

GRADUATE PROGRAM ADMISSIONS

Admission to the graduate program in the Department of Psychology is competitive in that the faculty within the Department views 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, he/she evidences strong qualifications that indicate likely success in graduate studies. However, it should be noted that not all qualified students can be admitted. The usual acceptance rate for unconditional admission status is roughly twenty to twenty-five percent of the total applicant pool.

The Department of Psychology encourages students to begin their graduate program during either the fall or spring semesters; therefore, students are admitted twice a year. Notification of any action taken by the Department will occur prior to July 15th and December 15th for admission during the following Fall/Spring semesters respectively. It should be noted that the University officially admits students. The Department recommends to the University selected applicants and only notification directly from the Graduate School documents and validates admittance to the graduate program.

Application Procedures:

Applicants for graduate study are expected to have completed a minimum of 18 semester hours of undergraduate Psychology, including a course in Statistics and a course in Experimental Psychology. Applicants must submit scores on the Graduate Record Examination, including the Verbal Quantitative scores, transcripts of all academic work, and three letters of recommendation. They also must have a minimum undergraduate grade-point-average of 2.75 (last sixty hours or overall, whichever is higher).

Given our earnest commitment to students, we take seriously our responsibility when admitting an applicant. We consider every piece of information carefully. Students are selected on the basis of their record of academic achievement, GRE scores, letters of recommendation, and research interests. The Department of Psychology sets certain minimum standards that must be met by those admitted to the graduate program. These are:

- 1). An undergraduate grade-point average of at least 2.75 and
- 2). Verbal and quantitative scores on the General Test of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) that total at least 286 (800 old GRE score).

UNIVERSITY APPLICATION (*Graduate School, Hannah Hall, Rm. #201*):

Follow the procedures for the application as described below:

- 1). Write, visit, or telephone the Graduate School, Office of Admissions to obtain Graduate School application forms.
- 2). Complete the forms and submit them with the application fee and official transcripts directly to the Graduate School. (The Department of Psychology cannot process requests for entry at the departmental level until the application, fee, and appropriate documentation has been received by the Graduate School).

Advising:

Each student who is admitted is assigned an official advisor from the faculty of the department and the student must consult with his/her advisor prior to registration for each semester (and should maintain close contact throughout time in the program with the advisor for advice and information). Registration without the advisor's consent is not permitted.

Cause for Discontinuance:

Students may be discontinued "For Cause" at any time from the program. In addition to poor academic and fieldwork performance, "For Cause" includes student behaviors considered by the faculty to be inconsistent with legal, ethical, and/or professional principle of the department and the professional field.

Mission of Texas Southern University

The designation of Texas Southern University as "a special purpose institution of higher education for urban programming" provides a foundation for its programmatic goals. Ascribing to the global implications of its urban mission, the University focuses on high quality teaching, research, and public service as a means of preparing students for leadership roles in the urban communities of and various levels of scholastic achievement.

A special challenge of the institutional mission is the open access philosophy which affords admission to broad categories of students-from the academically under prepared to the intellectually gifted. In support of this concept, faculty develops special programs and creates an appropriate intellectual climate for individuals who are not included in traditional university missions.

The purpose of the area of Psychology has been translated into specific objectives as follows:

- 1). To develop in 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). To establish tolerance which comes from understanding the principles of human behavior and individual differences.
- 3). To lay a foundation for graduate and professional study.

The Master of Arts degree program in 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 course work and field experiences, the student is prepared to qualify for positions in mental health agencies and institutions, school psychology, junior and community college or similar functions in business and in 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 Community – Clinical Psychology Concentration

The Master of Arts concentration in Clinical-Community Psychology is 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 concentration 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 concentration 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 Psychological Licensed Associate from the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologist or from Boards with similar requirements in other states.

The Licensed Specialist in School Psychology Concentration

The School Psychology concentration 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 60 semester credit hours in addition to any undergraduate prerequisites needed. The first year of the two year concentration 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 (150 clock hours) in an approved agency or institution. In addition, a yearlong supervised Internship in a Public School setting is required. Upon completion of this concentration, students are eligible to apply for licensure as a Licensed Specialist in School Psychology from the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologist.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION:

In addition to meeting the general Graduate School requirements, students who wish to pursue the Master of Arts degree in Psychology must have earned undergraduate credit of three semester hours in each of the following:

- 1). Personality
- 2). Abnormal Psychology
- 3). Social Psychology
- 4). Statistics
- 5). Learning/Motivation

If such credit has not been earned, students may have to complete these prerequisites during the first year of graduate work. In general, the departmental requirements for the Master of Arts degree in Psychology are as follows:

- 1). Present acceptable scores, a combined verbal of 146 & quantitative of 140 + (old GRE score of 800+) on the Graduate Record Examination. This Examination is required of **ALL** Psychology applicants.
- 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 Master of Arts degree in Psychology.

SPECIFIC DEGREE REQUIREMENTS:

- 1). Hold advanced candidacy status.
- 2). Have completed 48/60 semester units of graduate courses of which:
 - a). All must have been earned within the past 7 years immediately preceding completion of the requirements for the degree.
 - b). Not more than 6 hours may be transfer, extensions, and/or Classified or Unclassified Post-baccalaureate course.
 - c). Not more than 15 hours may be a combination of fieldwork and thesis/project when taken as individual supervision.
- 3). Have completed a satisfactory program of study as determined by the department with any substitutions approved by the Department Chairperson and/or the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Behavioral Sciences.
- 4). Have obtained at least a 3.0 average in all units offered as satisfying the requirements of the degree program.
- 5). Have successfully completed the Master's Comprehensive Examination.

CANDIDACY:

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

- 1). Completion of all required departmental examinations and prerequisites. (Student needs to document completion to the department).
- 2). Maintenance of a 3.0 grade point average or better in all departmental coursework and overall coursework.
- 3). Acceptance by the department of a proposed formal program of study.
- 4). Recommendation by the faculty of the department for acceptance as a candidate.

Sitting for the Psychology Master’s Comprehensive Examination is highly recommended during the second year of study. The Masters Comprehensive Examination is offered twice a year, once during the Fall semester and once during the Spring semester. Departmental regulations allow students who fail the exam, only one opportunity to retake the exam.

GRADUATE CURRICULUM

COURSE HOURS

PSY 530 – Testing and Assessment

3

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

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.

PSY 534 – Learning and Motivation

3

Study of motivation and principles of learning underlying behavior of organisms. This class also stresses therapeutic interventions such as behavior modification and behavior therapy.

PSY 536 – Behavior Management

3

For prospective teachers, counselors, and clinicians. The class covers assessment techniques such as behavior ratings. 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.

PSY 538 – Group Therapy

3

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

PSY 539 – Human Growth and Development

3

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

- PSY 631 – Research Designs** **3**
 Emphasis on the designing of experimental studies that investigate a therapeutic intervention. Also provides a systematic analysis and evaluation of research as applied to academic and community problems.
- PSY 632 –Theories of Counseling and Psychological Interventions** **3**
 Course focus centers on the study and application of counseling theories and techniques in present day urban and professional settings.
- PSY 633 – Psycho-educational Diagnosis and Treatment** **3**
 Practice in the giving and scoring of tests. Clinical use of test material in the diagnosis of special disabilities and difficulties in school work.
- PSY 635 – Counseling, Interviewing, and Report Writing** **3**
 The principles involved in assisting others in their adjustment to school, family, community or other problems.
- PSY 637 – Personality Assessment** **3**
 Personality assessment focuses on skill development in the administration, scoring, and interpretation of several individual measures of personality functioning, with a special emphasis on projective measures.
- PSY 638 – Career Development** **3**
 The course will provide a framework for understanding career development and to assist individuals with making informed choices regarding their future career development.
- PSY 639 –Cross Cultural Psychology** **3**
 The course will review the social and multicultural basis of behavior. Multicultural issues related to therapeutic interventions will be covered.
- PSY 730 – Ethics and Legal Issues** **3**
 The study of ethical and legal issues which relate to the mental health professional.
- PSY 731 – Role and Function of the School Psychologist** **3**
 The development of the school psychologist as a member of the school staff. It includes an examination of the research of the role, function, legal and ethical responsibilities of the school psychologist as well as the relationship to staff, administrative, and teaching personnel.
- PSY 732 – Social Psychology** **3**
 This course will focus on the dynamics of social theory and research centering on how individuals influence and are influenced by other people.
- PSY 733 – Physiological Psychology** **3**
 A systematic approach to the study of the interrelationship between physiology and the physiological basis of mental functions and the influences of various psychological phenomena in the system of the body.

PSY 735 – Practicum 3
The student will spend at least 150 hours working in an approved agency or institution under the clinical supervision of a staff member of the agency or institution who is Certified/licensed psychologist. The 150 hours must be fulfilled within 2 years of course enrollment. **(Prerequisite: Completion of approved graduate work and consent of the cooperating agency).**

PSY 736 – Practicum 3
The Second of three 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 certified/licensed psychologist. The 150 hours must be fulfilled within 2 years of course enrollment. (Prerequisite: Completion of at least of 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 third practicum 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 certified/licensed psychologist. The 150 hours must be fulfilled within 2 years of course enrollment. Prerequisite: Completion of at least thirty hours (30) 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. Students will be exposed to the major theoretical and therapeutic approaches to abnormal or maladaptive behavior. Students will also cover the classification system of the DSM V.

PSY 832- Masters Research & Thesis I 3
Directed investigation of special problem/issue in psychology.

PSY 833 – Masters Research & Thesis II 3
Directed investigation of special problem/ issue in psychology.

PSY 834 – Consultation and Program Design in School Psychology
3
The acquisition of psychological consultation principles and skills appropriate for the work of the school psychologist.

PSY 899 – School Psychology Internship 3
The internship provides the student with direct experience in assessment, intervention, behavioral management and consultation. The intern must be supervised by a licensed psychologist and must have at least 2 hours of face-to-face contact hours with the supervisor each week. The internship includes 1200 hours total with a minimum of 600 hours in a public school.

Graduate classes are offered: **Spring** and deadline for application – Nov. 15th
Fall and deadline for application – June 15th

Most graduate classes are taught in the evening: Monday thru Friday.

60 hrs – School
48 hrs - Clinical