

.....

## PSYCHOLOGY

.....

### MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE PROGRAMS IN PSYCHOLOGY

As a special-purpose institution of higher education for urban programming, Texas Southern University embraces the concept of liberal education, particularly as it relates to the lifestyles and societal ambitions of ethnic minorities in urban environments. Within this context, the major purposes of the **Department of Psychology** are to facilitate the acquisition of a sense of personal freedom and competence through the teaching and investigation of processes, development, maturation, behavior, psychological health, and the acquisition of a unifying philosophy of life. The purposes of the Department of Psychology have been translated into specific objectives as follows:

1. Provide students a better understanding of themselves, their work, and their fellow beings through a study of the factors contributing to personal growth and effective living.
2. Establish the tolerance that derives from understanding the principles of human behavior and individual differences.
3. Develop in students the competencies needed for the practice of school psychology.
4. Develop in students the competencies needed to provide psychological services in a variety of urban settings.
5. Provide foundation for doctoral study and professional development.

The Department of Psychology and Philosophy provides academic studies leading to the Master of Arts (MA) degree with two options – Clinical-Community Psychology and School Psychology.

### THE CLINICAL–COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM

The Master of Arts program in **Clinical-Community Psychology** is designed for the development of students who wish to study the empirical and theoretical foundations of psychology with application to a variety of urban settings broadly conceived to include community, clinical, and educational environments. Through a combination of coursework and field experiences, the student is prepared to qualify for positions in mental health and social services agencies, school settings, junior and community colleges, or similar functions in business and industry. Alternately, the student may pursue a plan designed to develop research competencies which can be applied toward the investigation of problems of a psychological nature, especially those related to the improvement of life in the urban community.

The Clinical-Community Psychology option is a program of theoretical and applied psychology, which requires 48 semester credit hours in addition to any undergraduate prerequisites needed. The first of the two years is devoted mainly to preparation in basic foundation areas and some laboratory work in assessment methods and in psychological counseling techniques. During the second year, the program includes a combination of academic work, and supervised practice (minimum of 450 clock hours) in an approved agency or institution. Upon completion of the program, students are eligible to apply for licensure as a Licensed Psychological Associate (LPA) from the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologist or from Boards with similar requirements in other states.

### THE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM

The **School Psychology** program is designed for the development of students who wish to study the theory and practice of school psychology. School psychologists promote educationally and psychologically healthy environments for children and youth.

This program requires sixty (60) semester credit hours in addition to any undergraduate prerequisites needed. The first year of the two-year program is devoted to preparation in the basic foundations of psychology, including assessment and diagnosis of learning, emotional and behavioral problems. The second year and summer courses include training in counseling, consultation, intervention strategies, and supervised practice (300 clock hours), and an internship of not fewer than 1,200 clock hours, of which 600 must be in a public school. Upon completion of this program and an acceptable score on the National School Psychology Exam, students are eligible to apply for licensure as a Licensed Specialist in School Psychology from the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists.

### **GRADUATE PROGRAM ADMISSIONS**

Admission to the graduate programs in the Department of Psychology is competitive in that faculty within the Department view admission as a major evaluative element in a student's academic career. A student may be admitted to the graduate program if, in the judgment of the faculty, there is evidence of strong qualifications that indicate likely success in graduate studies. It should be noted that not all qualified students can be admitted. Given our earnest commitment to students, we take seriously our responsibility when admitting an applicant. Non-psychology majors or minors may be required to take undergraduate prerequisites as a part of their first year of enrollment. The department considers every piece of information carefully. Students are selected on the basis of their record of academic achievement, GRE scores, letters of recommendation, and relevant experience.

### **UNCONDITIONAL ADMISSION**

1. Undergraduate grade point average of at least 2.5 or an average of 3.0 on the last sixty (60) hours.
2. Applicants must present a Graduate Record Examination (GRE) of at least a score of 800 (combined verbal and quantitative). *IS THIS LEGAL?*
3. The following socioeconomic variables will be considered:
  - a. Economic status of family when applicant attended elementary, secondary, and undergraduate school.
  - b. Applicant is first-generation to attend undergraduate school.
  - c. Applicant is first-generation to attend graduate or professional school.
  - d. Applicant is multilingual.
  - e. Applicant was employed while attending undergraduate school.
  - f. Applicant helped rear other children in family.
  - g. Geographic location in Texas of applicant's high school.
  - h. Geographic region of applicant's high school.
  - i. Applicant's demonstration of performance in community to a particular field of study.
  - j. Applicant's demonstration of commitment to a particular field of study.
  - k. The presence or absence of role models with comparable graduate school training in the applicant's region of residence.
  - l. The applicant's performance during a personal interview.
4. Present a minimum of twelve (12) semester credit hours of undergraduate psychology, including a course in Statistics and Social Psychology.
5. Present a score of at least 213 on the TOEFL, if the applicant is a foreign student.
6. The applicant may submit letters of recommendation and or personal statements to the **Graduate Admissions Office** as a part of their admissions application.
7. Some applicants may be requested to visit with a member of the Department's Admissions Committee if such a visit appears to be useful in completing the assessment of the applicant for graduate study in psychology.

## CONDITIONAL ADMISSION

The **Department of Psychology** may grant conditional admission status to applicants who 1) graduated from an unaccredited college or university, *IS THIS CORRECT?* 2) have scholarship or GRE score deficiencies, and 3) have an unsatisfactory undergraduate sequence of courses or lack the graduate prerequisites required for master's level courses in psychology. Students admitted on a conditional status will be required to meet unconditional admission criteria by the end of twelve (12) semester hours of course work. Failure to do so may result in the student being dropped from the program.

## DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

In general, the departmental requirements for the Master of Arts degree in Psychology are as follows:

1. Present a score of at least 450 on the Psychology Area Test of the Graduate Record Examination. This test is used for the Departmental Qualifying Examination, and is required of all psychology majors.
2. Demonstrate proficiency in English by passing an examination in English or by completing the course, English 501. A GRE analytical writing score of 3.5 or more may be presented to satisfy this requirement.
3. Secure departmental recommendation to candidacy status for the M.A. degree in Psychology.
4. Take and pass the Department Comprehensive Examination in Psychology. This Examination is offered once during the fall semester and once during the Spring semester. Failure on one or both parts of the Examination may be resolved by repeating the Examination at its next administration. A third attempt to pass the Examination will be permitted only after consultation and or remediation.
5. Complete with a GPA of not less than 3.00, the specified courses for the Clinical-Community Psychology program, or the requirements for the School Psychology program.

## CANDIDACY

Advancement to candidacy as a formal candidate for the master's degree requires prior completion of the following steps:

1. Completion in classified graduate status of four or more courses at the 500 level (minimum of twelve (12) hours) within the Department of Psychology.
2. Present a GRE Psychology Score of at least 450 for the Qualifying Examination.
3. Maintenance of a 3.0 - grade point average or better in all departmental coursework and in overall coursework.
4. Acceptance by the department of a proposed formal degree plan.
5. Recommendation by the faculty of the department for acceptance as a candidate.

## CURRICULUM SUMMARY Master of Arts Degree Clinical Community Psychology Total Credits Required: 48

<b>1. Required Courses</b> .....	<b>39 SCH</b>
Psy 531 (3)* Psy 532 (3) Psy 533 (3)	
Psy 534 (3) Psy 538 (3) Psy 539 (3)	
Psy 631 (3) Psy 637 (3) Psy 730 (3)	
Psy 735 (3) Psy 736 (3) Psy 737 (3)	
Psy 739 (3)	
<b>2. Elective Courses</b> .....	<b>9 SCH</b>

Psy 535 (3) Psy 536 (3) Psy 537 (3)  
 Psy 630 (3) Psy 633 (3) Psy 634 (3)  
 Psy 635 (3) Psy 636 (3) Psy 733 (3)  
 Psy 832 (3) Psy 833 (3)

\* (N) represents the number of course credits

**CURRICULUM SUMMARY**  
**Master of Arts Degree**  
**School Psychology**  
**Total Credits Required: 60**

**1. Required Courses .....60 SCH**

Psy 531 (3)\* Psy 532 (3) Psy 533 (3)  
 Psy 534 (3) Psy 536 (3) Psy 539 (3)  
 Psy 631 (3) Psy 633 (3) Psy 635 (3)  
 SOC 623 (3) SPED 556 (3) Psy 637 (3)  
 Psy 730 (3) COUN 733 (3) Psy 733 (3)  
 Psy 735 (3) Psy 834 (3) Psy 899 (6)  
 EDAS 800 (3)

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**PSY 531 – Theory of Psychological Testing (3)**

Introduction to the assessment process, theories of intelligence, testing minorities, and a consideration of the issues involved in the administration and use of individual tests of intelligence.

**PSY 532 – Individual Testing (3)**

The administration, scoring, interpretation, and the reporting of the results of the major individual test of intelligence including the Welcher Scales, Stanford Binet, K-ABC, and selected individual achievement test.

**Prerequisite:** PSY 531

**PSY 533–Survey of Psychological Statistics (3)**

Designed for students who need practical competence in statistics. The techniques considered include reliability, validity, correlation, t-test, analysis of variance, non-parametric methods and experimental designs.

**Prerequisite:** Three semester hours of elementary statistics

**PSY 534 – Learning Motivation (3)**

Study of motivation and principles of learning underlying behavior of organisms.

**PSY 535 – History and Systems of Psychology (3)**

Designed to present modern psychological problems in the light of their historical development.

**PSY 536 – Principles of Treating the Problem Child (3)**

For prospective teachers, counselors, and clinicians. A survey of treatment procedures and resources, behavior and personality problems. The flexible use of school environment and

community resources, methods of altering attitudes of parent and child, and direct treatment approaches.

**Prerequisite:** Twelve hours (12) of advanced Psychology

**PSY 537 – Group Testing (3)**

The administration, scoring, and interpretation of group tests. A survey of test analysis. Selection factors are stressed along with statistical data in test evaluation. Research reports required. **Prerequisite:** Admission to Graduate program and PSY 531.

**PSY 538 – Theory of Group Practice and Treatment (3)**

Theories and concepts underlying the process of group information, maintenance, and productivity in the resolution of psychological problems.

**Prerequisites:** PSY 532 and PSY 534

**PSY 539 – Developmental Psychology (3)**

Study of genesis and transformation of psychological functions with particular reference to acquisition of motor skills, language habits, emotional attitudes, personal values, and group identification.

**PSY 630 – Mental Health (3)**

Application of mental health principles to clients in community and school environments, both in regards to the development and to maintenance of good mental health.

**PSY 631 – Research Designs (3)**

**Prerequisite:** Three hours in Statistics

**PSY 634 – Theories of Personality (3)**

An examination of major schools of personality thought with consideration of potential application in school, community, and mental health agencies.

**PSY 635 – Psychological Counseling, Interviewing and Report Writing (3)**

The principles involved in assisting others in their adjustment to school, family, community or other problems.

**Prerequisite:** Twelve (12) hours of graduate work in Psychology and consent of the instructor

**PSY 637 – Personality Assessment (3)**

Major concepts and techniques in the development and construction of personality assessment instruments including the administration and interpretation of structured and semi-structured instrument.

**Prerequisite:** PSY 532

**PSY 730 – Ethical and Legal Issues in Mental Health (3)**

The study of ethical and legal issues as it related to the mental health of profession.

**PSY 731 – Role and Function of the School Psychologist (3)**

The development of the school psychologist as a member of the school staff. Includes an examination of the research on the role, function legal and ethical responsibilities of the school psychologist as well as the relationship to staff, administrative and teaching personnel.

**PSY 733 – Physiological Psychology (3)**

A systematic study of the interrelationship between physiology and Physiological basis of mental functions and the influences of various Psychological phenomena on the system of the body. **Prerequisite:** Consent of the instructor

**PSY 735 – Practicum (3)**

The student will spend at least 150 clock hours working in an approved agency or institution under the clinical supervision of a staff member of the agency or institution who is a

certified/licensed psychologist.

**Prerequisite:** Completion of at least thirty (30) hours of approved graduate work and consent of the cooperating agency. **This course may be repeated one time for credit.**

**PSY 736 – Practicum (3)**

The second of three practicums where the student must spend at least 150 clock hours working in an approved agency or institution under the supervision of a staff member of the agency or institution who is a certified/licensed psychologist.

**Prerequisite:** Completion of at least thirty (30) hours of approved graduate work and consent of the cooperating agency. **This course may be repeated one time for credit.**

**PSY 737 – Practicum (3)**

The second of three practicums where the student must spend at least 150 clock hours working in an approved agency or institution under the supervision of a staff member of the agency or institution who is a certified/licensed psychologist.

**Prerequisite:** Completion of at least thirty (30) hours of approved graduate work and consent of the cooperating agency. **This course may be repeated one time for credit.**

**PSY 739 – Psychopathology (3)**

A broad introduction to psychopathology which systematically exposes the major theoretical therapeutic approaches to abnormal or maladaptive Behavior. The classifications system of the DSM-IV.

**Prerequisite:** Nine hour of graduate work

**PSY 832 – Master’s Research and Thesis I**

**PSY 833 – Master’s Research and Thesis II**

**PSY 834 – Consultation in School Psychology**

**PSY 899 – Internship**