MS IN APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS

In Workflow

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10. Graduate Studies (jdsmall@csus.edu)

Approval Path

1. Mon, 23 Sep 2019 16:25:17 GMT
   Emily Wickelgren (wickelgr): Approved for PSYC Committee Chair
2. Mon, 23 Sep 2019 16:37:09 GMT
   Rebecca Cameron (cameron): Approved for PSYC Chair
3. Fri, 04 Oct 2019 16:33:04 GMT
   Mical Shilts (shiltsm): Approved for SSIS College Committee Chair
4. Fri, 04 Oct 2019 18:58:40 GMT
   Marya Endriga (mendriga): Approved for SSIS Dean

History

1. May 30, 2019 by 212408496

New Program Proposal

Date Submitted:Wed, 18 Sep 2019 22:48:05 GMT

Viewing:MS in Applied Behavior Analysis

Last approved:Thu, 30 May 2019 19:12:29 GMT

Last edit:Wed, 18 Sep 2019 22:48:04 GMT

Changes proposed by: Megan Heinicke (216203430)

Academic Group: (College)

Social Sciences & Interdisciplinary Studies

Academic Organization: (Department)

Psychology

Catalog Year Effective:

2020-2021 Catalog

NOTE: This degree major program will be subject to program review evaluation within six years after implementation.

Individual(s) primarily responsible for drafting the proposed degree major program:

Name (First Last)	Email	Phone 999-999-9999
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Type of Program Proposal:

Major

Program Change Type:

Non-Substantive

Is this a pilot program?

No

Pilot program as of:

NA

Is this a Fast Track program?

No

Title of the Program:

MS in Applied Behavior Analysis

Designation: (degree terminology)

Master of Science

Briefly describe the program proposal (new or change) and provide a justification:

We are proposing the following two program changes:

1) Curriculum Change: (a) remove PSYC 202 as a required core course; (b) remove PSYC 102 as a pre-requisite for admission into the program; (c) add PSYC 171 or its equivalent as a pre-requisite for admission into the program; and (d) add a four-semester sequence of experiential learning (one unit each of PSYC 294 and 297A; two units each of 297B and 299 [note: the program already required three units of 294]).

Justification: We are proposing that PSYC 202 be removed from the curriculum as this course is not relevant for the majority of ABA graduate students who are pursuing careers in clinical practice; further, ABA graduate students have a required area course in research methods in behavior analysis (PSYC 272) which focuses on the skills needed for clinical program evaluations. We are also proposing that PSYC 102 be removed as a pre-requisite for admission the removal of PSYC 202 from the curriculum. We would like to add PSYC 171 or its equivalent as a pre-requisite for admission into the program; this change is being proposed because a number of our graduate students coming from outside universities that do not have undergraduate coursework in ABA struggle in their first year, as they do not have the pre-requisite knowledge for advanced study in ABA. Finally, we are adjusting the experiential learning units to better align with how students currently move through the program in terms of research experience. First, PSYC 291 has been moved to one of the required area courses as this course does not actually have an experiential learning component but rather focuses on professional and ethical issues in behavior analysis. Second, we have decreased the required units of PSYC 294 from 3 units to 1 unit and we have added one unit of PSYC 297A, two units of PSYC 297B and two units of PSYC 299. Following completion of PSYC 294, we are proposing that the ABA graduate students take PSYC 297A, 297B and 299, as this sequence will allow students multiple semesters of research experience. The proposed changes are in line with both the Behavior Analysis Certification Board (BACB) task list and Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) guidelines for accreditation of behavior analysis masters programs.

Approved by Psychology Department: May 8, 2019

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2) Admissions Criteria Change: (a) remove the required two upper division statistics and research methods courses and replace with one lower division research methods course (as a prerequisite for PSYC 200) and one upper division applied behavior analysis course (as a prerequisite for graduate-level ABA coursework), and (b) remove the required group of upper division courses covering at least five different core academic areas of psychology and replace with the requirement of a Bachelor's degree in psychology or a related field (i.e., child development, speech pathology, education, human development).

Justification: We currently follow the admissions criteria of the MA in Psychology (General option) for our MA in Psychology (ABA option). The ABA option will officially elevate to an MS degree in ABA in fall 2020 catalog, and we would like to change our admissions criteria to align with this elevation. For example, it is becoming more common for students majoring in related fields, such as child development, to pursue graduate education in ABA. However, we currently require non-majors to complete multiple prerequisites in psychology for admission, none of which relate to ABA. We would also like to change our admissions criteria to reflect the department's spring 2019 decision to remove PSYC 202 (and therefore 102 as an admissions requirement) from the ABA curriculum.

Approved by Psychology Department: Sept 17, 2019

Justification for Submitting as a Nonsubstantive Change:
1) The above changes will not result in any net change in the total number of units required to complete the program. That is, the removal of PSYC 202 (3 units), the reduction of 3 units of PSYC 294 to 1 unit, and the addition of 1 unit of PSYC 297A as well as 2 units of PSYC 297B and 299 result in the same number of required units.
2) These changes do not carry any supplemental funding requests.
3) These changes have no fiscal or programmatic impact on another academic unit's offerings. All program requirements include PSYC offerings, which have been approved by the PSYC department.

Objectives of the degree program:

1. Teach students to think critically and scientifically about behavioral processes;
2. Enable students to enter doctoral programs in behavior analysis;
3. Prepare students for careers in applied behavior analysis by passing the national certification examination to become a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). The behavior analysis course sequence at Sacramento State has been verified by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB).

University Learning Goals

Graduate (Masters) Learning Goals:

Critical thinking/analysis
Communication
Information literacy
Disciplinary knowledge
Intercultural/Global perspectives
Professionalism

Will this program be required as part of a teaching credential program, a single subject, or multiple subject waiver program (e.g., Liberal Studies, Biology) or other school personnel preparation program (e.g., School of Nursing)?
No

Catalog Description:

Total units required for MS: 42

Program Description

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 Master of Science program in ABA prepares students to work as behavior analysts in a variety of settings including schools, hospitals, neurorehabilitation settings, and agencies providing services to individuals with developmental disabilities. The ABA option coursework should fulfill the most recent requirements to sit for the national certification exam in behavior analysis (BCBA). For more information visit www.bacb.com. Students should note that this program is also appropriate for those planning to enter doctoral programs in Applied Behavior Analysis, Experimental Analysis of Behavior, or Special Education. 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. 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 Psychology 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 practicum experience in community settings. Academic credit under individualized study or fieldwork designations is available for these purposes. 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. Finally, clinical training is also an integral part of our program. There are numerous funded internships and job opportunities for behavior analysis students in Sacramento.

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 the MS in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) 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.

Applicants are required to have a Bachelor's degree in psychology or a related field (i.e., child development, speech pathology, education), a lower division undergraduate psychology course in research methods, and an upper division undergraduate course in applied behavior analysis, with at least "C" grades in those courses. The lower division research methods requirement is met by PSYC 8 and the upper division applied behavior analysis requirement is met by PSYC 171 taken at Sacramento State, or their equivalents at other colleges and universities. Course equivalents must be reviewed and approved by the Department's Graduate Coordinator.

Please visit theDepartment of Psychology (http://catalog.csus.eduwww.csus.edu/psyc/grad-students/graduate-program-dev.html)for information on 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—viaCalState 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

For more admissions information and application deadlines please visit theOffice of Graduate Studies website (http://www.csus.edu/gradstudies/).

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

- a completed application;
- 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—available from www.csus.edu/psyc/grad-students/graduate-program-dev.html— for any additional required materials.

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

Minimum Units and Grade Requirements

Units required for the MS: 42, each with a grade of "B" or better.

Minimum required GPA: 3.0.

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 reequirements;
- 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.

Culminating Experience Requirements

Students must enroll once for four units ofPSYC 500A, which may be satisfied by completing an empirical thesis. Each student will compile an APA-style manuscript, including introduction, method, results, and discussion sections, at the conclusion of the thesis. Students must also successfully pass an oral defense of the thesis.

If the thesis or project is not completed by the end of the first semester in which a student is registered for culminating requirement units, they must enroll for two units ofPSYC 500Bduring the following semester. If the thesis is still not completed by the end of that semester, students must enroll in the university designated thesis/project continuation course.

As defined by policyhttp://www.csus.edu/umanual/acadaff/fsm00010.htm, a change in units constitutes a substantive change to the program. If your changes constitute a substantive change, please refer back to the "Program Change Type" field above to ensure that "Substantive" is selected.

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 Course (3 Units)		
PSYC 200	Methods in Empirical Psychology✎	3
Required Area Courses (27 Units)		
PSYC 291	Professional Issues in Behavior Analysis	3
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 294	Cooperative Research	1
PSYC 297A	Advanced Graduate Research I	1
PSYC 297B	Advanced Graduate Research II	2
PSYC 299	Special Problems	2

Culminating Experience (6 Units)

PSYC 500A	Culminating Experience	4
PSYC 500B	Culminating Experience[1]	2
Total Units		42

[1]   Students must enroll inPSYC 500Bif thesis/project is not satisfactorily completed while enrolled inPSYC 500A.

Will this program require specialized accreditation?

Establishment of a master's degree program should be preceded by a national professional accreditation of the corresponding bachelor's degree major program.

For graduate programs, the number of declared undergraduate major and the degree production over the preceding years of the corresponding baccalaureate program:

The following data were retrieved from the Fall 2017 Fact Book for Psychology, which are the most recent numbers available:

2012-2013
Declared Majors Entering in Fall: 1,303
Conferred Degrees: 319

2013-2014
Declared Majors Entering in Fall: 972
Conferred Degrees: 422

2014-2015
Declared Majors Entering in Fall: 913
Conferred Degrees: 356

2015-2016
Declared Majors Entering in Fall: 1,006
Conferred Degrees: 383

2016-2017
Declared Majors Entering in Fall: 1,091
Conferred Degrees: 377

Fiscal Impact to Change an Existing Program

Indicate programmatic or fiscal impact which this change will have on other academic units' programs, and describe the consultation that has occurred with affected units:

The proposed changes have no fiscal or programmatic impact on another academic unit's offerings. All program requirements include PSYC offerings, which have been approved by the PSYC department. The courses that were added to the program (e.g., PSYC 299) are already being offered by the psychology department from existing faculty. No new courses were created.

Provide a fiscal analysis of the proposed changes:

As stated above, the proposed changes have no fiscal or programmatic impact on another academic unit's offerings. All program requirements include PSYC offerings, which have been approved by the PSYC department.

How will the above changes be accommodated within the department/College existing fiscal resources?

As stated above, the proposed changes have no fiscal or programmatic impact on another academic unit's offerings nor the offerings in the PSYC department.

Will the proposed changes require additional resources?

No

What additional space, equipment, operating expenses, library, computer, or media resources, clerical/technical support, or other resources will be needed?

The proposed changes do not require any additional resources.

Estimate the cost and indicate how these resource needs will be accommodated:

As stated above, the proposed changes will have no fiscal impact nor require additional resources to implement.

Key: 388