

MA IN PSYCHOLOGY (APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS)

In Workflow

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Approval Path

1. Mon, 23 Sep 2019 16:24:16 GMT
Emily Wickelgren (wickelgr): Approved for PSYC Committee Chair
2. Mon, 23 Sep 2019 16:25:12 GMT
Rebecca Cameron (cameron): Approved for PSYC Chair
3. Wed, 02 Oct 2019 23:36:37 GMT
Marya Endriga (mendriga): Approved for SSIS Dean

History

1. May 4, 2018 by clmig-jwehrheim
2. May 11, 2018 by Janett Torset (torsetj)

Program Discontinuation Proposal

Date Submitted: Wed, 18 Sep 2019 23:02:21 GMT

Viewing: MA in Psychology (Applied Behavior Analysis)

Last approved: Fri, 11 May 2018 20:37:18 GMT

Last edit: Wed, 18 Sep 2019 23:02:20 GMT

Changes proposed by: Megan Heinicke (216203430)

Final Catalog

2020-2021 Catalog

Provide reasons for the program suspension.

The MA in Psychology ABA option has been offered at Sacramento State since 2008 and aligns with the CSU mission of providing high-quality education to our students and providing an important niche of professionals to the local job market. An MS degree in ABA has been recently approved (starting Fall 2020). The MS in ABA proposal was in response to Section 3.2 of Executive Order 1071, which specifies that all options of a degree program in the CSU system must have a minimum of 51% overlap in their course content. At the time this executive order was issued, the ABA option and the General Psychology MA shared two common core courses (PSYC 200 and PSYC 202) plus the culminating requirement (PSYC 500A). These units constitute 28% overlap of the 36 units required in the MA in Psychology ABA option. Given the course requirements of the Behavior Analyst Certification Board and the Behavior Analysis Accreditation Board (the governing certification and accreditation bodies for ABA), it was not possible to adapt the ABA option to meet the requirements of EO 1071 without significantly increasing unit requirement and thus causing a significant delay in graduation rates for ABA MA students. For this reason, the MA in Psychology (ABA option) will be replaced by the new MS in ABA degree starting in Fall 2020.

Indicate any programmatic or fiscal impact suspension of the program will have on other academic units' programs.

No fiscal impact given the curriculum of the new MS in ABA is identical to the program being discontinued.

Describe the consultation that has occurred with affected units.

No students from other units enroll in this curriculum.

Explain provisions to ensure currently enrollment students have a reasonable opportunity to complete the program.

The courses that comprise this discontinued curriculum are still being offered under the new MS in ABA program. Therefore, all students accepted into the MA in Psychology (ABA option) will be able to complete all requirements to graduate within the university's specified allotted time (i.e., 7 years).

Indicate what resources will be freed up or shifted to other programs as the result of the program suspension.

All resources required of the MA in Psychology (ABA option) will remain in place for the new MS in ABA degree.

Academic Group: (College)

Social Sciences & Interdisciplinary Studies

Academic Organization: (Department)

Psychology

Catalog Year Effective:

2020-2021 Catalog

Type of Program Proposal:

Major

Title of the Program:

MA in Psychology (Applied Behavior Analysis)

Catalog Description:

Total units required for MA: 30

Program Description

The Master of Arts program in Psychology is designed to provide specialized education in the field of psychology. With a MA in Psychology, one can qualify for positions similar to those associated with a BA, though at a higher level of responsibility. Advisors play an active role in the planning process, and students are strongly encouraged to consult with faculty on a continual and intensive basis as soon as they begin their studies in the program. MA students can prepare for doctoral study in any area of Psychology or specialize in areas such as Applied Behavior Analysis or Industrial-Organizational Psychology. The Graduate Brochure contains the department application procedures, including GRE requirements and the departmental application form.

Although the program is based on a core set of requirements, the structure of the program allows for flexibility. While much material is covered in regular course offerings, the Department recognizes that specialized study and the development of certain types of skills must take place on a one-to-one student-instructor basis. This includes research activities in the laboratory, field, or library; teaching activities; and volunteer work in community mental health agencies, government agencies, schools, and/or businesses. Academic credit under individualized study or fieldwork designations is available for these purposes.

Applied behavior analysis (ABA) is the field of Psychology concerned with understanding the environmental variables that reliably influence human behavior, as well as developing procedures to modify socially significant behavior. The ABA program prepares students to work as behavior analysts in a variety of settings including schools and agencies providing services to individuals with disabilities. The ABA program coursework fulfills the requirements to sit for the national certification exam in Behavior Analysis (BCBA). Students should note that this degree option is also appropriate for those planning to enter doctoral programs in Applied Behavior Analysis, Experimental Analysis of Behavior, or Special Education.

Applied Behavior Analysis is a scientific approach aimed at understanding environmental variables that reliably influence socially significant behavior and developing behavior-change technologies based on this understanding. Applied Behavior Analysis procedures have been used in many areas including developmental disabilities, education, rehabilitation, community psychology, self-management, child management, and sports psychology. The program at Sacramento State prepares students to practice as M.A. level board certified behavior analysts, as well as enter doctoral (Ph.D.) programs in Applied Behavior Analysis or Experimental Analysis of Behavior. Our graduates are extremely marketable in California and are typically employed by school districts, private schools, or agencies providing services to individuals with learning, emotional, or developmental disabilities.

Research and Clinical Opportunities

Our research facilities include human and animal (rats) operant laboratories and research rooms for data collection with children and adults. We have also established research partnerships with different schools and agencies in the region.

Clinical training is also an integral part of our program. There are numerous funded internships and job opportunities for behavior analysis students in Sacramento.

Certification

The ABA option coursework should fulfill the new requirements to sit for the national certification exam in Behavior Analysis. For more information visit www.bacb.com.

Admission Requirements: Course prerequisites and other criteria for admission of students to the degree major program, and for their continuation in it.

Admission Requirements

Admission to graduate study in Psychology is selective. The Department equally weighs the candidate's overall grade point average (GPA) and scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). An overall GPA of 3.0 is recommended. When making admissions decisions, the Department takes into consideration the candidate's combined GPA and GRE score, letters of recommendation, previous (research and/or practical) experience, the candidate's interest in a particular faculty member's research agenda, and additional materials as required by each program option (ABA, General MA, and I/O).

Applicants are required to have completed upper division undergraduate psychology courses in statistics and research methods, with at least "C" grades in those courses, as well as a balanced and academically strong group of upper division courses covering at least five different core academic areas of psychology (e.g., biological, clinical, cognitive, developmental, social). The upper division psychological research methods/statistics requirement is met by PSYC 121 and PSYC 102 taken at Sacramento State, or their equivalents at other universities. Upper division research methods/statistics courses from other four-year universities must be reviewed and approved for equivalency by the Department's Graduate Coordinator.

Please visit www.csus.edu/psyc/grad-students/graduate-program-dev.html for information on each option's additional requirements.

Admission Procedures

All applicants, including Sacramento State graduates, must apply to both the University and the Psychology Department. Please submit the following to the Sacramento State Office of Graduate Studies:

- an application for admission—via CalState Apply (<https://www2.calstate.edu/apply/>)
- two sets of official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended, other than Sacramento State, should be sent to:
California State University, Sacramento
Office of Graduate Studies
River Front Center 215
6000 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95819-6112
- Official Graduate Records Exam (GRE) scores (be aware that it takes approximately six weeks from the test date for scores to be forwarded); for more admissions information and application deadlines please visit <http://www.csus.edu/gradstudies>

At the same time, each applicant must file on-line with the Psychology Department:

- a completed application form;
- one set of unofficial transcripts from all colleges and universities attended, including Sacramento State transcripts;
- unofficial copies of the General GRE scores*;
- three letters of recommendation, from individuals who can evaluate the applicant's potential for successful graduate study. At least two letters from faculty are preferred. See application brochure for link—available from www.csus.edu/psyc/grad-students/graduate-program-dev.html ;
- additional materials, as required by each specific option (General MA, ABA and I/O).

*The General GRE must have been taken by the application deadline.

Minimum Units and Grade Requirement for the Degree

Units required for the MA: 34-36

Minimum Cumulative GPA: 3.0. All units must be completed with a grade of "B" or better.

Advancement to Candidacy

Each student must file an application for Advancement to Candidacy, indicating a proposed program of graduate study. This procedure should begin as soon as the classified graduate student has:

- removed any deficiencies in admission requirements;
- completed at least 12 units of 200-level courses in the graduate program with a minimum 3.0 GPA;
- selected a Thesis or Project committee;
- obtained the committee's approval of a proposal for the thesis or project (as indicated by committee members' signatures on the Department's thesis/project approval form); and
- taken the Writing Placement for Graduate Students (WPG) or taken a Graduate Writing Intensive (GWI) course in their discipline within the first two semesters of coursework at California State University, Sacramento or secured approval for a WPG waiver.

The student will complete the Advancement to Candidacy form after planning a degree program in consultation with a Psychology advisor and members of the student's thesis/project committee. The completed form is then returned to the Office of Graduate Studies for approval.

Program Requirements: (If new courses are being created as part of a new program, it will be useful to propose courses first.)

Program Requirements

Code	Title	Units
Required Core Courses (6 Units)		
PSYC 200	Methods in Empirical Psychology	3
PSYC 202	Survey of Contemporary Statistical Methods in Psychological Research	3
Required Area Courses (24 Units)		
PSYC 271	Advanced Applied Behavior Analysis	4
PSYC 272	Research Methods in Behavior Analysis	3
PSYC 274	Theoretical Foundations of Behavior Analysis	3
PSYC 281	Advanced Experimental Analysis of Behavior	4
PSYC 284	Assessment and Treatment of Behavior Problems	4
PSYC 242	Seminar in Learning and Behavior	3
PSYC 275	Applied Behavior Analysis in the Workplace	3
Required Experiential Learning (6 Units)		
PSYC 291	Professional Issues in Behavior Analysis	3
PSYC 294	Cooperative Research	3
Culminating Experience (4-6 Units)		
PSYC 500A	Culminating Experience	4
PSYC 500B	Culminating Experience ¹	2
Total Units		40-42

¹ Students must enroll in PSYC 500B if thesis/project is not satisfactorily completed while enrolled in PSYC 500A.

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