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**Introduction**

Thank you for your interest in the Sacramento State Psychology Graduate Program. This is the Application Guide for our Department. Read through the guide carefully as it both provides information about the program and how to apply. It is the applicant’s responsibility to follow the application process. **Failure to do so may result in a denied application.**

Please read this guide prior to contacting the department with questions. It answers most of the basic questions about the admission requirements and the application process.

**Application Dates and Deadlines**

The Sacramento State Psychology Graduate Program only accepts applicants for fall admission, with the Industrial-Organizational option accepting applications in odd years. **There is no spring admission.**

The following are our application and letter of recommendation deadlines. Late applications will not be accepted.

- Application (University and Department) – January 15, 2020
- Letters of Recommendation – January 20, 2020

**International Applicants and Domestic Applicants with Foreign Documents**

International Applicants and Domestic Applicants with foreign documents must submit their application to the University and Department no later than December 15, 2019 to ensure verification of their transcripts. All transcripts must be evaluated by World Education Services (WES). International Applicants please contact the International Programs and Global Education office for assistance.

Domestic Applicants with foreign documents should consult the Office of Graduate Studies prior to submitting their documents.
**Important Considerations Before Applying**

- The Psychology Graduate Program is primarily a day program intended for full-time enrollment.
- Courses and experiential work are most often held between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
- Some programs require internship participation, while others require research work outside of the classroom.
- The Psychology Graduate Program does not lead to licensure as a clinical psychologist, MFT or counselor. Individuals with these career goals should contact the Sacramento State College of Education or the Department of Social Work in the College of Health and Human Services.
- Applicants *without* a BA or BS in Psychology *should not apply* to the program if they have not taken the courses outlined on page 8.
- The application requires applicants to submit proof of having completed various statistics and methods courses, depending on the track. These courses must have included research methods, in which students have analyzed a dataset and written an APA paper; and the study and application of descriptive and complex inferential statistics such as factorial ANOVAs, mixed model ANOVAs, ANCOVAs, MANOVAS, planned and unplanned comparisons, factor analysis, and multiple regression. Applicants are asked to provide a course description, a syllabus, and a school attended for each course when completing the online supplemental application.

Questions about the program should be sent to Dr. Lisa Bohon, Graduate Coordinator at lbohon@csus.edu

Questions about the application process should be sent to Saba Kbrom, Graduate Administrative Support at stk28@csus.edu

**Important University Phone Numbers**

- Psychology Department - 916-278-6254
- Financial Aid Office - 916-278-6554
- Graduate Studies - 916-278-6470
- International Programs and Global Education - 916-278-6686
Program Overview
The Psychology Graduate Program is designed to provide specialized education in the field of psychology. With a masters in Psychology, one can qualify for positions similar to those associated with a bachelor’s degree, though at a higher level of responsibility. In addition, master’s degree students can prepare for doctoral study in any area of Psychology.

Program Structure
The program is comprised of course curricula and applied experiences followed by the completion of a culminating requirement (a thesis or project). Students have a variety of readily available opportunities to acquire individual supervised research and teaching experience with Department faculty and to participate as interns with local organizations and consulting firms throughout the Sacramento metropolitan area.

Program Length
Typically, full-time students complete the program within 2.5 to 3 years. Students enrolled on a part-time basis typically take proportionally longer to complete their program requirements.

Program Options
The Sacramento State Psychology Graduate Program has 3 program options:

- Master of Science in Applied Behavior Analysis
- Master of Arts in Psychology: General Psychology
- Master of Arts in Psychology: Industrial-Organizational Psychology. The I-O Program will be undergoing Program Assessment & Updates during the 2019/2020 academic year. Therefore, applications for the I-O program will be accepted during the fall semester, 2020 (selected students from this application process would begin the program in Fall, 2021).

Please visit the Sacramento State Catalog for complete details on the coursework requirements for each program.

Financial Aid
Students in the Sacramento State Graduate program fund their studies through a variety of sources, including:

- Scholarships, grants and fellowships.
- Teaching Associate positions.
- Instructional Student Assistant positions.

Scholarships, Grants and Fellowships
- Information about general financial aid can be found on Sacramento State’s Financial Aid website Sacramento State Financial Aid
- Additional information about graduate specific sources of funding can be found at Sacramento State Graduate Student Financial Opportunities
- The Psychology Department also offers several scholarships for graduate students each spring. All graduate students are encouraged to apply to each scholarship for which they are eligible.
Teaching Associates (TAs) and Instructional Student Assistants (ISAs)

- TAs are paid instructors of record for the Department’s PSYC 102 laboratory sections.
- ISAs are paid to perform a variety of tasks, such as lecturing, grading, and tutoring, to assist faculty members in their work.

Available positions vary by semester.

Department Faculty

The application asks applicants to rank 3 advisors with whom they would like to work. Applicants should select the advisors which best align with their academic and career interests. Failing to select advisors who closely align to one’s academic and professional goals can impact the quality of their application.

Please see the following list of faculty who are accepting applicants for Fall 2020.

Akutsu, Philip (Ph.D., UCLA). **Accepting Applicants.**
- **Field:** Clinical Psychology.
- **Research Interests:** Racial and Cultural Factors in Psychology, Help-seeking Attitudes and Behaviors, Mental Health Service Utilization and Delivery, Racial Prejudice and Discrimination, Asian American Psychology.

August, Rachel (Ph.D., Claremont Graduate University).
- **Field:** Industrial-Organizational Psychology.
- **Research Interests:** College Student-Athlete Career Development, Career Transitions, Organizational Socialization, Older Workers, Women Workers, Workplace Diversity

Berrigan, Lee (Ph.D., Washington University, St. Louis). **Accepting Applicants.**
- **Field:** Clinical Psychology.
- **Research Interests:** Process and Outcome in Psychotherapy, Psychological Assessment, Personality Development and Change, Clinical and Experimental Aspects of Hypnosis

Bohon, Lisa (Ph.D., UC Riverside). **Accepting Applicants.**
- **Field:** Social Psychology.
- **Research Interests:** Evolutionary Psychology, Life History Theory, Social Cognition, Person Perception.

Brand, Denys (Ph.D., University of Auckland, New Zealand). **Accepting Applicants.**
- **Field:** Behavior Analysis
- **Research Interests:** Performance feedback, performance management, sequential analysis, procedural integrity, three-alternative choice

Calton, Jeffrey (Ph.D., University of Missouri). **Accepting Applicants.**
- **Field:** Behavioral Neuroscience.
- **Research Interests:** Spatial Cognition, Animal Navigation, Physiology of Learning.
Cameron, Rebecca (Ph.D., Kent State University).
- **Field:** Clinical Psychology
- **Research Interests:** Stress, Coping, Social Support, Well-being, and Diversity (including Ethnicity, LGBTQ+ Identity, and Disability Status).

Ellison, Erin (Ph.D., UC Santa Cruz).  *Accepting Applicants.*
- **Field:** Community Psychology.
- **Research Interests:** Social-community psychology; Relational empowerment, collective action, transformative justice, youth and community development; Community-university relations; Community responses to gentrification, Participatory Action Research, Social Network Analysis.

Flicker, Sharon.  *Accepting Applicants.*
- **Field:** Clinical Psychology
- **Research Interests:** Consensual Non-Monogamy, Polyamory, Romantic relationships, Family relationships, Arranged Marriage.

Furtak, Sharon (Ph.D., Yale University).  *Accepting Applicants.*
- **Field:** Behavioral Neuroscience.
- **Research Interests:** All Research Projects Use Rodent Models to Examine the Neurobiology of Fear Learning and Medial Temporal Lobe Involvement in Perceptual and Mnemonic Processing of Stimuli.

Giguere, David (Ph.D., Florida Atlantic University).  *Accepting Applicants.*
- **Field:** Developmental Psychology.
- **Research Interests:** Bilingual Language Development, Reading Comprehension, Heritage Language Acquisition, Executive Functions and the Bilingual Advantage, School Readiness, and Ultimate Dual Language Attainment.

Harrison, Lisa (Ph.D., University of Nebraska).
- **Field:** Social Psychology.
- **Research Interests:** Conscious and Nonconscious Biases, Stigma and Discrimination, Feminist Psychology, Psychology of Gender.

Heinicke, Megan (Ph.D., Auburn University).  *Accepting Applicants.*
- **Field:** Applied Behavior Analysis.

Hurtz, Greg (Ph.D., University at Albany, SUNY).
- **Field:** Industrial-Organizational Psychology; Quantitative Psychology.
- **Research Interests:** Psychometric Theory and Practice; Employment Testing; Data Forensics for Detecting Testing Anomalies; Regression-based Models; Monte Carlo Analysis.
Kim-Ju, Greg (Ph.D., Boston College). **Accepting Applicants.**
- **Field:** Cultural Psychology.
- **Research Interests:** School- and Community-based Research and Intervention Programs, Collective Identities, Diversity and Perceptions of Race and Ethnicity, Diaspora and Transnationalism, and Civic Engagement.

Knifsend, Casey (Ph.D., UCLA). **Accepting Applicants.**
- **Field:** Developmental Psychology.
- **Research Interests:** Adolescence, Emerging Adulthood, Extracurricular Involvement, After-school Programs, Positive Youth Development, Social Identities, Intergroup Attitudes, Cross-ethnic Peer Relationships.

McTernan, Melissa (Ph.D., UC Davis). **Accepting Applicants.**
- **Field:** Quantitative Psychology.
- **Research Interests:** Longitudinal data analysis, mixed-effects modeling, missing data problems, zero-inflated data and two-part modeling; Substantive Interests: health and education outcomes, disparity research, social and political empowerment.

Meyers, Larry (Ph.D., Adelphi University). **Accepting Applicants.**
- **Field:** Applied and Quantitative Psychology.
- **Research Interests:** Multivariate Research and Analysis including Structural Equation Modeling in Social, Health, Personality, Interpersonal, Organizational, and Applied areas, Test Validation and Development, Psychometrics, Job Analysis, Selection in Employment Contexts, Survey/Inventory Design, History of Psychology.

Miguel, Caio (Ph.D., Western Michigan University). **Accepting Applicants.**
- **Field:** Applied Behavior Analysis.

Morrison, Alexandra (Ph.D., Temple University).
- **Field:** Cognitive Psychology.

Penrod, Becky (Ph.D., University of Nevada, Reno). **Accepting Applicants.**
- **Field:** Applied Behavior Analysis.
- **Research Interests:** Pediatric Feeding Disorders, Autism Treatment, Behavioral Interventions in Applied Settings, and Parent Training.

Qin, Jianjian (J. J.) (Ph.D., UC Davis). **Accepting Applications.**
- **Field:** Cognitive Psychology.
- **Research Interests:** Eyewitness Memory and Suggestibility, False Memory, Source Monitoring, Relationship between Emotion and Memory.
Strickland, Oriel (Ph.D., Purdue University)
- **Field:** Industrial-Organizational Psychology
- **Research Interests:** Training and Program Evaluation, Stress Management, Leadership Processes, Work Motivation

Wickelgren, Emily (Ph.D., Indiana University).  **Accepting Applicants.**
- **Field:** Sensation and Perception

Young, Brittany (Ph.D., University of California, Santa Cruz).  **Accepting Applicants.**
- **Field:** Developmental Psychology
- **Research Interests:** Emerging Adulthood, Adolescence, Ethnic/Racial Identity Development, Racial Microaggressions, Intergroup and Intragroup attitudes, Resilience, Sense of Belonging

**Preparing for the Program**
The majority of students applying to the Sacramento State Psychology master’s program have a BA or BS in Psychology. Those without a BA or BS in Psychology must have a solid core of academic undergraduate psychology courses including psychological statistics coursework.

The following information outlines the necessary preparation for applicants. **Applicants without an undergraduate degree in Psychology, or the necessary preparation will be denied without further review.**

**General Psychology and ABA Applicants**

**Psychology Statistics/Methods Requirement**
**All Applicants** must have completed two upper division psychology statistics and methods courses with a grade of C or better, prior to applying to the program. This requirement is met by PSYC 121 and PSYC 102 taken at Sacramento State, or their equivalents at other universities.

Approved courses must include:
- Research methods which involves analyzing a dataset and writing an APA paper
- Descriptive and complex inferential statistics such as factorial ANOVAs, mixed model ANOVAs, ANCOVAs, MANOVAS, planned and unplanned comparisons, factor analysis, and multiple regression.

Applicants may still apply if they have only completed one of the required stats/methods courses. If these applicants are selected, they will be required to take PSYC 102 during their first year of graduate school.

**Applicants without a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology**
In addition to meeting the upper division psychology statistics and methods requirement, applicants
without a BA or BS in Psychology must also have completed the following core foundation in psychology prior to applying. All of the following courses must be completed with at least a C. Courses may be taken at Sacramento State or other regionally accredited university or community college (for lower division only).

**Lower Division Preparation (may be taken at community college)**
- Introductory Psychology (Sac State: PSYC 2)
- Methods of Psychology (Sac State: PSYC 8)
- Statistics for Psychology (Sac State: PSYC 9)

**Upper Division Preparation (must be taken at a 4-year university)**

*2 courses from the following*
- Perception (Sac State: PSYC 103)
- Learning Theories (Sac State: PSYC 104)
- Cognitive Psychology (Sac State: PSYC 110)
- Intro to Biological Psychology (Sac State: PSYC 111) or Intro to Neuroscience (Sac State: PSYC 115)

*3 Courses from the following*
- Social Psychology (Sac State: PSYC 145)
- Personality Theories (Sac State: PSYC 130)
- Developmental Psychology (Sac State: PSYC 148, PSYC 149, or PSYC 150).
- Abnormal Psychology (Sac State: PSYC 168)
- History and Systems of Psychology (Sac State: PSYC 190)
- Cultural Diversity (Sac State: PSYC 100, PSYC 135, PSYC 157, or PSYC 160)
Application and Admission

Admission Requirements (All Applicants)
1. **Preferred Cumulative Undergraduate GPA of 3.0.** Applicants with GPAs between 2.5 and 2.99 will be given lower priority.

2. **Graduate Records Examination (GRE)** – Verbal, Quantitative, and Written.

3. **Undergraduate degree in Psychology preferred.** Applicants without a BA or BS in Psychology must have completed the preparation outlined on page 8 before applying to the program.

4. **Psychological Statistics/Methods Coursework Requirement.** All Applicants must have completed two upper division Psychological statistics/methods courses with a grade of C or greater. Accepted courses are those which include research methods, in which students have analyzed a dataset and written an APA paper; and descriptive and complex inferential statistics such as factorial ANOVAs, mixed model ANOVAs, ANCOVAs, MANOVAS, planned and unplanned comparisons, factor analysis, and multiple regression. The Sacramento State courses that correspond to these statistics/methods courses are PSYC 121 and PSYC 102. Students may apply if they have at least one of these courses or an equivalent.

5. **ABA Applicants Only.** All ABA Applicants are recommended to have prior coursework in Applied Behavior Analysis prior to applying to the program. This could be achieved by taking PSYC 171 at Sacramento State, or an equivalent at another university. Applicants without Applied Behavior Analysis coursework will still be considered but may be asked to take PSYC 171 during their first year of graduate school.

Application Instructions
Applicants to the Sacramento State Psychology Graduate Program must submit both a University Application and a Departmental Supplemental Application.

University Application
1. Complete a CSU System Application via CalState Apply
2. Send one hard copy set of official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended, except Sacramento State. Transcripts should be addressed to:

   **Office of Graduate Studies**  
   California State University, Sacramento, River Front Center 215  
   6000 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95819-6112

3. Send one set of official Graduate Records Examination Scores to Sacramento State. Use Institution code 4671 and Department code 2016. **It may take 2-6 weeks for Sacramento State to receive GRE scores, plan accordingly.**
To check the status of a Cal State Apply application, contact Graduate Studies at 916-278-6470.

**Departmental Supplemental Application**
Second, submit the following materials directly to the Psychology Department by January 15, 2020 using the Psychology Graduate Supplemental Application site which will be available October 2019.

- Personal Statement
- Specific program option requirements (see below)
- One PDF copy of unofficial transcripts from ALL colleges and universities attended, INCLUDING Sacramento State
- One PDF copy of unofficial GRE Scores
- Proof of meeting the Psychology Stats/Methods requirement (transcript, course description, and syllabus)

**Additional Program Specific Application Requirements**
Please carefully review the following information as it relates to the additional items required by each program. Failure to submit these additional materials may result in a denied application.

**ABA Option Requirements**
- A personal statement of professional goals and experiences (max 2 double spaced pages). Include information on previous research and practicum experiences, academic training in ABA (if any), and post-graduation professional goals. Applicants should demonstrate that they are committed to studying Behavioral Analysis as a science to understand human behavior.
- Provide a list of faculty within the behavior analysis program with whom you would like to work and why. Research some of the ABA faculty’s academic publications to become familiar with their research interests.
- A resume or Curriculum Vitae (CV). List any behavior analysis classes with grades.
- A minimum of three letters of recommendation (two must be from former professors).
- Indicate whether you will be able to attend a personal interview/program tour on campus, to be held on February 22, 2020. Applicants are asked to RSVP on the Department application. A remote interview option is available.

**General Psychology Option Requirements**
A personal statement (max 2 double spaced pages) addressing the area of psychology you wish to study (e.g., Social, Developmental, Clinical, Biological, Cognitive, Quantitative, etc.) long-range career goals, research experience, as well a ranked list of three Psychology faculty members with whom you would like to work with. Applicants are encouraged to research the interests of the Department faculty to determine if their interests overlap. An applicant’s ranked list of faculty helps to determine if there is space available in the program and to assign them and advisor upon admission.

**Submitting the Department Application**
Electronically submit a Department Application to Psychology Department Supplemental Application
Submitting Letters of Recommendation

All applicants are required to submit 3 letters of recommendation (preferably Psychology faculty members) with their application.

1. Applicants must complete the Online Recommendation Form. On this form you will be asked to provide us with the person’s name, title, field/discipline, e-mail address (must be an .edu or verifiable business address), and their institution/employer.

2. Once we receive this information, we will send a link to your recommender. The recommendation must be submitted by January 20, 2019. Applicants are responsible for reminding their recommenders of the due date.

IMPORTANT: Information about Submitting Materials

Department application materials (personal statement, unofficial transcripts and GRE scores, cv/resume, proof of meeting the statistics/methods requirement) should ONLY be uploaded to the Psychology Department Application site, REGARDLESS of what Cal State Apply or the Sacramento State Office of Graduate Studies asks you to do with these materials.

Here’s why:

Cal State Apply

Cal State Apply will ask you to upload a variety of materials in the Experiences, Achievements, Statement of Purpose, and Documents sections of the application. DO NOT SUBMIT ANY MATERIALS in these sections. Neither the Sacramento State Psychology Department nor the Office of Graduate Studies will receive these items. Applicants who upload materials to Cal State Apply will have an incomplete application and will be automatically denied. To avoid having an incomplete application, select “I Am Not Adding” in each section.

Sacramento State Submission Website

Approximately 3 business days after submitting a Cal State Apply application, applicants will receive an email from the Sacramento State Office of Graduate Studies containing their student identification number along with instructions regarding the process to create a SacLink account and a link to the Sacramento State Document Submission website. Create a SacLink account but DO NOT submit any materials to the Document Submission website as it delays submission to the Psychology Department, resulting in a late application. You will submit all materials to the Sacramento State Psychology Supplemental Application website.
Application Evaluation

GPA and GRE scores are only two of the several admission criteria considered in making admission recommendations.

All applications are reviewed in a rigorous multi-stage process.

- Applications are first reviewed for completeness. **Incomplete applications are immediately denied.**
- Complete applications are then reviewed for minimum requirements (e.g. GPA, undergraduate psychology preparation, and undergraduate psychological statistics preparation). **Those not meeting minimum admission requirements are immediately denied.**
- Complete applications that meet the minimum admissions requirements are then reviewed using a standardized z score. The z score is created using equally weighted Cumulative Undergraduate Grade Point Average (GPA) and the GRE general scores (Verbal and Quantitative combined). Then an admissions minimum z score is established by the Department. Applicants falling below the Department z score are denied.
- Applicants who pass this z score review are then forwarded to the respective discipline specific committees for further consideration. Undergraduate GPA, GRE, letters of recommendation, and discipline-specific requirements are reviewed at this second stage. The discipline specific committees make the final acceptance recommendations.

Application review takes approximately 4-8 weeks after the application deadline. Only complete applications reviewed. **Incomplete applications are immediately denied.**
Notification of Admission
Once final reviews are complete of all applications (usually 4-8 weeks), the Department notifies accepted applicants of their status. Accepted applicants are admitted either as a “conditionally classified” master’s degree student (applicant will be required to take PSYC 102) or as a “classified” master’s degree student (applicant has met all prerequisites). Included in this notification is Department Intent to Enroll request. Applicants must respond to the Department Intent to Enroll request by the deadline indicated in their acceptance letter. Failure to affirm or decline the Department Intent to Enroll will result in a rescindment of the offer of admission. These applicants may reapply in the following year if they choose.

Upon acceptance of the Department Intent to Enroll request, the Department will complete the administrative process for each accepted applicant. This generates an official Intent to Enroll request from the University. Applicants must respond to this request within two weeks of the date on the University letter.

Declined Applicants
Declined applicants will receive notification directly from the Office of Graduate Studies.
Frequently Asked Questions

Do you have a Counseling/MFT program?
The Sacramento State Psychology Graduate Program is not intended for those seeking to perform clinical counseling or mental health therapy. Those seeking such programs should visit the Sacramento State Counselor Education Program or the Masters of Social Work.

Do you have a Doctoral Program?
No

How do I submit proof of meeting the Psychology Stats/Methods Requirement?
You must submit a course description and the syllabi for the courses that you are using to satisfy the Psychology Stats/Methods requirement. You will be asked to upload these materials to the Department supplemental application website.

Do you accept late applications?
The Department of Psychology will only consider applications from students who have submitted their completed departmental application forms by the stated deadline. Letters of Recommendation must be received by the Department no later than January 20.

How can I check on the status of my application?
Because of the high volume of applications received by the Department, we are not able to provide status updates to applicants. However, applicants may check the status of their applications on MySacState in the Student Center. You may contact the Psychology Department to ensure your materials have been received.

What is a complete application?
A complete application is one in which the applicant has submitted all materials to the correct offices. **DO NOT** submit Department Supplemental materials to Cal State Apply or the Sacramento State Document Submission Website.

- Applicants who fail to submit a University Application or any required item will be immediately denied.
- Materials submitted to Cal State Apply are not sent toSac State; as a result your application will be incomplete. Incomplete applications are denied.

I am an international student, how do I submit my application?
International applicants should apply through the International Programs and Global Education department. At the same time submit a separate Department supplemental application via our Psychology Graduate Supplemental Application. This will ensure that the Department can review your supplemental documents while IPGE processes your University application. **International applicants should submit their applications to IPGE at least 30 days prior to our application deadline. Also be sure to send transcripts that have been evaluated by World Education Services (WES).** Visit International Programs and Global Education for additional information.