Psychology, MS

Are you fascinated by the human mind and human behavior? Collaborate with esteemed faculty and talented colleagues in the field of psychology to design and conduct your own research and present your findings at scientific conferences.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MS Psychology
The MS degree program in psychology, offered by the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, is available in two modalities (campus immersion or online) with different culminating experience options (thesis, applied project or capstone).

The campus immersion option is ideal for students who plan to pursue doctoral work or careers that involve psychological research methods such as marketing research, education research analysis, public policy analysis, research project management or program evaluation. The program is intensive and research-oriented, and it culminates in a thesis or applied project. Students receive training in advanced research methodology and statistical analysis, grant proposal writing, laboratory instrumentation, data collection and manuscript development. Students gain first-hand exposure to designing and conducting research, analyzing data and developing presentations and manuscripts. Students are encouraged to present research reports at professional meetings and conferences and to publish as co-authors in faculty-guided research.

The online program option gives students and working professionals an understanding of psychological theory and empirical research findings as they relate to human behavior, cognition, emotion and attitudes. The coursework is designed to help students learn about the various roles of psychologists in society today and discover which they might like to pursue through careers in education, social service, for-profit and nonprofit organizations, management or through additional graduate training. The online program culminates with a capstone course.

Both options offer elective courses in several areas, including abnormal psychology, affective science, behavior analysis, cognitive psychology, developmental psychology, health psychology, legal psychology, psychophysiology and social psychology.
At a Glance

- **College/School:** New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences
- **Location:** West or Online

Accelerated Program Options

This program allows students to obtain both a bachelor's and master's degree in as little as five years. It is offered as an accelerated bachelor's plus master's degree with:

- Psychology, BA
- Psychology, BS

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. Students typically receive approval to pursue the accelerated master's during the junior year of their bachelor's degree program. Interested students can learn about eligibility requirements and how to apply.

Degree Requirements

36 credit hours and a thesis, or
36 credit hours including the required applied project course (PSY 593), or
36 credit hours including the required capstone course (PSY 553), or
36 credit hours including the required capstone course (PSY 553) - Mandarin Pathway

**Required Core (3 credit hours)**

- PSY 502 Professional Issues in Psychology (3)

**Research and Statistics for Campus Immersion (15 or 18 credit hours)**

- PSY 500 Research Methods (3)
- PSY 515 Quantitative Analysis I (3)
- PSY 516 Quantitative Analysis II (3)
- PSY 517 Quantitative Analysis III (3)*
- PSY 592 Research (6)

*PSY 517 is only required for students completing a thesis.

**Foundation, Research and Statistics for Digital Immersion (21 credit hours)**

- PSY 500 Research Methods (3)
- PSY 513 Fundamentals of Quantitative Research (3)
- foundation courses (15)
Electives (9 or 12 credit hours)

Culminating Experience (3 or 6 credit hours)
PSY 553 Capstone in General Psychology (3)
PSY 593 Applied Project (6)
PSY 599 Thesis (6)

Additional Curriculum Information
The Master of Science in psychology is delivered in-person and online through digital immersion. The capstone course option is only for students in the online program and the Mandarin pathway. Thesis and applied project options are for in-person program students.

The thesis option is intended for students who are interested in later gaining admission to a doctoral program. This option has hands-on experience with research and in-depth learning on advanced quantitative analysis. Thesis students complete a written and oral prospectus before proceeding to their thesis research which they must defend before a committee. Thesis students complete 18 credit hours of Research and Statistics and nine credit hours of electives.

The applied project option provides students who are interested in pursuing a professional career in research with sufficient methodology and statistic skills to enhance their professional career opportunities. Applied project students also complete a written research proposal that is reviewed by their advisor and one additional committee member. Applied project students complete 15 credit hours of Research and Statistics and complete 12 credit hours of electives.

Capstone course online options (English and Mandarin) provide students who are interested in professional development the necessary communication and methodology skills to advance in their chosen career. Students in the capstone must write a literature review paper on a research topic of their choice. Capstone course students complete 21 credit hours of Foundation, Research, and Statistics Coursework. They complete nine credit hours of electives.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree, in any field, from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in applicable master's degree program. Priority is given to applicants who have achieved a 3.25 GPA or higher.

All applicants must submit:
1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. statement of purpose
4. two letters of recommendation
5. proof of English proficiency
6. GRE scores (optional)

Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of their current residency.

At the time of application, students must identify the culminating experience that they wish to pursue. Students applying to the capstone course option are only considered for the online program. Students applying to the thesis or applied project option are only considered for the in-person program.

Applicants must provide evidence of successful completion of an undergraduate, or graduate, social science statistics and research methods course. Typically, these pre-requisite courses should be in a social science field; however, applicants may apply with courses outside of a social science field.

The statement of purpose should describe the educational background, scholarly interests and academic and professional goals of the applicant.

It is preferred that the letters of recommendation are from faculty members who know the applicant’s work well; if these are not available, then recommendations should be from individuals in supervisory or professional roles. Two letters of recommendation are required. However, for the in-person program, three letters of recommendation are strongly recommended.

Applicants to either modality of the Master of Science in psychology program are not required to submit a GRE score. Applicants to the in-person program who feel that their GPA and academic record are not reflective of their current ability are strongly recommended to provide a GRE score.

Tuition Information
When it comes to paying for college, everyone’s situation is different. Students can learn about ASU tuition and financial aid options to find out which will work best for them.

Attend Online
ASU Online

ASU offers this program in an online format with multiple enrollment sessions throughout the year. Applicants may view the program’s ASU Online page for program descriptions and to request more information.
Career Opportunities

The Master of Science degree program in psychology is specialized to prepare students for admission into doctoral programs in psychology in areas that include clinical or counseling, social, cognitive and developmental specialties.

Graduates may pursue professional research careers in education, health care or marketing. Though this program is not designed to prepare students for clinical practice, graduates may pursue a clinical internship and additional coursework to prepare for licensure exams.

Career examples include:

- community health workers
- health educators
- market research analysts and marketing specialists
- medical and health services managers
- mental health counselors
- psychology teachers, postsecondary
- social and human service assistants
- social and community service managers
- social science research assistants

Contact Information

School of Social and Behavioral Sciences | FAB N100
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Admission Deadlines