

Psychology

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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 five-year combined Bachelor/Master of Science degree is offered.

Admission Requirements and Procedures

Students are required to have completed a bachelor's degree with either a major or minor in psychology. For those students without a psychology major/minor, a minimum of twelve undergraduate credits in psychology (including courses in Introductory Psychology, Research Methods, and Statistics) must be completed. All applicants will be asked to submit a complete undergraduate transcript, official scores from the Graduate Record Examination two letters of recommendation/reference, and an essay describing their interests and goals of graduate education in psychology. All application materials are due by March 1st. Students with an undergraduate GPA below 3.25 *may* be admitted on a probationary basis. A non-refundable deposit equivalent to one graduate credit, which is applied to tuition, is required upon the student's acceptance of admission.

Undergraduate psychology majors at Saint Joseph's who apply for the five-year combined BS/MS 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 undergraduate transcript, two letters of recommendation/reference, and an essay describing their interests and goals of graduate education in psychology by March 1st. Acceptance into the five-year program will not affect the Core Component or the University Distribution Requirement of the General Educational Requirement.

Financial Aid

Financial aid in the form of a Graduate Research Assistantship stipend is awarded on the basis of merit for students in their second year of graduate study. No additional information is required beyond the application materials. Other forms of financial assistance are also available through the Financial Aid Office of the University.

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 any of the Common Core Courses (*i.e.*, PSY 4005, 4035) 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 a 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: an eight-credit Common Core required of all students; twenty-four credits of content courses, and a 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 primarily scheduled on weekday afternoons. 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 second-year students during the second semester. 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 one question, that question must be remediated by May 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 or the examination must again be successfully completed.

M.S. Degree in Psychology—Curriculum

I. Common Core: Two courses (8 credits)

PSY 4005	Advanced Research Methods and Statistics I (4 credits)
PSY 4035	Advanced Research Methods and Statistics II (4 credits)

II. Content Courses: Six courses (24 credits)

PSY 4105	Gerontology
PSY 4115	Learning and Behavior
PSY 4125	Advanced Physiological Psychology
PSY 4135	Advanced Sensory Processes
PSY 4155	Psychopharmacology
PSY 4165	Memory Organization and Retrieval
PSY 4225	Advanced Psychopathology
PSY 4215	Health Psychology
PSY 4235	Assessment and Evaluation
PSY 4245	Behavioral Medicine
PSY 4265	Developmental Psychology
PSY 4315	Personality and Motivation
PSY 4325	Social Cognition

PSY 4335	Advanced Groups Theory
PSY 4625	Principles of Neuropsychology

III. Research Component: Four courses (16 credits)

PSY 4415	Directed Studies I
PSY 4425	Directed Studies II
PSY 4515	Master's Thesis I
PSY 4525	Master's Thesis II

Two-Year Course Sequence

First Year—Fall Semester

PSY 4005	Advanced Research Methods and Statistics I
PSY 4xxx	Content Course 1
PSY 4415	Directed Studies I

First Year—Spring Semester

PSY 4035	Advanced Research Methods and Statistics II
PSY 4xxx	Content Course 2
PSY 4425	Directed Studies II

Second Year—Fall Semester

PSY 4xxx	Content Course 3
PSY 4xxx	Content Course 4
PSY 4515	Master's Thesis I

Second Year—Spring Semester

PSY 4xxx	Content Course 5
PSY 4xxx	Content Course 6
PSY 4525	Master's Thesis II

Five-Year B.S./M.S. Program in Psychology

FRESHMAN DECLARED MAJORS—The Five-Year B.S./M.S. psychology program for students who enter freshman year as declared psychology majors is as follows:

Freshman (1st year)

<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring</i>
PSY 1011	PSY 1021
PHL 1011	ENG 1021
ENG 1011	MAT 1181
MAT 1171	Lang
Lang	Art/Lit

Sophomore (2nd year)

<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring</i>
PSY 2021	PSY 2101-2181
HIS 1011	PSY 2031
PHL 1031	Soc Sci
THE 110-1499	HIS 1021
Elective	Elective

Junior (3rd year)

<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring</i>
THE 1500-1999	PHL 2xxx
PSY 2502-2617	PSY 2301-2381
Nat Sci	PSY 2811
Elective	Nat Sci
PSY 2041	Elective

Senior (4th year)

<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring</i>
THE 2000-2999	PSY 1021-2811
PSY 2051	Experiential
PSY 4005	PSY 4035
PSY 4xxx	PSY 4xxx
PSY 4415	PSY 4425

Graduate (5th year)

<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring</i>
PSY 4xxx	PSY 4xxx
PSY 4xxx	PSY 4xxx
PSY 4515	PSY 4525

FRESHMAN NOT DECLARED MAJORS—The Five-Year B.S./M.S. psychology program for students who enter freshman year without being declared psychology majors is as follows:

Freshman (1st year)

<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring</i>
PSY 1001	THE 1011-1499
PHL 1011	Art/Lit
ENG 1011	ENG 1021
MAT 1171	MAT 1181
Lang	Lang

Sophomore (2nd year)

<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring</i>
PSY 1021	PSY 2101-2181
PSY 2021	PSY 2031
HIS 1011	Soc Sci
PHL 1031	HIS 1021
Elective	Elective

Junior (3rd year)

<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring</i>
THE 1500-1999	PHL 2xxx
PSY 2502-2612	PSY 2301-2381
Nat Sci	PSY 2701-2811
Elective	Nat Sci
PSY 2041	Elective

Senior (4th year)

<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring</i>
THE 2000-2999	PSY1021-2811
PSY 2051	Experiential
PSY 4005	PSY 4035
PSY 4xxx	PSY 4xxx
PSY 4415	PSY 4425

Graduate (5th year)

<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring</i>
PSY 4xxx	PSY 4xxx
PSY 4xxx	PSY 4xxx
PSY 4515	PSY 4525

PSY 4005 Advanced Research Methods and Statistics I 4 credits

This course will provide both a conceptual and practical understanding of advanced research methods and statistical methods for psychological data. Topics on research method will include: within- and between-subject experimental research, scale development, and validity/reliability. Topics on descriptive and inferential statistical procedures will include: analysis of variance (ANOVA), correlations, multiple regressions, power, and effect size. Students will learn to apply these statistical methods to the test of mediation and moderation models. Practical understanding of these techniques will be achieved through hands-on analysis of research questions using computerized statistical packages such as SPSS.

PSY 4035 Advanced Research Methods and Statistics II 4 credits

This course will address statistical procedures appropriate for the analysis of multivariate psychological data. Topics include simple and canonical correlation, linear and multiple regression techniques, discriminant analysis, analysis of covariance, multivariate analysis of variance, and factor analysis. Practical understanding of these techniques will be achieved through hands-on analysis of research questions using large sample data bases and computerized statistical packages such as SPSS.

PSY 4105 Gerontology 4 credits

An introduction to the broad spectrum of disciplines and professions encompassed by the study of gerontology, as well as an overview of the major problem areas facing the older person in our society. Biologic, psychologic, social, economic, and legal aspects of aging will be considered.

- PSY 4115 Learning and Behavior 4 credits**
Presentation of major concepts and findings from research on basic learning processes and exploration of their implications for complex behavior. Basic processes include classical and operant conditioning, stimulus control, reinforcement, and aversive control. Complex behaviors include attention, memory, and dysfunctional behavior. The physiological basis of learning will also be explored.
- PSY 4125 Advanced Physiological Psychology 4 credits**
An examination of the biological foundations of human and animal behavior. The relationship between behavior and the anatomy and physiology of the nervous system will be emphasized, ranging from the cellular level to a consideration of whole neural systems whose activity supports behavior. Behaviors to be studied will extend from simple reflex arcs to the regulation of motivational states.
- PSY 4135 Advanced Sensory Processes 4 credits**
The manner in which different forms of stimulus energy in the environment are internalized by the organism will be considered in detail in this course. Visual, olfactory, gustatory, auditory, and tactile systems will be examined from biological and phenomenological perspectives. Also to be considered are theoretical issues such as how meaning and knowledge are derived from sensory stimulation.
- PSY 4155 Psychopharmacology 4 credits**
An exploration of the mechanisms of action of psychoactive drugs. The manner in which drugs enter, distribute themselves throughout, and exit the body will be considered. The relationship between alterations in behavior produced by drug administration and the changes that the drug produces in the functioning of the nervous system will be emphasized. Topics to be covered include routes of drug administration, drug absorption, transport, and elimination, mechanisms of action, the histories of miscellaneous drugs, and the behavioral and biological activity of alcohol, nicotine, caffeine, the opiates, the hallucinogens, the antipsychotics, amphetamine, and cocaine.
- PSY 4175 Cognitive Psychology 4 credits**
This course explores various topics within the field of cognitive psychology, cognitive science, and cognitive neuroscience. The course will focus on how humans make sense of our experiences, particularly how we acquire, process, retrieve, and represent information. Particular attention will be paid to the following topics: perception, attention, memory, imagery, intelligence, problem solving, creativity, robotics, and artificial intelligence.
- PSY 4215 Health Psychology 4 credits**
The course in health psychology will provide students with a basic understanding of the involvement of psychology in the fields of medicine and health care. A general overview of psychological and physiological factors that influence disease and disorders, prevention strategies, and psychologically based interventions will be presented. In addition, topics such as stress and disease, compliance, health care systems, coping with illness, and positive health behavior will be discussed. The theoretical emphasis of the course will be on a biopsychosocial perspective.
- PSY 4225 Advanced Psychopathology 4 credits**
This course will introduce students to the current state of knowledge in the field of psychopathology, beginning with the major theoretical approaches that contribute to our understanding of abnormal behavior. In addition, this course will integrate developmental psychopathology, social psychology, and health psychology in enhancing our understanding of the etiology and course of psychopathology. Specific emphasis will be placed on examining some of the important current research issues in psychopathology, including why major depression is more prevalent among women, the linkage between autism and childhood vaccinations, and the efficacy of community-based prevention programs.
- PSY 4235 Assessment and Evaluation 4 credits**
The assessment and evaluation course will introduce students to various approaches and techniques in the assessment and evaluation of healthy individuals and clinical populations. Areas to be covered will include interviewing, behavioral observation, behavioral assessment, personality assessment, aptitude

testing, cognitive assessment, neuropsychological assessment, and the reliability and validity of tests and measurements. An emphasis will be placed on the administration and interpretation of questionnaires, standardized and nontraditional tests and test batteries using real-life examples.

- PSY 4245 Behavioral Medicine 4 credits**
 The purpose of the course in behavioral medicine will be to apply theories, techniques, and principles learned in health psychology to clinical populations. Coverage will include selected medical and psychophysiological diseases and syndromes (e.g., cardiovascular, stress disorders, chronic illnesses), psychological sequelae, and specific intervention strategies.
- PSY 4265 Developmental Psychology 4 credits**
 This course reviews major theoretical perspectives and contemporary research in the field of developmental psychology. Emphasizing an ecological approach to human development, the course will examine how development in various domains (e.g. emotional, social, and cognitive) is influenced by the contexts in which development takes place (e.g. family, school, neighborhood, socioeconomic context, culture). Particular attention will be paid to development from birth through adolescence.
- PSY 4315 Personality and Motivation 4 credits**
 What accounts for the uniqueness of every human being? Even identical twins are different from one another in many ways! This course analyzes the origins of personality and individual differences through the application of classic theory and recent empirical discovery. Healthy and disordered personality development are explored from an evolutionary perspective, the psychoanalytic and phenomenological approaches to personality, and the roles of genetics, learning, cognition, and self-regulation.
- PSY 4325 Social Cognition 4 credits**
 The ways in which we process social information—both accurately and inaccurately—determine our perceptions of, and behavior within, a complex social world. Automatic and controlled processing of information, social schemas, mental short-cuts to decision-making, attitude formation and change, social stereotypes, the development of our self-concept, and person perception are a few of the many topics covered.
- PSY 4335 Advanced Groups Theory 4 credits**
 The advanced groups theory course will provide students with knowledge of major theories of group behavior and with the opportunity to develop a systematic and constructive approach in critically evaluating the usefulness of those theories. Major theoretical approaches to the study of group behavior will include attribution theory, social comparison theory, cognitive dissonance theory, social cognition, drive theory, self-presentation theory, social impact theory, self-attention theory, and social learning theory.
- PSY 4625 Principles of Neuropsychology 4 credits**
 Principles of Neuropsychology will introduce students to the current state of the field and to recognized and commonly used approaches in the clinical understanding of human brain-behavior relationships. Emphasis will be placed on how the neurological substrate of the human brain governs and influences cognition; biological bases of language, memory, spatial processing, and emotion; principles of brain organization, localization of function and individual differences; and professional and clinical issues.
- PSY 4415 Directed Studies I 4 credits**
 Research conducted under the direction of a member of the graduate psychology program faculty leading to the development of a proposal for a Master's thesis.
- PSY 4515 Master's Thesis I 4 credits**
 Research conducted under the direction of a member of the graduate psychology program faculty leading to the development of a proposal for a Master's thesis.

PSY 4425 Directed Studies II **4 credits**
Research conducted under the direction of a member of the graduate psychology program faculty leading to the completion of a Master's thesis.

PSY 4525 Master's Thesis II **4 credits**
Research conducted under the direction of a member of the graduate psychology program faculty leading to the completion of a Master's thesis.

Inquiries

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Public Safety and Environmental Protection Institute

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Mission Statement

It is the basic mission of the Public Safety and Environmental Protection Institute to serve the educational needs of the professions directly involved in protecting lives, property and the physical environment in our society. The effects of population, growth, technological change and socio-economic development have combined to increase the scope of hazards to which people and the environment are exposed. Planning for and responding to these issues pose some of the most significant challenges to managers at all levels of the public, private and non-profit sector. Through our efforts, we seek to develop the technical, administrative and interpersonal skills of professionals and leaders involved in the following professions:

- Fire/EMS Services
- Emergency Management/Disaster Planning
- Law Enforcement
- Occupational Safety and Health
- Risk Management
- Environmental Protection
- Private Safety/Security Services
- Homeland Security

Finally, our goal is to integrate knowledge and experience with the understanding of ethical standards and social responsibilities consistent with the basic mission of the Jesuit educational philosophy and Saint Joseph's University.