PSYCHOLOGY

Undergraduate Program Information

Students may take a major in psychology either as an area of emphasis in a liberal arts program or in preparation for further graduate education leading to professional careers in psychology. A major in psychology may be appropriate for the liberal arts student who wishes to pursue a career involving extensive social interaction and requiring solutions to people-related problems. Such careers include law, business, parenting, government, education, and management. Professional careers in psychology generally require some post-baccalaureate education. These careers include provision of clinical and counseling services, conducting research, applying research findings in industrial or government settings, and doing teaching and research in colleges and universities. All students, but especially those planning to apply to graduate school, are encouraged to take PSYC 310 Experimental Methods, no later than the Spring semester of their junior year.

Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts in Psychology are listed here. Satisfying these requirements should provide an adequate exposure to psychology for the liberal arts student and a basic foundation for students seeking a career in psychology. Students wishing to prepare for a professional career in psychology are especially encouraged to work closely with an advisor, as early as possible.

Graduate Program Information

Admission

The Department of Psychology offers graduate work leading to the Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. To maximize consideration for admittance, candidates should submit applications by January 15. Note that the Psychology Department does not offer training in counseling or clinical psychology.

Students will be admitted to graduate study on the basis of their potential for achievement in research, scholarship and teaching. The most promising applicants will be accepted. The number of students that the department can successfully accommodate is limited, therefore it will not always be possible to admit all qualified applicants. The admissions committee will consider any material that a candidate for admission wishes to present.

Students with bachelor degrees should apply for admittance to the master’s program even if their eventual goal is a Ph.D. Students with a master’s degree in psychology-related disciplines or from other institutions may apply directly to the Ph.D. program.

A completed Graduate School admission application (online only) should include all of the following:

1. Complete transcripts of all college work (minimum 3.0 GPA).
2. Scores on the General Graduate Record Examination. Applicants to the MA program are most likely to be considered with minimum scores of 155 Verbal, 156 Quantitative, 4.5 Analytical Writing. Applicants to the PhD program are most likely to be admitted with minimum scores of 158 Verbal, 159 Quantitative, and 4.5 Analytical Writing. Scores on the GRE Psychology test are not required.
3. Three letters of recommendation from professors, employers or others qualified to evaluate your potential for graduate work.
4. A letter explaining your research interests and experience, career goals, and an indication of the faculty member(s) whose work is of particular interest to you.
5. A curriculum vitae or résumé.
6. A writing sample (e.g., a paper you wrote for a course, a senior thesis, or a master’s thesis) uploaded through online application system. Ideally, the sample should demonstrate your ability to write clearly about psychological research.

As per NMSU Graduate School policy, admission to the doctoral program is conditional upon passing a qualifying exam. In Psychology this generally involves giving a presentation about a completed, empirical Masters thesis project to an examining committee. Also, If there are perceived gaps in preparedness, once at NMSU, candidates may be asked to complete certain coursework/research projects to address deficiencies.

A number of potential minors are available to interested students, including a minor in statistics. Additional information about a minor may be found in the listing of the home department in this catalog.

Degrees for the Department

Bachelor Degree(s)

Psychology - Bachelor of Arts

Master Degree(s)

Experimental Psychology - Master of Arts

Doctoral Degree(s)

Experimental Psychology - Doctor of Philosophy

Minors for the Department

Undergraduate

Psychology - Undergraduate Minor

Graduate

Psychology - Graduate Minor

Associate Professor, Dominic A. Simon, Department Head

Professors: Trafimow; Madson Associate Professors: Guynn, Hout, Ketelaar, Kroger, MacDonald, Marks; Assistant Professors: Fraune; Emeritus Faculty: Cowie, Johnston, McDonald, Paap, Schvaneveldt, Stephon, Thompson.

Psychology Courses

PSYC 1110G. Introduction to Psychology
3 Credits (3)
This course will introduce students to the concepts, theories, significant findings, methodologies, and terminology that apply to the field of psychology.

PSYC 2221. Applied Psychology
3 Credits (3)
Explanation of the psychological principles of everyday living. Emphasizes motivation, learning of intelligent behavior, and applications of psychology to social issues. Community Colleges only.

PSYC 2230. Psychology of Adjustment
3 Credits (3)
This course focuses on the individual's adjustment to society, and the application of psychological principles to the understanding of adjustment.

PSYC 2311. A Study of Substance Abuse through Learning
3 Credits (3)
Physiological and psychological impact of drug use on human behavior. Emphasizes practical applications of intervention and prevention in the community. Community Colleges only.

PSYC 301. Introduction to Psycholinguistics
3 Credits (3)
Psychological aspects of language, including linguistic theories of grammar, psychological factors influencing language performance, primary language acquisition and the relationship of language to thought processes. Same as LING 301.
Prerequisite(s): PSYC 1110G and one of: MATH 1350G, MATH 2350G, or A ST 311G; and PSYC 310 or consent of instructor.

PSYC 302. Abnormal Psychology
3 Credits (3)
Introduces the types, causes, and treatment of mental disorders. Descriptions and explanations of the neuroses, affective disorders and the psychoses. Case histories are also analyzed.
Prerequisite(s): PSYC 1110G, MATH 1215 and ENGL 1110G.

PSYC 310. Experimental Methods
4 Credits (2+4P)
The basic skills of literature search, experimental design, research methodology, and research reporting are emphasized; includes laboratory.
Prerequisite(s): PSYC 1110G, and either MATH 1350G, MATH 2350G, or A ST 311.

PSYC 311. Advanced Research Seminar
4 Credits (2+4P)
Psychological research in conjunction with designing, conducting, writing, and presenting an independent research project. May also include various computer applications. Will discuss issues regarding application to graduate programs. Course should be taken no later than the first semester of senior year.
Prerequisite: PSYC 310.

PSYC 315. Emotion
3 Credits (3)
An overview of the past century of research on human emotion from William James to Antonio Damasio. Explores a cognitive science perspective on emotion that includes questions about developmental, physiological, and evolutionary aspects of emotion and an exploration of the proximate and ultimate functions of emotion. Topics range from understanding the feeling component of emotion to understanding the role of facial displays of emotion.
Prerequisite(s): PSYC 1110G, and one of: MATH 1350G, MATH 2350G, or A ST 311G, and PSYC 310 or consent of instructor.

PSYC 317. Social Psychology
3 Credits (3)
Ways in which people are influenced by the behavior of others are analyzed. Includes aggression, altruism, conformity, attraction, sexual behavior, prejudice, and nonverbal behavior.
Prerequisite(s): PSYC 1110G, MATH 1215, and ENGL 1110G.

PSYC 320. Learning
4 Credits (3+2P)
Covers: habituation, Pavlovian conditioning, Thorndikian learning, stimulus generalization, transfer of training, and the learning and forgetting of related and unrelated material.
Prerequisite(s): PSYC 1110G, and one of: MATH 1350G, MATH 2350G, or A ST 311, and PSYC 310.

PSYC 321. Psychology of Personality
3 Credits (3)
Introduces personality theories and supporting research. Psychoanalytic, physiological, and behavioral theories as they apply to personality are examined. Focuses on normal personality functioning.
Prerequisite(s): PSYC 1110G, and one of: MATH 1350G, MATH 2350G, or A ST 311, and PSYC 310.

PSYC 324. Sexual Behavior
3 Credits (3)
Examines viewpoints of the evolution, control and function of human sexual behavior. Includes human sexuality, reproduction, male-female conflicts and the social implications of sex. Prerequisites: PSYC 1110G, MATH 1215, and ENGL 1110G.

PSYC 325. Health Psychology
3 Credits (3)
Life stress, surgical stress, coronary-prone behavior, biofeedback, pain control, psychosocial approaches to geriatrics and cancer, behavioral treatments for addictions, obesity, and interpersonal issues in health care.
Prerequisite: PSYC 1110G.

PSYC 330. Psychology and the Law
3 Credits (3)
Discretionary practices in the judicial system including pretrial procedures, jury selection, jury decision making, eyewitness testimony, insanity, expert witnesses, and probation judgments.
Prerequisite: PSYC 1110G.

PSYC 340. Cognitive Psychology
3 Credits (3)
Review of research and theory in the study of human cognitive processes. Topics include information processing, pattern recognition, memory, attention, language, problem solving, decision making, and reasoning. May be repeated up to 3 credits.
Prerequisite(s): PSYC 1110G, MATH 1215, and ENGL 1110G.
PSYC 350. Developmental Psychology: Conception through Childhood  
3 Credits (3) 
Covers a wide range of topics concerning human psychological development from conception through childhood with special emphasis on current research and theory. May be repeated up to 3 credits. 
Prerequisite(s): PSYC 1110G, MATH 1215, and ENGL 1110G. 
PSYC 351. Developmental Psychology: Adolescence through Old Age  
3 Credits (3) 
Covers a wide range of topics concerning human psychological development from adolescence through old age with special emphasis on current research and theory. 
Prerequisite: PSYC 1110G. 
PSYC 359. Psychology of Gender  
3 Credits (3) 
Examines theories and research on the psychological functioning of women and men in North American society, including influential theories of gender in psychology and current controversies in the psychological literature. Topics include those unique to women and unique to men in development across the lifespan, work, physical and mental health, sexuality, victimization, gender stereotypes, gender comparisons in abilities and personality, and biological, social, and cultural influences on behavior. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Crosslisted with: GNDR 359. 
Prerequisite(s): PSYC 1110G. 
PSYC 370. Special Topics  
1-3 Credits 
May be taken under different subtitles announced in the Schedule of Classes for unlimited credit. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits. 
Prerequisite: PSYC 1110G. 
PSYC 375. Psychology and the Brain  
3 Credits (3) 
An exploration of how the brain produces thinking, emotion, and behavior. May be repeated up to 3 credits. 
Prerequisite(s): PSYC 1110G, MATH 1215 and ENGL 1110G. 
PSYC 376. Evolutionary Psychology  
3 Credits (3) 
This course introduces the student to the science of Evolutionary Psychology. In this class we will explore how evolutionary psychologists think about a variety of topics ranging from our capacity for (and appreciation of) art, emotions, and beauty to an exploration of the "design" of our minds in regards to mating, status striving, social behavior and cultural production. 
Prerequisite(s): PSYC 1110G, and one of: MATH 1350G, MATH 2350G, or A ST 311G, and PSYC 310 or consent of instructor. 
PSYC 380. Perception  
4 Credits (4+4P) 
Primary emphasis on vision. Topics include measurement of sensations, development of visual-motor coordination, reading, speech perception, picture perception, illusions, 3-dimensional space, and causes and consequences of visual abnormalities. 
Prerequisites: PSYC 1110G, and one of: MATH 1350G, MATH 2350G, or A ST 311, and PSYC 310. 
PSYC 383. Memory  
3 Credits (3) 
Examines facets of human memory from the information processing viewpoint, including encoding, storage, and retrieval and memory-aiding techniques. 
Prerequisites: PSYC 1110G, and one of: MATH 1350G, MATH 2350G, or A ST 311, and PSYC 310 or consent of instructor. 
PSYC 400. Research  
1-3 Credits 
Individual research projects supervised by a department faculty member. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. 
Prerequisites: PSYC 310 and consent of instructor. 
PSYC 401. Directed Readings  
1-3 Credits 
May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. 
Prerequisites: PSYC 1110G and consent of instructor. 
PSYC 402. Field Experience  
1-3 Credits 
Working with preschool, juvenile delinquent, handicapped, aged, convict, or mentally ill. Approximately five hours scheduled work per week per credit. May be repeated to 6 credits. 
Prerequisites: 6 psychology credits and consent of instructor. 
PSYC 430. Human-Computer Psychology  
3 Credits (3) 
Theories, methodologies, and data from psychology applicable to interface design, with an emphasis on construction and application of conceptual psychological models. 
Prerequisites: PSYC 1110G, and one of: MATH 1350G, MATH 2350G, or A ST 311, and PSYC 310 or consent of instructor. 
PSYC 442. Thinking  
3 Credits (3) 
Research and theory pertaining to human thinking and problem solving. Effective problem-solving methods and common obstacles to problem solving are analyzed. 
Prerequisites: PSYC 1110G and PSYC 310. 
PSYC 445. Clinical Psychology  
3 Credits (3) 
Basic theories in clinical psychology and techniques of psychotherapy. 
Prerequisites: PSYC 1110G, PSYC 302, and one of: MATH 1350G, MATH 2350G, or A ST 311, and PSYC 310 or consent of instructor. 
PSYC 450. Senior Thesis  
3 Credits (3) 
A laboratory or field research project conducted under faculty supervision. Requires written research proposal, conduct of research, data analysis, and final written report. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. 
Prerequisites: PSYC 310, 6 additional psychology credits, consent of supervising faculty member, and junior or above standing. 
PSYC 470. Special Topics  
1-3 Credits 
Specific subjects to be announced in the Schedule of Classes. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits. 
PSYC 507. Quantitative Methods in Psychology I  
3 Credits (3) 
Statistical concepts emphasizing distributions and methods most appropriate to the data, models, and theories in psychology. Emphasis on distributions, probability and basic inferential statistics in Psychological research. Includes basics of Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) and Multiple Regression in Psychological research. May be repeated up to 3 credits.
PSYC 508. Quantitative Methods in Psychology II
3 Credits (3)
Statistical concepts emphasizing distributions and methods most appropriate to the data, models, and theories in psychology. Emphasis on advanced ANOVA and Multiple Regression in Psychological research. May be repeated up to 3 credits.
Prerequisite(s): PSYC 507 or equivalent.
PSYC 509. Quantitative Methods in Psychology III
3 Credits (3)
Advanced quantitative methods as applied to research in Psychology. Topics may include: Multivariate techniques, advanced Bayesian analyses, Random walk modelling etc. May be repeated up to 3 credits.
Prerequisite(s): PSYC 507 or equivalent.
PSYC 510. Computer Methodology
3 Credits (3)
Use of computers in psychological research with emphasis on developing experimental control programs.
PSYC 520. Learning
3 Credits (3)
Classical areas of learning, including instrumental and classical conditioning paradigms, habituation, reinforcement variables, stimulus generalization and transfer, and memory.
PSYC 522. Sensation and Perception
3 Credits (3)
Stimulus and decision variables in judging auditory and visual events. Topics include: detection of signals; signal intensity versus perceived strength; size, shape, and movement perception; reading and listening.
PSYC 523. Methods in Cognitive Psychology
3 Credits (3)
Experimental and correlational methodologies appropriate for investigating cognitive psychological theories and problems.
Prerequisite(s): PSYC 524 or consent of instructor.
PSYC 524. Cognitive Psychology
3 Credits (3)
Examines theoretical and empirical work on human cognition. Topics include: information processing theories, pattern recognition, memory, attention, language, problem solving, decision making, and reasoning.
PSYC 527. Social Psychology
3 Credits (3)
Current and traditional theories, research findings, and research methodologies of social psychology.
PSYC 529. Methods in Social Psychology
3 Credits (3)
Experimental, quasi-experimental, and correlational methodologies appropriate for investigating social psychological theories and problems.
Prerequisite(s): Graduate student in psychology or consent of instructor.
PSYC 530. Human-Computer Interaction
3 Credits (3)
Issues associated with human-computer interface design. Concepts, methods, and data from HCI, cognitive psychology, human factors, artificial intelligence, and psycholinguistics that apply.
PSYC 540. History and Systems of Psychology
3 Credits (3)
History of scientific method emphasizing outstanding methodological problems of contemporary science, especially psychology. Covers recent history of psychology and development of schools of psychology.
PSYC 547. Engineering Psychology
3 Credits (3)
Covers concepts, methods, and findings of human performance. Treats the human as a subsystem that receives, stores and processes information, makes decisions, and acts within a human-machine environment system.
PSYC 548. Methods in Engineering Psychology
3 Credits (3)
Engineering psychology methods such as task analysis, cognitive task analysis, user testing, prototyping, protocol analysis, cost-benefit analysis, safety and reliability analysis, and multivariate techniques.
Prerequisite(s): PSYC 547 or consent of instructor.
PSYC 550. Teaching of Psychology
3 Credits (3)
This class serves both new and experienced teachers. It will help new teachers design and conduct a successful course and help experienced teachers improve their teaching.
PSYC 570. Special Topics
1-3 Credits
Specific subjects to be announced in the Schedule of Classes.
PSYC 590. Research Seminar in Psychology
1 Credit (1)
Presentations on research by students, faculty, and guest speakers. May be repeated for credit.
PSYC 598. Special Research Programs
1-3 Credits
Individual investigations either analytical or experimental. May be repeated for credit.
PSYC 599. Master's Thesis
1-15 Credits
Thesis.
PSYC 600. Doctoral Research
1-15 Credits
This course number is used for assigning credit for research performed prior to successful completion of the doctoral qualifying examination.
PSYC 698. Special Research Programs
1-3 Credits
Individual investigations either analytical or experimental. May be repeated for credit.
PSYC 700. Doctoral Dissertation
1-15 Credits
Dissertation.
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