MASTER OF ARTS IN PSYCHOLOGY (208)

Program Coordinator:
Dr. Tabitha Holmes
Office: Jacobson Faculty Tower, room 210
Phone: 845-257-3955
Email: holmest@newpaltz.edu

The Psychology Graduate Program offers general graduate training in psychology leading to a 36-credit Master of Arts degree. It provides students with the opportunity to select courses in a variety of fields including social, cognitive, developmental, organizational, and experimental psychology. The degree may serve as preparation for those training for entry into a doctoral program or as additional training for those who plan to enter or are already involved in applied areas of psychology with an emphasis on research.

Admission Requirements

The Psychology Graduate Programs’ Admissions Committee makes admission decisions based on the following required criteria:

1. Baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution
2. Minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 for all undergraduate work with at least a 3.0 GPA in psychology courses, or strong evidence of recent academic achievement.
4. Satisfactory scores on the Graduate Record Examination (General test); Psychology Subject GRE scores optional.
5. Completed application for admission to the Master of Arts program in Psychology.
6. One official copy of transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work.
7. Three letters of recommendation.

International students must meet these additional requirements for admission:
http://www.newpaltz.edu/graduate/international.html.

Review of application for the fall semester begins February 15 and continues until the fall class if filled. Though most admissions are done for fall, spring admission is sometimes possible. However, applications for spring admission must be received by November 15. Application materials may be obtained from The Graduate School, HAB 804, SUNY New Paltz, 1 Hawk Drive, New Paltz, New York 12561-2443. Online applications can also be submitted via the Internet at:
http://www.newpaltz.edu/graduate/apply/html.
Application Procedures

Students may select to apply online or via paper application. Applications are due **February 15**th for the fall semester and **November 15**th for the spring semester. Late applications may be considered; however, applicants should contact the graduate coordinator before submitting their application.

To apply, submit the following items to the Graduate School in one complete packet:

1. A signed application (paper applications) or a signature page (online applications)
2. All undergraduate transcripts, including schools with transfer credits in sealed envelopes
3. One essay stating intent and objective of your graduate studies
4. Three letters of recommendation in sealed envelopes
5. Satisfactory GRE scores

If you have questions about the application process or the programs offered, may contact the Graduate School at (845) 257-3947 or gradschool@newpaltz.edu.

Curriculum Requirements / 36 credits
Master's degree candidates for the MA in Psychology must complete a minimum of 36 credits. Students must maintain an average grade of B in graduate-level courses. The department may accept up to nine credits of graduate work taken elsewhere in which a grade of B or better was obtained. Curricular requirements are as follows:

- 9 methodology credits: PSY501, PSY503, PSY507
- 9 content core credits: one developmental class (PSY528, PSY529, or PSY531); one cognitive class (PSY560 or PSY570); one social/organizational class (PSY516 or PSY556)
- 12 experimental specialization credits: PSY 558, PSY 500 (1 credit class taken three times), and one of these options: 6-credit empirical thesis OR 3-credit literature review thesis plus 3 credit empirical independent study
- 2 elective credits

All degree requirements must be completed within five years after admission to degree candidacy. Candidates must receive the recommendation for the degree from the Director of the Psychology Graduate Program, Department Chair, and Thesis Committee.

Assistantships
Teaching assistantships are available to selected students each year. Current stipends are $5,000 per year plus a six-credit tuition scholarship per semester. Assistantship duties involve assisting in faculty teaching. Inquiries should be addressed to the Director of the Psychology Graduate Program. Other financial support is available to selected students each year in positions such as: Assistant in the Office of Psychology and Counseling Graduate Programs, and Academic Advisor to undergraduate psychology students. Other offices on campus, such as Institutional Research, also
have a history of employing graduate students in the Psychology Graduate program. For further information, contact the Office for Psychology and Counseling Graduate Programs.

COURSES

PSY500 Research Practicum (1)
Forum for exploration, development, and refinement of students’ research projects. Focuses on presentations and discussions related to students’ personal research interests. Development, execution, and presentation of research emphasized. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: Matriculated (208) status.

PSY501 Analysis of Variance (3)
An examination of various ANOVA models and their applications (including SPSS usage) for between and within-subjects designs, such as one-factor and factorial ANOVA, and analysis of covariance. Assumptions, effect size, and power will be discussed. Prerequisite: Matriculated (208, 290 or 295) status.

PSY503 Correlation and Multiple Regression (3)
Introduction to analysis techniques within the multiple regression family of inferential statistics. Topics include bivariate, semi-partial and partial correlation, mediators and moderators, and regression approaches for interactions, curvilinear relationships and categorical and dichotomous data. Prerequisite: Matriculated (208, 290 or 295) status.

PSY507 Research Methods in Psychology (3)
Principles of research design in psychology, including field studies, randomized experiments, and quasi-experimental designs. Discussion of moral and ethical problems encountered in conducting animal and human research. Each student designs a research project. Prerequisite: PSY501 (PSY551 or 80551), PSY503 or 80503 and matriculated (208, 290 or 295) status.

PSY516 Organizational Psychology (3)
Examines individual behavior in work settings, primarily at the group, team, and organizational levels. We will explore issues concerning work motivation, leadership, organizational culture, group conflict, and job-related attitudes. Prerequisite: Matriculated (208, 290 or 295) status.

PSY 527 Human Growth and Development (3)
Examines theory and research related to the social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development of individuals. Consideration is given to diverse pathways to and through adulthood, normative transitions, and ecological and contextual models of development. Prerequisite: Matriculated (208, 285, 290 or 295) status.
PSY528  Infancy and Early Childhood (3)
Current issues in psychological development, with a focus on contemporary research and theoretical perspectives in socio-emotional and cognitive development in infancy and early childhood. Central issues include controversies about the roles of nature and nurture, and the extent to which the early years are formative. Prerequisite: Matriculated (208, 285, 290 or 295) status.

PSY529 Adulthood (3)
Examines theory and research related to the social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development of adults. Although consideration is given to diverse pathways to and through adulthood, normative transitions and issues are emphasized, along with ecological and contextual models of development. Prerequisite: Matriculated (208, 285, 290 or 295) status.

PSY531 Middle Childhood & Adolescence (3)
Explores theory and research related to the study of middle childhood and adolescence. Biological, social, emotional, and cognitive aspects of development are examined with an emphasis on the contextual factors that inform developmental outcomes. Prerequisite: Matriculated (208, 285, 290 or 295) status.

PSY556 Contemporary Issues in Social Psychology (3)
Issues, concepts, theories, and research in major areas of social psychology are examined. Prerequisite: Matriculated (208, 285, 290 or 295) status.

PSY558  Seminar in Contemporary Research (3)
Investigation of one or more areas of general experimental psychology: Cognition, developmental, learning, motivation, perception, and/or physiological. Prerequisite: Matriculated (208, 290 or 295) status.

PSY560 Cognitive Processes (3)
Classical and contemporary theories in the areas of cognitive psychology and cognitive science are examined. Empirical evidence is reviewed. Topics include (but are not limited to) attention, encoding, memory, imagery, psycholinguistics, reasoning, problem solving, artificial intelligence, emotion, and cognitive disorders. Prerequisite: Matriculated (208, 290 or 295) status.

PSY570 Cognitive Neuroscience (3)
Main concepts and methods of investigation in cognition and neuroscience. Topics include (but are not limited to) perception, attention, memory, emotion, language, neural plasticity, consciousness, and brain-mind problem. Prerequisite: PSY311 or 80311 and matriculated (208, 290 or 295) status.

PSY590 Thesis (3 or 6)
Students carry out a research project under the supervision of a faculty advisor and two readers. Students can opt to complete a literature review (3 credits) or an empirical project (up to 6 credits).
All empirical projects must conform to IRB guidelines for scientific integrity and ethical treatment of participants. The required form is available from Records and Registration. Prerequisite: Matriculated (208, 290 or 295) status.

**PSY591 Fieldwork in Psychology 1 (3)**
An approved fieldwork experience in psychology to enable students to enrich their academic program with applied work in their field of study. Prerequisite: Matriculated (208, 290 or 295) status.

**PSY592 Fieldwork in Psychology 2 (3)**
An approved fieldwork experience in psychology to enable students to enrich their academic program with applied work in their field of study. Prerequisite: Matriculated (208, 290 or 295) status.

**PSY595 Independent Study (3)**
Prerequisite: Matriculated (208, 290 or 295) status.

**PSY795 Independent Study (3)**
Prerequisite: Matriculated (208, 290 or 295) status.

**PSY599 Continued Registration (1)**
Prerequisite: Matriculated (208, 290 or 295) status.