School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences

Master of Science Program in Psychological Sciences Program

Faculty

**Professors:** Hervé Abdi, Peter F. Assmann, James C. Bartlett, W. Jay Dowling, Richard M. Golden, Susan W. Jerger, Bert S. Moore, Alice J. O'Toole, Margaret Tresch Owen, Karen J. Prager, John W. Santrock, Melanie J. Spence, Marion K. Underwood

**Associate Professors:** Francesca Filbey, Shayla C. Holub, Daniel Krawczyk, Mandy J. Maguire, Christa K. McIntyre, Candice M. Mills, Bart Rypma

**Assistant Professors:** Robert Ackerman, Chandramallika Basak, Cindy M. De Frias, Kristen Kennedy, Jinkyung Na, Jackie Nelson, Karen Rodrigue, Noah J. Sasson

Objectives

The Master of Science (MS) in Psychological Sciences program provides advanced training in psychological sciences. The program is designed for full-time student scholars who wish to expand their knowledge of psychology by engaging in advanced coursework, additional research training, and/or applied experience in psychological sciences. The program also offers students the opportunity to gain additional psychology training in preparation for applying to nationally prominent doctoral programs in Clinical and Experimental Psychology. This research-focused program requires students to work with a research mentor from the beginning and to be actively involved in at least one research laboratory throughout training. Students also have the opportunity to gain additional applied experiences through the Internship Program in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences. The Master of Psychological Sciences degree does not provide clinical training or lead to licensure as a counselor or psychologist.

Facilities

The principal sites for the academic, applied, and research activities of the Masters Program in Psychological Sciences include faculty labs located on the Richardson campus and the Callier Center for Communication Disorders. Students also will be exposed to research and applied experiences at vibrant centers within the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences: the Center for Children and Families, the Callier Center for Communication Disorders, the Center for BrainHealth, the joint Center for Brain Imaging with UT Southwestern Medical Center, and the Center for Vital Longevity. These centers provide access to brain imaging laboratories and speech, hearing, and language laboratories.

Admission Requirements

The University's general admission requirements are discussed on the [Graduate Admission](catalog.utdallas.edu/2013/graduate/admission) page.

The application deadline is February 15th each year. Applicants are selected once a year to begin the program in the fall semester.

Admission to the Master of Science Program in Psychological Sciences is based on a review of the applicant's GPA, three letters of recommendation, and narrative
description of interests and career goals. Both GRE math and verbal scores are required to be considered for admission.

Degree Requirements

The University’s general degree requirements are discussed on the [Graduate Policies and Procedures](catalog.utdallas.edu/2013/graduate/policies/policy) page. The MS in Psychological Sciences curriculum is designed to offer opportunities for specialization in a chosen core field, breadth of training, selection of electives that serve students’ individual goals, and research experience. Each student will be assigned to a research mentor at the start of the program and will maintain involvement in a research laboratory throughout the two-year program. Students will also have the opportunity to gain applied experience by participating in the internship program offered by the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences.

All students in the program are required to regularly review their degree plans with their research mentor. The program requires a minimum of 36 credit hours distributed as follows. Students are required to complete 6 credit hours of major field core courses (two selected from one of the following fields: Developmental, Cognitive, Social and Personality, Neuroscience), 6 credit hours of additional core courses (two courses from a different area than the major core), 6 credit hours of Research Methods (a two course sequence in statistics and research methods), 12 credit hours of approved advanced elective courses, and 6 credit hours of Independent Study/Research.

Students are encouraged to use the summer between the first and the second year to get applied internship experience. Students interested in summer applied internships can find placements through the currently existing School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences internship program for undergraduates.

**Master of Science in Psychological Sciences**

*36 hours minimum*

**Major Field Core Courses: 12 hours minimum**

Students will declare a major in one of these areas and take two courses from the major area and two courses from a different area than the major core.

**Developmental Psychology**

- **PSYC 6350** Social Development
- **PSYC 6331** Cognitive Development
- **PSYC 6368** Language Development

**Cognition**

- **PSYC 6330** Cognitive Science
- **PSYC 6395** Cognitive Psychology
- **PSYC 6333** Memory
Social/Personality Psychology

PSYC 6376 Social Psychology
PSYC 6327 Personality

Neuroscience

PSYC 6346 Systems Neuroscience
PSYC 6338 Functional Neuroanatomy

Research Methods: 6 hours minimum
Students will complete two 3-hour courses in research methods and design that are approved by the program head and faculty coordinator.

Research Methods I

PSYC 6312 Research Methods in Behavioral and Brain Sciences - Part I

Research Methods II

PSYC 6313 Research Methods in Behavioral and Brain Sciences - Part II

Advanced Electives: 12 hours minimum
Students will elect 4 courses from masters and doctoral offerings. Any core course (listed above) may count as an advanced elective, though it cannot count both as a core course and as an elective.
As an elective course, interested students may participate in a Teaching Internship. Teaching internships will be arranged by the Program Head in consultation with the teaching faculty. Teaching internships will be for course credit and not for pay.

Independent Study/Research: 6 hours
Students will complete a Research Project fulfill this requirement. The research requirement will be fulfilled by completion of a focused research project to be submitted and presented in poster format.