

Psychology

College of Arts & Sciences

The department offers the Ph.D. degree in psychology in two programs: clinical psychology and experimental psychology, the latter subdivided into cognitive studies/developmental studies, behavioral neuroscience/psychopharmacology, and social psychology. The major goal of the doctoral programs in psychology is to prepare the student for a career in research in both academic and non-academic settings and in teaching.

The area of specialization in clinical psychology provides academic courses, practica, and internships which permit students to combine their teaching and research activities with a clinical career in the mental health field. Special areas of expertise among clinical faculty include psychological assessment, child clinical psychology, health psychology, neuropsychology, personality, psychopathology and diagnosis, psychotherapy, research methodologies, and substance abuse. Clinical training is facilitated by early placement of students at a variety of sites including medical centers, a federal corrections facility, community mental health centers, state and private psychiatric hospitals, and the department's own psychological clinic. The clinical program is fully accredited by the American Psychological Association.

The concentration in behavioral neuroscience and psychopharmacology is designed to train students broadly, through integrated course work and individualized training, in the general theoretical principles and technical approaches used to investigate the biological and behavioral mechanisms of alcohol and drug abuse. Psychopharmacological approaches to understanding basic principles of learning are also emphasized. Numerous collaborative efforts exist between faculty including those in other departments and these are strongly encouraged. Students receive a concentrated laboratory experience ranging from cell culture models, animal models (birds, mice or rats) or human subjects.

The cognitive studies area provides integrated course work and individualized training designed to prepare students for a career in research and teaching. Emphasis is placed on theoretical analysis and empirical studies involving adult cognition, cognitive development, animal cognition and the application of cognitive theories to everyday cognition. Scholarship in basic theory is the primary focus of training, but students interested in applying their training to nonacademic settings (e.g., business, law) may do so.

The developmental studies area focuses on typical and atypical development in human infancy and childhood, and the major aim of graduate training is to develop strong theoretical and methodological foundations in these fields. The primary emphasis is on research, while students are also encouraged to develop expertise in teaching. Training is tailored to individual students' needs. The developmental area is associated with the Children at Risk research cluster, which involves faculty and students from many programs across campus and provides opportunities for multi-disciplinary research and training.

The area in social psychology is designed to provide intensive experience in research with members of the social psychology faculty, with the aim of developing in the student a strong theoretical and research competence with complex social phenomena. Traditions of both experimental laboratory research and naturalistic study are utilized; emphases include theoretical and applied significance of research. Each student's course of study is individually designed to fit that student's particular needs and interests. Research experience in related behavioral sciences (for example, communication, marketing, behavioral sciences) is encouraged. During the first year of the doctoral program, students in all areas gain experience in the major content areas of psychology and in psychological statistics. Thereafter, the student and the

advisor construct a program of study consistent with the academic interests and professional goals of the student. M.A. and M.S. degrees are awarded under Plan A only, as one component of doctoral training.

Admission Requirements

The minimum departmental standards for admission to graduate work in psychology include an undergraduate overall average of B or better, a satisfactory score on the verbal and quantitative portions of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and three letters of recommendation. All admissions are on a competitive basis. For additional information concerning the program in psychology and such matters as financial support, contact the Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Psychology or see <https://psychology.as.uky.edu/>.

Course Descriptions

PSY 500 HISTORY AND SYSTEMS OF PSYCHOLOGY. (3)

The course reviews the historical context, influences, and individuals instrumental in the development of psychological research, theories, and systems. Readings and discussions of original sources and contemporary research are emphasized. Prereq: Completion of one of the following: PSY 427, 430, 440, 450, 456, 460, or 552.

PSY 534 CHILD PSYCHOPATHOLOGY. (3)

The course is designed to cover issues in the classification, assessment, and treatment of the major childhood behavior disorders, including attention deficit and conduct disorders, learning disabilities, depression, and child abuse. In addition, issues relating to parent-child relations, divorce, and children's attributions will be covered. Prereq: Completion of one of the following: PSY 427, 430, 440, 450, 456, 460, or 552.

PSY 535 PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING. (3)

A general orientation to the field of psychological testing. Introduction to the principles and methods of psychological testing, and a survey of the various kinds of psychological tests. Prereq: Completion of one of the following: PSY 427, 430, 440, 450, 456, 460, or 552.

PSY 552 EVOLUTIONARY PSYCHOLOGY. (4)

The course deals with sociobiology, the evolutionary basis of behavior. It examines a range of behavior from responses that are genetically predisposed to the highly flexible conceptual behavior shown by humans, including the origins of belief systems. A required laboratory component consists of applications of techniques used to study flexible animal behavior. Students will learn to train an animal to perform several tasks including a stimulus discrimination. Prereq: Declared major in Psychology, PSY 195, PSY 215, 216, 311, or consent of instructor. This course is a Graduation Composition and Communication Requirement (GCCR) course in certain programs, and hence is not likely to be eligible for automatic transfer credit to UK.

PSY 561 ADVANCED TOPICS IN FOUNDATIONS OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY (Subtitle required). (3)

Selected topics in clinical psychology such as health psychology and introduction to clinical psychology. Course topics will vary from year to year, providing students with a diversity of material in the area of clinical psychology. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits. Prereq: Completion of one of the following: PSY 427, 430, 440, 450, 456, 460, or 552.

PSY 562 ADVANCED TOPICS IN COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY (Subtitle required). (3)

This course is designed to provide in-depth study of a specialized topic within cognitive psychology. Topics will vary from year to year and may include: theories of memory; theories of reading; cognition and emotion; connectionist modeling; engineering and environmental psychology. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits. Prereq: Completion of one of the following: PSY 427, 430, 440, 450, 456, 460, or

552.

PSY 563 ADVANCED TOPICS IN DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY (Subtitle required). (3)

This course is designed to provide in-depth study of a specialized topic in developmental psychology. Topics will vary from year to year and may include: cognitive development; development of memory and attention; development of reasoning and problem solving; and media use and children's development. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits. Prereq: Completion of one of the following: PSY 427, 430, 440, 450, 456, 460, or 552.

PSY 564 ADVANCED TOPICS IN LEARNING (Subtitle required). (3)

The course will provide in-depth study of specialized topics in the area of higher learning in animals. Topics will vary from year to year and may include concept learning, memory, imitation, language, and cooperation. The course will also examine these processes from the perspective of sociobiology. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits. Prereq: Completion of one of the following: PSY 427, 430, 440, 450, 456, 460, or 552.

PSY 565 ADVANCED TOPICS IN NEUROSCIENCE (Subtitle required). (3)

Advanced coverage of recent research within the field of behavioral neuroscience. The course will provide in-depth coverage of one topic, such as developmental psychobiology, neurobiology of learning and memory, or the biological basis of reward. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits. Prereq: Completion of one of the following: PSY 427, 430, 440, 450, 456, 460, or 552.

PSY 566 ADVANCED TOPICS IN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY (Subtitle required).(3)

Selected topics exploring aspects of social psychology. The content of the course will vary from year to year, focusing on topics such as social cognition, the self, cross-cultural psychology, personal relationships, consumer and organizational psychology, and nonverbal communication. Class format will be determined by the instructor, with some years having a small seminar structure and other years having a more traditional lecture format. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits. Prereq: Completion of one of the following: PSY 427, 430, 440, 450, 456, 460, or 552.

PSY 603 PSYCHOPATHOLOGY. (3)

An examination of the descriptive, theoretical, and research material relevant to the major classes of disturbed behavior. Special attention is devoted to the stylistic features of neurotic and psychotic communication and behavior. Prereq: Enrollment in the graduate program in clinical psychology.

PSY 610 PSYCHOMETRICS. (3)

Analysis and interpretation of human measurements. The course deals with the application of basic inferential procedures to the analysis and interpretation of psychological data. Required of all graduate students in psychology. Prereq: A course in statistics.

PSY 611 PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH. (3)

The course deals with the design of psychological experiments. Emphasis is upon issues concerning choice of appropriate designs for psychological research. Both experimental and correlational research designs are studied. Required of all graduate students in psychology. Prereq: PSY 610 or permission of instructor.

PSY 616 RESEARCH DESIGN IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY. (3)

Concentrates on current methodologies utilized in clinical research and on the application of sophisticated techniques to traditional research problems. Students are expected to master critical skills for the evaluation of research designs and are encouraged to explore creative approaches to research in important clinical areas. Prereq: Enrollment in the graduate program in clinical psychology.

PSY 620 PROSEMINAR IN HISTORY AND SYSTEMS OF PSYCHOLOGY.

A study of the philosophical precursors and scientific traditions of psychology. The schools of 19th and 20th century psychology are surveyed as are the major theoretical positions and content areas of contemporary psychology. Prereq: Graduate standing in Department of Psychology or Department of Educational and Counseling Psychology. (Same as EDP 615.)

PSY 621 PROSEMINAR IN LEARNING. (3)

An intensive treatment of concepts, methodology, and current developments in the field of learning.

PSY 622 PROSEMINAR IN PERSONALITY. (3)

An intensive treatment of theories, methods of investigation and current developments in the area of personality. Prereq: Enrollment in graduate program in Psychology or consent of instructor.

PSY 623 PROSEMINAR IN SENSATION AND PERCEPTION. (3)

An intensive examination of the facts, methods and concepts involved in the study of sensory and perceptual processes. Prereq: Consent of instructor.

PSY 624 PROSEMINAR IN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY. (3)

An intensive examination of the methods and data of social psychology with emphasis on social attitudes. Prereq: PSY 344 or 314 or equivalent.

PSY 625 PROSEMINAR IN DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY. (3)

An intensive treatment of theoretical and experimental literature, both classical and contemporary, in developmental psychology. Prereq: Admission to the graduate program in psychology or consent of instructor.

PSY 626 SURVEY OF HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY. (3)

A survey of the field of health psychology. It will explore the ways in which social and psychological research contribute to an understanding of health and illness behavior. Prereq: Graduate or professional standing and consent of instructor. (Same as BSC 626.)

PSY 627 PROSEMINAR IN PHYSIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY. (3)

An intensive examination of theories, methods of investigation, and current developments in the field of physiological psychology. Prereq: Graduate standing or permission of instructor. (Same as PGY 627.)

PSY 628 PROSEMINAR IN COGNITIVE PROCESSES. (3)

An intensive examination of theoretical and empirical evidence concerning mental processes in the adult human, including attention, memory, language, and problem-solving. Prereq: Graduate standing in psychology, or consent of instructor.

PSY 629 INTRODUCTION TO CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY. (2)

Offered conjointly by the clinical faculty; covers the broad perspectives of clinical psychology, methods, history, ethics, and professional issues. Prereq: Enrollment in the graduate program in psychology.

PSY 630 CLINICAL METHODOLOGY I. (2)

An intensive survey and evaluation of tests of intelligence and objective methods of assessment of normal and abnormal personality. Special emphasis is given to major theoretical issues and relevant quantitative methods. Prereq: Enrollment in the graduate program in Clinical Psychology.

PSY 631 PRACTICUM IN CLINICAL METHODOLOGY I. (2)

Clinical interviewing and practice in writing reports on behavioral observations, content of verbalization, and case history data. Practice in administration, scoring and interpretation of intelligence tests and objective personality tests. Laboratory, four hours. Prereq: Enrollment in graduate program in Clinical Psychology and prior or concurrent enrollment in PSY 630.

PSY 632 CLINICAL METHODOLOGY II. (2)

Theoretical issues, quantitative methods and research findings on the projective methods of assessment of normal and abnormal personality. Prereq: PSY 630, and enrollment in graduate program in psychology.

PSY 633 PRACTICUM IN CLINICAL METHODOLOGY II. (2)

Practice in the administration and scoring of projective techniques and batteries of clinical tests. Laboratory, four hours. Prereq: PSY 630 and 631, and enrollment in graduate program in clinical psychology. Prereq or concur: PSY 632.

PSY 636 SYSTEMS OF PSYCHOTHERAPY. (3)

An intensive examination of the major theoretical and research approaches to therapeutic behavior change. Prereq: PSY 632 and 633, and enrollment in graduate program in clinical psychology.

PSY 637 PRACTICUM IN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND INTERVENTION. (1-3)

Supervised experience in the techniques of psychological assessment and intervention with adults, children, families, and groups. Laboratory, two to six hours per week. May be repeated up to sixteen hours. Prereq: PSY 636 and enrollment in graduate program in clinical psychology.

PSY 638 DEVELOPMENTAL NEUROBIOLOGY. (3)

An explanation of the processes which contribute to the development of the nervous system. Neurophysiological, cell biological and molecular approaches to cell differentiation, neuronal pathfinding and synapse formation and stabilization will be explored and discussed. Examples will be drawn from both vertebrate and invertebrate preparations. Prereq: BIO 535 or consent of instructor. (Same as ANA/ BIO/ PGY 638.)

PSY 639 PRACTICUM IN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND INTERVENTION SUMMER WORK. (0)

Supervised experience in the techniques of psychological assessment and intervention with adults, children, families, couples and/or groups that occurs during the summer, i.e., outside of the academic year (Fall/Spring semesters). This course does not fulfill one of the program requirements for group supervision but it does meet legal and ethical requirements for supervision during practicum training. May be repeated. Prereq: PSY 636 and enrollment in graduate program in clinical psychology.

PSY 708 INTERNSHIP IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY. (0)

Full time practice in an APA-accredited internship setting, with on-site supervision provided by the internship setting and with academic supervision provided by the Director of Clinical Training at the University of Kentucky. May be repeated twice. Prereq: All course work in doctoral program in clinical psychology, approved dissertation proposal, and consent of Director of Clinical Training.

PSY 710 TOPICAL SEMINAR IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY. (3)

A selected topics course designed to cover content areas which are not being met by the current faculty; may be taught by persons with special qualifications from the community or by existing faculty exploring new areas. The topics, which may be offered as the need arises, may include on a semester basis mental retardation, intensive psychoanalytic theory, psychopharmacology, etc. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits. Prereq: As specified by instructor.

PSY 766 TOPICAL SEMINAR IN BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE. (3)

A study of selected topics in behavioral neuroscience with emphasis on recent research and theory. May be repeated to a maximum of nine credits. Prereq: Consent of instructor. This course may be elected to fulfill requirements in the psychology and physiology graduate programs. (Same as PGY 767.)

PSY 767 DISSERTATION RESIDENCY CREDIT. (2)

Residency credit for dissertation research after the qualifying examination. Students may register for this course in the semester of the qualifying examination. A minimum of two semesters are required as well as continuous enrollment (Fall and Spring) until the dissertation is completed and defended.

PSY 772 TOPICAL SEMINAR IN LEARNING. (3)

The study of selected topics in the learning area with emphasis on the recent experimental and theoretical literature. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits. Prereq: Consent of instructor.

PSY 776 SEMINAR IN DEPENDENCY BEHAVIOR. (3)

The course is designed to explore theories of dependency behavior by examining the concept of dependency as it can be applied to the study of various phenomena including alcohol use and abuse; dependence on other psychoactive substances; institutional dependency; dependency in work settings; and poverty and welfare. Prereq: Consent of instructor. (Same as ANT/SOC/BSC 776.)

PSY 778 TOPICAL SEMINAR IN DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY.

An advanced seminar in selected topics in human development, including cognition, learning, language, personality, socialization, life span issues, and developmental aspects of psychopathology. Prereq: PSY 625 and enrollment in graduate psychology program, or consent of instructor. May be repeated a maximum of six credits.

PSY 779 TOPICAL SEMINAR IN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY. (3)

Each semester some topic in the field of social psychology, such as attitudes and beliefs, structures and function of social groups, social determinants of behavior, leadership, and morale will be studied intensively. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits. (Same as SOC 779.)

PSY 780 PROBLEMS IN PSYCHOLOGY. (1-3)

This number is used for topical seminars taught on an experimental basis or covering special material that may not be presented again. May be repeated to a maximum of 12 hours credit.

PSY 781 RESEARCH PARTICIPATION. (1)

Emphasis on the team approach to research. Designed primarily for first year graduate students. May be repeated to a maximum of four credits. Laboratory, two to four hours. Prereq: Enrollment in the graduate program in psychology.

PSY 790 RESEARCH IN PSYCHOLOGY. (1-12)

A minimum of three hours per credit a week is required on research conducted in consultation with the instructor. May be repeated as necessary with the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies.