSYC 6302 Research Methodology
 - PSYC 6304 Advanced Statistics I
 - PSYC 6324 Ethics and Professional Issues

- B. Concentration Courses (24 hours):
 - PSYC 6305 Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies
 - PSYC 6321 Psychopathology
 - PSYC 6322 Current Psychotherapies
 - PSYC 6350 Intellectual Assessment
 - PSYC 6351 Personality Assessment
 - PSYC 6392 Practicum (3 hours)
 - PSYC 6399 Master's Thesis (3 hours)

- C. Elective Psychology Courses (12-18 hours):
 - These courses are selected in consultation with the advisor, consistent with certification or licensure objectives.

- D. Master's Thesis:
 - Each student must complete a master's thesis which consists of research in the application of principles and theories of behavior to some problem of interest. Problems are investigated under the supervision and direction of the student's graduate committee comprised of faculty, with the student's advisor ordinarily serving as chairperson. The student will later defend the thesis before the committee.

Core Requirements - Applied Research Psychology

- A. Required "Foundation" Courses (12 hours):
 - PSYC 6302 Research Methodology
 - PSYC 6304 Advanced Statistics I
 - PSYC 6314 Advanced Statistics II
 - PSYC 6324 Ethics and Professional Issues

- B. Theory Courses (12 hours):
 - PSYC 6301 Tests and Measurements
 - PSYC 6305 Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies
 - PSYC 6322 Current Psychotherapies
 - PSYC 6330 Cross-cultural Psychology
 - PSYC 6341 Development Psychology I: Social and Personality Development
 - PSYC 6343 Family Dynamics
 - PSYC 6371 Advanced Social Psychology
 - PSYC 6375 Psychology and the Law
 - PSYC 6389 Selected Topics
 - PSYC 6395 Seminar on Selected Topics

- C. Research Courses (12 hours):
 - PSYC 6391 Contract Study/Directed Research (6 hours maximum)
 - PSYC 6392 Practicum (3 hours)
 - PSYC 6399 Master's Thesis (3 hours)

Elective Courses (9 hours):

These courses should be chosen in consultation with the advisor and consistent with the overall goals of the student.

D. Master's Thesis:

Each student must complete a master's thesis which consists of research in the application of principles and theories of behavior to some problem of interest. Problems are investigated under the supervision and direction of the student's graduate committee comprised of faculty, with the student's advisor ordinarily serving as chairperson. The student will later defend the thesis before the committee.

Professional Licensing Preparation

Successful completion of the Clinical Psychology concentration is designed to provide students with the education requirements needed to take state examinations required for the Licensed Psychological Associate (45 hours minimum, for additional information see www.tsbep.state.tx.us) or, with additional coursework, the Licensed Professional Counselor (48 hours minimum, for additional information see www.tdlh.state.tx.us). In addition to educational requirements, the Licensed Profession Counselor also requires an additional 3000 supervised hours after the MA degree. Students are advised to consult with the licensing agency and academic advisor for additional details.

Course Listings

PSYC 6301 Tests and Measurement (3)

Survey of major personality, intelligence and achievement tests with emphasis on their construction, reliability and validity. Prerequisite: Introductory Statistics

PSYC 6302 Research Methodology (3)

Foundations of research planning, methodology, analytic techniques, interpretation and reporting of psychological research. Prerequisite: Introductory Statistics.

PSYC 6304 Advanced Statistics 1 (3)

Application of statistical methods in the design and analysis of psychological research. Topics include analysis of variance models, correlation and regression, and multivariate techniques. Prerequisite: Introductory Statistics.

PSYC 6305 Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (3)

A survey of current behavioral and cognitive therapies used to facilitate effective change in children and adults.

PSYC 6312 Group Psychotherapy (3)

A survey of theories of group therapy including the application and evaluation of basic group techniques.

PSYC 6314 Advanced Statistics II (3)

Application of statistical methods in the design and analysis of psychological research. Topics include multiple regression, factor analysis, path analysis and discriminant analysis. Prerequisites: Introductory statistics and PSYC 6304 or permission of the instructor.

PSYC 6321 Psychopathology (3)

A survey of the manifestations of abnormal behavior and psychological processes. Detailed analysis of the clinical and experimental literature concerning psychological and psychiatric disorders and their etiology.

PSYC 6322 Current Psychotherapies (3)

A critical analysis of various psychotherapeutic systems.

PSYC 6323 Individual Psychotherapy Skills (3)

Training in the skills necessary to conduct effective therapy with a wide range of clients. Included videotaped practice and evaluation. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

PSYC 6324 Ethics and Professional Issues (3)

Seminar concerning the field of psychology as it relates to current ethical, social, legal and medical issues. Emphasis is placed on the role of the psychologist in psychotherapeutic relationships and in applied settings.

PSYC 6330 Cross-Cultural Psychology (3)

An overview of cross-cultural studies from developmental, social cognitive, personality, and perceptual psychology. Topics covered include child-rearing acculturation, work, communication, health, and ethnic and minority groups. The course will emphasize how nature and nurture interact to produce unique behavior for a given culture.

PSYC 6341 Developmental Psychology I: Social and Personality Development (3)

Lifespan developmental course focusing on the theories and research of intellectual, physical, social and emotional development as they relate to social and personality development.

PSYC 6342 Developmental Psychology II: Cognitive Processes (3)

Lifespan developmental course focusing on the theories and research of intellectual, physical, social and emotional development as they relate to social and personality development.

PSYC 6343 Family Dynamics (3)

A survey of the history, current trends, and theories of family structure and processes in relation to the behavior of the individual.

PSYC 6350 Intellectual Assessment (3)

An examination of the principles and methods of assessing intelligence in both children and adults. Prerequisite: Tests and Measurement and permission of instructor.

PSYC 6351 Personality Assessment (3)

An examination of the principles and methods of assessing personality. Prerequisite: Tests and Measurement and permission of instructor.

PSYC 6371 Advanced Social Psychology (3)

An examination of the historical development of theories and methods in social psychology. Designed to provide a thorough background in social psychology and to motivate students to continue exploration of theories and issues in the field.

PSYC 6375 Psychology and the Law (3)

An examination of psychological effects in the legal system. Topics include: theories of crime, police selection and training, criminal investigation, identification and evaluation of suspects, rights of victims vs. the rights of the accused, the trial process, jury selection and decision-making, and punishment. PSYC 6371 recommended.

PSYC 6378 Career Counseling and Development (3)

A survey of theory and techniques of career planning and counseling. Includes strategies for career choice, career counseling, and sources of occupational and educational information.

PSYC 6389 Selected Topics

Graduate courses which will be offered only once, will be offered infrequently or are being developed before a regular listing in the catalog.

PSYC 6391 Contract Study/Directed Research (3)

Under the direction of a faculty member, design and conduct a research project, analyze data, and submit a finding for presentation or publication. Prerequisite: admission to Psychology graduate program and permission of instructor.

PSYC 6392 Practicum (3)

Three semester hours (225 clock hours) of supervised practical experience in an appropriate clinic or research setting (depending on area of concentration). Prerequisites for applied students: PSYC 6302, 6304 and 6324. Prerequisites for clinical students: PSYC 6324, 6350 and 6351; 24 hours towards graduate degree; proof of liability insurance; and permission of instructor.

PSYC 6395 Seminar on Selected Topics (3)

Seminars on topics to be explored in depth as selected by individual professors. Course may be repeated on different topics.

PSYC 6399 Master's Thesis (3)

Research and preparation of the Master's Thesis.