Graduate Program Application Guide

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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. **There is no spring admission.**

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

- University Application – January 15, 2023
- Letters of Recommendation – January 15, 2023

International Applicants and Domestic Applicants with Foreign Documents

International Applicants and Domestic Applicants with foreign documents must submit their application to the University no later than December 15, 2022 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.
- **General and I-O Applicants**
  - General and I-O applicants without a B.A. or B.S. in Psychology should not apply to the program if they do not have a solid foundation in Psychology.
  - At a 4-year college, all General and I-O applicants must have completed two (2) upper division statistics/methods courses with a grade of C or better prior to applying to the program. This requirement is met with PSYC 121 and PSYC 102 at

Sacramento State, or their equivalents at other universities. Course equivalents must have included research methods in which students have analyzed a dataset and written an APA-style paper. They must also have included descriptive and complex inferential statistics, such as factorial ANOVAs, mixed model ANOVAs, ANCOVAs, MANOVAS, planned and unplanned comparisons, factorial analysis, and multiple regression. Courses without these elements will not be approved. PSYC 121 must be completed by the application deadline. PSYC 102 can either be absent or in progress to be admitted to the program. In the case of absence, students must remediate PSY102 in the Fall semester of their first year. In   addition, applicants must have completed the following lower division courses   (which may be taken at a community college or 4-year university):

> Introductory Psychology (Sac State: PSYC 2)
> Methods of Psychology (Sac State: PSYC 8)
> Statistics for Psychology (Sac State: PSYC 9).

- **I-O Applicants Only**
  - General and written GRE scores are required for admissions.
- **ABA Applicants**
  - ABA applicants without a B.A. or B.S. in Psychology, Child Development, Speech Pathology, or Education should not apply to the program if they do not have a solid foundation in these fields.
  - All ABA applicants must have completed a lower division undergraduate psychology course in research methods and an upper division undergraduate course in ABA with at least "C" grades in those courses. The lower division research requirement is met by PSYC 8 at Sacramento State, and the upper division ABA requirement is met by PSYC 171 at Sacramento State. Student may also take equivalents at other colleges or universities.

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 Industrial-Organizational Psychology

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
- The Sacramento State School financial aid code is **001150.**
- 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 2023.

Akutsu, Phillip (Ph.D., UCLA).
- **Field:** Clinical Psychology.
- **Research Interests:** Help-seeking, Referral, and Mental Health Service Use and Delivery, Racial/Interpersonal Microaggressions, Abuse, and Intervention, Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority 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).
- **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).
- **Field:** Social Psychology.
- **Research Interests:** Evolutionary Psychology, Life History Theory, Social Cognition, Person Perception.
- https://lbohon.wixsite.com/website

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

Calton, Jeffrey (Ph.D., University of Missouri).
- **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).

Demir, Melikşah (Ph.D., Wayne State University).
- **Field:** Developmental Psychology and Happiness
- **Research Interests:** Happiness, Happiness Interventions, Culture, Close relationships, Romantic Relationships, Friendship, Playfulness, Need Satisfaction, Capitalization, Responsiveness, Perceived Understanding, Volunteer Bias.

Ellison, Erin (Ph.D., UC Santa Cruz).
- **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.
- https://www.csus.edu/faculty/e/ellison/

Flicker, Sharon (Ph.D., University of New Mexico).
- **Field:** Clinical Psychology
- **Research Interests**: Consensual Non-Monogamy, Polyamory, Romantic relationships, Family relationships, Arranged Marriage.

Furtak, Sharon (Ph.D., Yale University).
- **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.
- https://www.csus.edu/faculty/f/sharon.furtak/

Giguere, David (Ph.D., Florida Atlantic University).
- **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).
- **Field:** Applied Behavior Analysis.
- **Research Interests:** Acquired Brain Injury Rehabilitation, Public Speaking, Verbal Behavior, Adults with Neurocognitive Disorder/Developmental Disabilities, Stimulus Preference Assessments, Applications of ABA in Higher Education Settings.

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).
- **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).
- **Field:** Developmental Psychology.
- **Research Interests:** Adolescence, Emerging Adulthood, Extracurricular Involvement, After-school Programs, Positive Youth Development, Social Identities, Intergroup Attitudes, Cross-ethnic Peer Relationships.
- http://www.knifsendlab.com/

Meyers, Larry (Ph.D., Adelphi University).
- **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).
- **Field:** Applied Behavior Analysis.
- **Research Interests:** Applied Behavior Analysis, Verbal Behavior, Stimulus Control/Equivalence, Autism Treatment, and Applied Animal Behavior

Morrison, Alexandra (Ph.D., Temple University).
- **Field:** Cognitive Psychology.
- **Research Interests:** Attention, Working Memory, Mind Wandering, Strategy Use in Situations Requiring Attention and Working Memory, Cognitive Training

Penrod, Becky (Ph.D., University of Nevada, Reno).
- **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).
- **Field:** Cognitive Psychology.
- **Research Interests:** Eyewitness Memory and Suggestibility, False Memory, Source Monitoring, Relationship between Emotion and Memory.

Schudson, Zach (Ph.D., University of Michigan).
- **Field:** Social Psychology
- **Research Interests:** Queer and Feminist Psychology, LGBTQ+ Identities and Experiences, Prejudice, Psychological Essentialism, Self-Concepts, Beliefs about Epistemic Authority
- https://www.zachschudson.com/

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).
- **Field:** Sensation and Perception
- **Research Interests:** Pedagogy, Visual Event Perception, Affordances, & Perception/Action, Human Factors.

Young, Brittany (Ph.D., University of California, Santa Cruz).
- **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 I-O Applicants

Psychology Statistics/Methods Requirement

All General and I-O 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 (PSYC 121). If these applicants are selected, they will be required to take PSYC 102 during their first year of graduate school.

General and I-O 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 college or university)
5 Courses such as
- Perception (Sac State: PSYC 103)
- Cognitive Psychology (Sac State: PSYC 110)
- Social Psychology (Sac State: PSYC 145)
- Developmental Psychology (Sac State: PSYC 148, PSYC 149, or PSYC 150).
- Abnormal Psychology (Sac State: PSYC 168)

Application and Admission

Admission Requirements (All Applicants)

1. **Preferred <u>Cumulative</u> Undergraduate GPA of 3.0.** Applicants with GPAs between 2.5 and 2.99 will be given lower priority.

2. **General and I-O Applicants Only**
   - Undergraduate degree in Psychology preferred. General and I-O applicants without a BA or BS in Psychology must have completed the preparation outlined on pages 10-11 before applying to the program.
   - All General and I-O 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.

3. **I-O Applicants Only**
   - General and written GRE scores are required for admissions.

4. **ABA Applicants Only**
   - ABA applicants with a B.A. or B.S. in Psychology, Child Development, Speech Pathology, or Education are preferred.
   - All ABA Applicants are recommended to have prior course work 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

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 gradtranscripts@csus.edu.

3. In Quadrant IV, you will be required to upload the following information:
   - Personal Statement
   - Specific program option requirements (see below)
   - One (1) PDF copy of unofficial transcripts from ALL colleges and universities attended, INCLUDING Sacramento State.
   - 3 Letters of Recommendation
   - Catalog descriptions and syllabi for courses used to meet program prerequisites.

To check the status of a **Cal State Apply** application, contact Graduate Studies at 916-278-6470.

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 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 in February 2023. Applicants will be asked to RSVP. 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 an advisor upon admission.

Submitting Letters of Recommendation

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

We suggest that applicants waive their rights to see the letters of recommendation from their letter writers. In this way, letter writers are likely to speak freely, and faculty reviewers are likely to trust the contents of the letters. Waivers must be completed before invitations are sent to letter writers.

Application Evaluation

GPA is only one 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.**
- Applicants who pass this initial review are then forwarded to the respective discipline specific committees for further consideration. Undergraduate GPA, 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.

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

Do I need to take the GRE?
No and Yes.
No - General Psychology and ABA applicants do not need to take the GRE for the Fall 2022 admissions cycle.
Yes - I-O Psychology applicants are required to take the General and Written exams but not the Psychology subject exam.

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 CalState Apply application in Quadrant IV.

Do you accept late applications?
No - The Department of Psychology will only consider applications from students who have submitted their completed applications by the stated deadline. Letters of Recommendation must   be received by the *Department* no later than January 15th.

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 My Sac State in the Student Center. You may contact the Psychology Department to ensure your materials have been received.

I am an international student; how do I submit my application?
International applicants should apply through the International Programs and Global Education department. 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.