MA IN PSYCHOLOGY
(GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY)

Total units required for the MA: 30

Program Description
The Master of Arts program in Psychology is designed to provide specialized education in the field of psychology. With a MA in Psychology, one can qualify for positions similar to those associated with a BA, though at a higher level of responsibility. Advisors play an active role in the planning process, and students are strongly encouraged to consult with faculty on a continual and intensive basis as soon as they begin their studies in the program. MA students can prepare for doctoral study in any area of Psychology or specialize in areas such as Applied Behavior Analysis or Industrial-Organizational Psychology. The Graduate Brochure contains the department application procedures, including GRE requirements and the departmental application form.

Although the program is based on a core set of requirements, the structure of the program allows for flexibility. While much material is covered in regular course offerings, 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. 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 or fieldwork designations is available for these purposes.

In the General Psychology option, students can create individual programs in conjunction with the faculty to prepare for employment or further study in doctoral programs in a variety of specialized fields, such as Clinical, Cognitive, Developmental, Educational, Experimental, Industrial/Organizational, Neuroscience, Quantitative, and Social Psychology.

Admission Requirements
Admission to graduate study in Psychology is selective. The Department equally weighs the candidate's overall grade point average (GPA) and scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). An overall GPA of 3.0 is recommended. When making admissions decisions, the Department takes into consideration the candidate's combined GPA and GRE score, letters of recommendation, previous (research and/or practical) experience, the candidate's interest in a particular faculty member's research agenda, and additional materials as required by each program option (ABA, General MA, and I/O).

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 upper division courses covering at least five different core academic areas of psychology (e.g., biological, clinical, cognitive, developmental, social). 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.

Please visit www.csus.edu/psyc/grad-students/graduate-program-dev.html for information on each option's additional requirements.

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

- 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

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*;
- 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 ;
- additional materials, as required by each specific option (General MA, ABA and I/O).

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

Minimum Units and Grade Requirement for the Degree
Units required for the MA: 30
Minimum Cumulative GPA: 3.0. All units must be completed with a grade of "B" or better.

Advancement to Candidacy
Each student must file an application for Advancement to Candidacy, indicating a proposed program of graduate study. This procedure should begin as soon as the classified graduate student has:

- removed any deficiencies in admission requirements;
- completed at least 12 units of 200-level courses in the graduate program with a minimum 3.0 GPA;
- selected a Thesis or Project committee;
- obtained the committee's approval of a proposal for the thesis or project (as indicated by committee members' signatures on the Department's thesis/project approval form); and
- taken the Writing Placement for Graduate Students (WPG) or taken a Graduate Writing Intensive (GWI) course in their discipline within
the first two semesters of coursework at California State University, Sacramento or secured approval for a WPG waiver.

The student will complete the Advancement to Candidacy form after planning a degree program in consultation with a Psychology advisor and members of the student's thesis/project committee. The completed form is then returned to the Office of Graduate Studies for approval.

### Program Requirements

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 200</td>
<td>Methods in Empirical Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 202</td>
<td>Survey of Contemporary Statistical Methods in Psychological Research</td>
<td>3</td>
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**Group 1 Seminars (3 Units)**

Select one of the following:

- 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

**Group 2 Seminars (3 Units)**

Select one of the following:

- PSYC 240 Seminar in Behavioral Neuroscience
- PSYC 241 Seminar in Cognitive Psychology
- PSYC 242 Seminar in Learning and Behavior

**Methods (3 Units)**

Select one of the following:

- 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 272 Research Methods in Behavior Analysis

**Additional Courses (11 Units)**

- PSYC 283 Teaching of Psychology

Select two other PSYC courses (in any combination) from Group 1 Seminars, Group 2 Seminars, or Methods

- PSYC 294 Cooperative Research
- PSYC 299 Special Problems

**Culminating Experience (4-6 Units)**

- PSYC 500A Culminating Experience
- PSYC 500B Culminating Experience

Total Units: 30-32

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