

MA IN PSYCHOLOGY (GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY)



SACRAMENTO STATE
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In Workflow

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Approval Path

1. Wed, 01 Dec 2021 23:09:10 GMT
Becky Penrod (penrodb): Approved for PSYC Committee Chair
2. Tue, 25 Jan 2022 19:13:32 GMT
Rebecca Cameron (cameron): Approved for PSYC Chair
3. Fri, 25 Feb 2022 15:04:39 GMT
Tristan Josephson (tristan.josephson): Approved for SSIS College Committee Chair
4. Tue, 01 Mar 2022 00:15:51 GMT
Marya Endriga (mendriga): Approved for SSIS Dean

History

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

Date Submitted: Mon, 11 Oct 2021 17:01:27 GMT

Viewing: MA in Psychology (General Psychology)

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Changes proposed by: Sharon Furtak (215087848)

Academic Group: (College)

Social Sciences & Interdisciplinary Studies

Academic Organization: (Department)

Psychology

Catalog Year Effective:

2022-2023 Catalog

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:

Substantive

Title of the Program:

MA in Psychology (General Psychology)

Designation: (degree terminology)

Master of Arts

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

This program proposal incorporates four changes to our existing Master of Arts in General Psychology program. The curricular structure of this program has not undergone revision in roughly a decade. Here we have made several changes with the goal: 1) to give students more flexibility in how they complete their coursework, 2) to recognize the amount of research our students conduct in preparation for their thesis, 3) to remove coursework that does not support the career and/or methodological goals of the majority of our student population, and 4) to add a special topics course that would allow a seminar in the expertise of our faculty, which have greatly expanded in recent years. It is considered a substantive change due only to a small increase in total units required from 30 units (currently listed in catalog) to 31-33 units. These changes do not constitute a significant departure from the current identity of the program. Our assessment is that current students actually enroll in additional research units to fully develop their thesis proposal prior to advancing to candidacy. The proposed changes more accurately reflect the process students currently take to achieve program learning objectives.

Typically, we support approximately 30-40 total students enrolled in the program at any one time. We conduct our program in a cohort model (each cohort is typically 10-15 students). This allows us to support our program by offering a total of 3 to 4 content courses each semester within the program. The cohorts are based on the year of student acceptance (i.e., all students entering the program in Fall 2021 take courses together). When possible, we combine the cohorts to minimize the courses offerings. The proposed changes also allow the department more flexibility in how we offer and staff courses in the program, aiding in a more efficient use of our resources. We always offer courses that allow for the students to graduate in a 2-year timeframe.

The curricular coursework requirements of the program are structured to focus on supplying our students with an advanced knowledge in the broad field of psychology through content coursework. This knowledge is supplemented by advanced knowledge in a specific subdiscipline of psychology, which the students perform under the tutelage of a faculty advisor and enrollment in credit-bearing research courses. These research courses are taken each semester along with the content-based courses so that the student builds expertise at the master's level by engaging in directed literature review, research design and experimental implementation under a designated advisor.

The four changes purposed here increase the minimum credit requirement from 30 units to 31-33 units. The changes are as follows:

- 1) Deletion of an advanced Methods requirement (listed under old program as METHODS, 3 units). Students already have a two-semester sequence of graduate level research methods and statistics (PSYC 200 and PSYC 202). The need for our students to have additional methods training is not necessary for most of our students. In fact, this requirement was largely utilized by students focused in Industrial-Organization Psychology, which no longer overlaps with the General Psychology Program and recently became a standalone graduate program in the Department of Psychology. In recognition of this, we have moved these courses into a new ADDITIONAL CONTENT COURSEWORK category (see below # 2) for the General Psychology Program. These courses will continue to be available to the students as an option based on its alignment with their career goals but will no longer be required.
- 2) Modification of the ADDITIONAL COURSES (11 UNITS) requirement to be broader and more flexible in how the coursework is fulfilled. Under this old program requirement, we have removed the research courses (PSYC 294 or PSYC 299) into its own category, see #4 below, and created a new requirement called ADDITIONAL CONTENT COURSEWORK (9 UNITS). In this new category, students have the flexibility to fulfill this requirement by selecting any three courses from the Group 1 seminars, Group 2 seminars, any of the courses that use to be listed in the METHODS category, a course in Teaching of Psychology (which use to be required) or a new Special Topics course (PSYC 277, see below # 3). While course offerings are tightly scheduled by the department for efficiency of resources, this boarder offering for fulfillment of this requirement does give students some flexibility of when and how they fulfill the requirement during their program.
- 3) Our sub-disciplinary offerings in the current program curriculum includes broader content areas of psychology (cognitive, social, etc.), which is helpful for students who are looking to transfer requirements to a doctoral program. Yet, our current faculty specialties are not represented in the curriculum. Our students would substantially benefit from having the opportunity to engage with our faculty in their areas of expertise. This will be met by the creation of a special topic seminar (PSYC 277, see attached Form A) that will be added as an option to fulfill the new ADDITIONAL CONTENT COURSEWORK category (9 units).
- 4) The final change is to add a new category called RESEARCH (6 UNITS). Under the old program students only had the option of using 2 units of directed research coursework (PSYC 294 or PSYC 299) toward their degree. However, analysis of credit units from our students indicated students on average took between roughly three to four times this amount of credits in directed research coursework. One of our program strengths is the specialized research training that students receive leading to their thesis project. It is a hallmark of our required program curriculum. Here, we are recognizing the amount of research our students engage in by allowing them to use 6 units of directed toward their degree of research coursework prior to enrolling in PSYC 500A, which is their culminating experience (thesis research). Coursework would be a core area of the curriculum (new RESEARCH category) and would include any of the following: PSYC 294, PSYC 297A, PSYC 297B or PSYC 299.

Objectives of the degree program:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of psychology as a science, and skill in the use and interpretation of statistical methods.
2. Demonstrate competence in communication skills in multiple formats and contexts.
3. Demonstrate ability to integrate psychology concepts to explain behavior, identify and rule out alternative explanations.
4. Demonstrate skill in accessing/navigating databases to obtain data, evaluate quality of information sources.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of ethical treatment of others in research and practice.
6. Demonstrate knowledge of cultural diversity and commitment to diversity.

University Learning Goals**Graduate (Masters) Learning Goals:**

Critical thinking/analysis
 Communication
 Information literacy
 Disciplinary knowledge
 Intercultural/Global perspectives
 Professionalism
 Research (optional)

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

Please attach a Comprehensive Program Assessment Plan (required)

Form B General Program 13April2021 Program-Assessment-Plan.docx

Please attach a Curriculum Map Matrix (required)

Form B General Proposal 13April2021 CurriculumMapMatrix.docx

Please attach a five-year budget projection (required)

5-year-budget-template.xls

Catalog Description:

Total units required for the MA: 31-33

Program Description

The Master of Arts (MA) program in Psychology is designed to provide both broad and specialized education in the field of psychological science. With a MA in Psychology, one can prepare for employment in positions similar to those associated with a Bachelor of Arts (BA), though at a higher level of responsibility. Completing a MA may also prepare the student for doctoral studies in Psychology. Applicants to the MA program should first determine their sub-disciplinary area(s) of interest represented among our faculty and identify desired mentors to serve as their faculty advisor before submitting an application. We encourage the applicant to contact and communicate with the faculty advisor prior to application submission. The Graduate Brochure contains the department application procedures.

In our MA program, students complete a culminating project; this is a thesis, which is typically an original research paper of publishable quality. Students are matched with a faculty advisor that supervises their research and provides professional development opportunities. Advisors play an active role in MA students' planning and research process from the start. Students are strongly encouraged to consult with their faculty advisor on a continual and intensive basis as soon as they begin their studies in the program. Through this relationship and cooperative research units, MA students can prepare for employment or doctoral study in any area of psychology related to/represented within our program faculty's areas of expertise.

Although the program is based on a core set of requirements through coursework, the structure of the program allows for specialization through research experience and research-based coursework. Students' progress through the program as a cohort formed from all students admitted in the same academic year. The program is planned for all students in a cohort to take coursework together throughout the program. Students engage in breadth requirements through formal classroom education, enrolling in coursework across the discipline of psychology. Although specific graduate course offerings vary year to year, courses satisfying each of the program requirements are offered on a regular basis allowing timely progression to degree. 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. Thus, students engage in depth requirements by developing expertise in collaboration with and under the supervision of their faculty advisor. 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, cooperative research, and fieldwork designations are available for these purposes. Students should discuss career goals, time-to-degree plans, and financial aid requirements when enrolling in courses with these designations.

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. An overall Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 is recommended and minimally qualified applicants will have a 2.5 GPA or above. When making admissions decisions, the Department takes into consideration the candidate's cumulative GPA, GRE score (if required), relevant coursework, letters of recommendation, previous (research and/or practical) experience, the curriculum vitae, personal statement, and the candidate's interest in a particular faculty member's research agenda. During the admission process an interview is requested and additional information from the interview helps guide the decision of admissions.

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 at least five upper division courses in substantive topic areas in Psychology, such as, but not limited to: Abnormal Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Behavioral Neuroscience, Perception, or Social Psychology.

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. PSYC 102 can be remediated in the first year of graduate school.

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
- If required, 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>. Please check status of GRE requirement with department.

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* if required (please check status of GRE requirement with department);
- 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 ;
- personal statement
- curriculum vitae

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

Minimum Units and Grade Requirement for the Degree

Units required for the MA: 31-33

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

Advancement to Candidacy

Students must be advanced to candidacy in the semester prior to enrolling in at PSYC 500A. Advancing to candidacy means that the University permits students to register for the culminating requirement (thesis or project) units; it also makes students eligible for special library privileges. In order to advance to candidacy students must:

- Remove any deficiencies in admission requirements
- Complete the University Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR) for graduate students or successfully completed a Graduate Writing Intensive (GWI) course
- Have completed at least 12 units of graduate (200-series) psychology courses with a minimum GPA of 3.0
- Have decided upon all of the courses to be applied toward the degree
- Submitted a summary and signed Approval of Thesis or Project Proposal form to the Psychology Department (available on the Graduate Student Canvas).

Once students have completed the above, they must file an Application for Advancement to Candidacy with the Office of Graduate Studies. Deadlines: every October 1 for Fall Semester (to advance for Spring semester) and February 1 (to advance for Fall semester). The application for advancement to candidacy form and instructions are available from the Graduate Studies website.

Number of units to record on the petition

The petition asks for a list of courses the student has taken, is taking, and plans to take to fulfill University graduation requirements. It also asks students to specify whether they are doing a thesis or a project (although this changes from time to time). General MA students should specify only the minimum 31 units required for the degree even though they may have taken many more courses.


Changes in Plans after Filing the Advancement to Candidacy Petition

If a student needs to change their Advancement to Candidacy plan in any way (e.g., not taking a course listed on the petition, changing from thesis to project or the other way around) they must submit a Petition for Exception. This petition must be approved by both the Department and the Office of Graduate Studies. Failure to file this petition (if a difference exists between the student's record and the Advancement to Candidacy form) will cause the University to withhold the granting of the degree.

As defined by policy <http://www.csus.edu/umannual/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 Courses (6 Units)		
PSYC 200	Methods in Empirical Psychology 	3
PSYC 202	Survey of Contemporary Statistical Methods in Psychological Research	3
Individual/Social Seminars (3 Units)		
Select one of the following:		3
PSYC 209	Seminar in Systems of Psychology	
PSYC 210	Theories of Personality	
PSYC 217	Seminar in Social Psychology	
PSYC 251	Developmental Processes	
PSYC 268	Advanced Psychopathology	
Biological/Cognitive Seminars (3 Units)		
Select one of the following:		3
PSYC 240	Seminar in Behavioral Neuroscience	
PSYC 241	Seminar in Cognitive Psychology	
PSYC 242	Seminar in Learning and Behavior	
Additional Content Coursework (9 Units)		
Select three of the following (must not have been used to fulfill Seminar requirements):		9
PSYC 204	Advanced Topics in Statistical Methods for Psychological Research	
PSYC 205	Measurement Methods for Psychological Research and Practice	
PSYC 206	Tests and Measurement	
PSYC 209	Seminar in Systems of Psychology	
PSYC 210	Theories of Personality	
PSYC 217	Seminar in Social Psychology	
PSYC 240	Seminar in Behavioral Neuroscience	
PSYC 241	Seminar in Cognitive Psychology	
PSYC 242	Seminar in Learning and Behavior	
PSYC 251	Developmental Processes	
PSYC 268	Advanced Psychopathology	
PSYC 272	Research Methods in Behavior Analysis	
PSYC 277	Course PSYC 277 Not Found	
PSYC 283	Teaching Of Psychology	
Research (6 Units)		
Select 6 units from the following:		6
PSYC 294	Cooperative Research	
PSYC 295G	Fieldwork	
PSYC 297A	Advanced Graduate Research I	
PSYC 297B	Advanced Graduate Research II	
PSYC 299	Special Problems	
Culminating Experience (4-6 Units)		
PSYC 500A	Culminating Experience	4
PSYC 500B	Culminating Experience ¹	2

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

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

There were a total of 1,303 enrolled psychology majors in fall 2020 and 1,257 enrolled psychology majors in spring 2021.

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 changes will not have fiscal impact or affect other units.

Provide a fiscal analysis of the proposed changes:

This change will not have fiscal impact.

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

This change will not have fiscal impact.

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?

There are no additional resources needed.

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

none

Key: 372