

# MASTER OF ARTS (M.A.) MAJOR IN PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH (NON-THESIS OPTION)

## Major Program

The Master of Arts (M.A.) with a major in Psychological Research is designed to foster competence in the methodological foundations and conduct of psychological research across a wide variety of settings. Students will gain expertise regarding the impact of biological, social, emotional, cognitive, and behavioral factors on psychological phenomena. Focus is placed on learning interpersonal/research skills and statistical competencies relevant to the responsible and ethical conduct of both basic and applied psychological research.

## Application Requirements

The items listed below are required for admission consideration for applicable semesters of entry during the current academic year. Submission instructions, additional details, and changes to admission requirements for semesters other than the current academic year can be found on The Graduate College's website (<http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu>). International students should review the International Admission Documents webpage (<http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/graduate/admission-documents/international>) for additional requirements.

- completed online ApplyTexas application
- \$40 nonrefundable application fee
- \$50 nonrefundable international evaluation fee (if applicable)
- baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited university
- official transcripts required from **each institution** where course credit was granted
- minimum 3.0 GPA in your last 60 hours of undergraduate course work (plus any completed graduate courses)
- minimum 3.0 GPA in the following prerequisite courses:
  - Introduction to Psychology
  - Quantitative and Statistical Methods
  - Experimental and Research Methods
- official GRE scores required with a preferred competitive minimum
  - The GRE may be waived if you hold a master's or doctoral degree from a regionally accredited U.S. institution. If you hold a master's or doctoral degree (or the equivalent thereof) from an accredited international institution, the GRE may be waived on an individual basis.
- research interest statement listing three faculty members in the Texas State Psychology Department whose research interests most closely match the student's
- resume/CV including prior experience in research or clinical areas, awards, and scholarships
- statement of purpose (approximately 1–2 pages) conveying research interests, plans for graduate study, professional aspirations, and career goals. Students should indicate how their scholarly interests fit with those of specific faculty members in the Department of

- Psychology, as well as any relevant experience, special abilities, or skills (e.g., computer programming, fluency in another language).
- three letters of recommendation from non-related individuals familiar with the student's scholarly work and/or relevant experience

### TOEFL or IELTS Scores

Non-native English speakers who do not qualify for an English proficiency waiver:

- official TOEFL iBT scores required with a 78 overall
- official IELTS (academic) scores required with a 6.5 overall and
  - minimum individual module scores of 6.0

This program does **not** offer admission if the scores above are not met.

## Degree Requirements

The Master of Arts (M.A.) degree with a major in Psychological Research requires 38 semester credit hours.

## Course Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Required Courses</b>		
PSY 5198	Research Seminar (Taken twice)	2
PSY 5311	Univariate and Bivariate Statistics	3
PSY 5321	Multivariate Statistics	3
PSY 5324	Biological Bases of Behavior	3
PSY 5391	Research Methods & Experimental Design	3
PSY 5366	Individual Study (Taken twice)	6
<b>Electives</b>		
Choose 18 hours from the following:		18
PSY 5306	Psychological Development: Theories & Research	
PSY 5310	Advanced Abnormal Psychology	
PSY 5314	Attitudes: Assessment and Change	
PSY 5317	Group Processes and Interpersonal Dynamics	
PSY 5318	Assessment in Psychology	
PSY 5320	Principles of Measurement and Statistics	
PSY 5334	Health Issues in Diverse Population	
PSY 5335	Foundations of Health Psychology	
PSY 5342	Professional Ethics and Standards of Practice	
PSY 5343	Occupational Health	
PSY 5345	Psychopharmacology	
PSY 5348	Health Psychology: Prevention and Intervention	
PSY 5352	Psychological Therapies	
PSY 5360G	Forensic Psychology	
PSY 5370	Learning, Cognition, and Motivation	
PSY 5392	Program Evaluation	
PSY 5395	Practicum I	
PSY 5396	Practicum II	
PSY 5398	Internship in Psychology	
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>38</b>

## Comprehensive Examination Requirements

All candidates for graduate degrees must pass one or more comprehensive examinations.

Master's level courses in Psychology: PSY

## Courses Offered Psychology (PSY)

### PSY 5105. Practicum in Teaching Psychology.

This course will examine processes and strategies designed to improve the teaching and learning process. Students will be introduced to learning and instructional theory and selected concepts, issues, and strategies of instructional planning, delivery, management, and evaluation. This course does not earn graduate degree credit. Repeatable with different emphasis. Prerequisite: Approval of Graduate Advisor.

**1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Contact Hour. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Course Attribute(s):** Graduate Assistantship|Exclude from Graduate GPA  
**Grade Mode:** Leveling/Assistantships

### PSY 5198. Research Seminar.

Taken in two consecutive semesters, this seminar provides an orientation to the graduate program and the steps required for thesis completion.

Topics include the discussion of research interests, critiquing literature, and topic selection; developing and submitting a research proposal; selecting a thesis committee; and thesis completion and submission.

Restricted to M.A. students in Psychological Research.

**1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Contact Hour. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

### PSY 5199B. Thesis.

This course represents a student's continuous thesis enrollment. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding. Prerequisite: PSY 5399A with a grade of PR or better, and Instructor Approval.

**1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Contact Hour. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Credit/No Credit

### PSY 5299B. Thesis.

This course represents a student's continuous thesis enrollment. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding. Prerequisite: PSY 5399A with a grade of PR or better, and Instructor Approval.

**2 Credit Hours. 2 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Credit/No Credit

### PSY 5306. Psychological Development: Theories & Research.

This course is an advanced coverage of biological, social, and cognitive development throughout the lifespan. Topics include cognitive developmental theory, sensory/perceptual development, language development, infant attachment, the development of gender roles, moral development, and issues related to aging. Prerequisite: PSY 3300 with a grade of "C" or better, or equivalent.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

### PSY 5310. Advanced Abnormal Psychology.

Critical analysis of the definition and classification of abnormal behavior and experiences and an in-depth study of theories and research on causes, remediation, and prevention. Prerequisite: PSY 3315 with a grade of "C" or better.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

### PSY 5311. Univariate and Bivariate Statistics.

This course introduces students to univariate and bivariate statistical concepts and techniques used in psychology research (e.g., probability, sampling distributions, t-tests, and analysis of variance, correlation). Emphasis is placed on developing skills in data analysis including the selection of appropriate techniques, using data analysis software, and interpretation of statistical results. Prerequisite: PSY 2301 with a grade of "C" or better.

**3 Credit Hours. 2 Lecture Contact Hours. 1 Lab Contact Hour.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

### PSY 5314. Attitudes: Assessment and Change.

This course reviews social cognitive theories and research on attitudes and behavior change, and examines the principles of persuasive communication. Topics covered include individual differences in information processing, risk assessment, decision making and factors moderating attitude-behavior consistency.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

### PSY 5317. Group Processes and Interpersonal Dynamics.

Designed to train future professionals in both the cognitive and personal issues related to group behavior.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

### PSY 5318. Assessment in Psychology.

The course will provide an overview of assessment instruments commonly used by psychologists and neuropsychologists in research and practice. Basic psychometrics such as validity and reliability also will be covered.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

### PSY 5320. Principles of Measurement and Statistics.

The course emphasizes classical measurement theory, including reliability and validity of measurement instruments commonly used in psychology, and reviews descriptive statistics with a focus on correlation and regression. Prerequisite: Course in undergraduate statistics.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

### PSY 5321. Multivariate Statistics.

This course introduces students to multivariate statistical techniques commonly used in psychological research such as analysis of variance and covariance, multiple regression, and factor analysis. Emphasis is placed on developing applied skills in data analysis: selection of appropriate statistical techniques, using data analysis software, and interpretation of statistical results. Prerequisite: PSY 5311 with a grade of "C" or better.

**3 Credit Hours. 2 Lecture Contact Hours. 1 Lab Contact Hour.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PSY 5324. Biological Bases of Behavior.**

This course provides an overview of the nervous system structure and function appropriate to the overall field of Psychology in order to foster an appreciation of the biological determinants of behavior.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PSY 5326. Neuropsychological Assessment.**

This course will introduce principles of neuropsychological assessment including assessment procedures, interpretation of results, neuropathology, and the range of neuropsychological functions to be assessed. This course will also cover the characteristics and administration of several neuropsychological assessment instruments.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PSY 5334. Health Issues in Diverse Population.**

This course examines the influence of socio-cultural beliefs and perceptions on health behaviors and the use of health services. The various ways in which race, ethnicity, gender and social class are related to the delivery of health care and opportunities to facilitate health care to the most vulnerable are explored.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PSY 5335. Foundations of Health Psychology.**

This course will utilize a biopsychosocial approach to understand the psychology of wellness and disease. Topics include stress, coping, pain, social support, and chronic illness. Special emphasis will focus on physiological responses, psychoneuroimmunology, and somatization.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PSY 5342. Professional Ethics and Standards of Practice.**

This course will focus on the study of APA ethical principles and standards of practice with emphasis on their applicability to research. Ethical decision-making and research, landmark studies, legal cases, and controversies in the field will be covered.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PSY 5343. Occupational Health.**

This course focuses on promoting and maintaining the physical, mental, and social well-being of workers by promoting positive health behaviors, controlling risk factors, and facilitating the adaptation of work to people and people to their jobs.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PSY 5345. Psychopharmacology.**

This course explores: (1) the reasons that humans and animals consume mind altering substances called psychoactive drugs, (2) the neuronal, chemical, and hormonal mechanisms underlying drug action, and (3) the environmental factors that modulate the impact of psychoactive drugs on emotional, cognitive, perceptual and behavioral expression in humans and animals.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PSY 5348. Health Psychology: Prevention and Intervention.**

This course will focus on primary, secondary and tertiary prevention and intervention strategies to enhance health and wellness. Topics will include health-promoting behaviors, risky health behaviors, theories of health behavior change, the process of medical care, and treatment adherence. Special emphasis will be on planning, implementation, and assessment of interventions. Prerequisites: PSY 5335 with a grade of "B" or better.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PSY 5352. Psychological Therapies.**

This survey course on evidence-based psychological interventions focuses on the active mechanisms by which therapies work and their application to specific diagnostic categories and conditions. Interpersonal, behavioral, cognitive-behavioral, and dialectical behavior therapies will be highlighted along with newer empirically-based therapies such as Acceptance and Commitment Therapy and mindfulness approaches.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PSY 5360G. Forensic Psychology.**

Examination of the relationships between psychology and the Criminal Justice system. Emphasis is placed on how psychology variables influence how individuals carry out their duties within the system. Sample topics include: (a) psychology and jury decision-making, (b) accuracy/impact of eyewitnesses testimony, and (c) how characteristics of defendants influence juries.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Course Attribute(s):** Topics

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PSY 5360H. Psychology of Women.**

The course includes an in-depth examination of the development of women's roles and gender differences as well as a consideration of women's relationships, sexuality, employment, and diversity. Special topics such as women and violence will also be covered.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Course Attribute(s):** Topics

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PSY 5360N. Advanced Statistical Methodology.**

An overview of commonly used statistical methods in scientific research, with a core focus on generalized linear mixed models for individual studies and meta-analysis for study aggregation. Analyses will be implemented primarily in the R statistical programming environment.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Course Attribute(s):** Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PSY 5360O. Applied Biostatistics in Health Research.**

This course will examine methodological approaches and applied biostatistics in health research. Emphasis on non-parametric univariate and multivariate statistical tests. Prerequisite: PSY 5311 or Instructor Approval.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Course Attribute(s):** Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PSY 5362. Cognitive Neuroscience.**

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to cognitive neuroscience: the study of the biological basis of cognitive processes such as perception, attention, memory, language, and decision-making. This is a seminar course that will cover theoretical constructs, methods, and current research findings in cognitive neuroscience. Prerequisite: PSY 3322 with a grade of "B" or better.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PSY 5366. Individual Study.**

Students design and execute original research or engage in extensive fieldwork in the field of psychology under the supervision of a faculty member. May be repeated once for credit. Prerequisite: PSY 5391 and permission of the instructor.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PSY 5367. Research Seminar in Social Psychology.**

The course provides an in-depth examination of selected topics in social psychology. The focus of student commitment and responsibility is learning about social psychology and actively producing psychological knowledge. The course covers the research process and concludes with each student developing a research proposal.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PSY 5370. Learning, Cognition, and Motivation.**

Basic problems in the acquisition of responses, treating with such constructs as reinforcement, extinction, retention, forgetting, problem solving, motivation, and punishment. Major theories are treated through attention to classical experiments, but greatest emphasis is given to contemporary research. See Educational Psychology 5370.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PSY 5373. Human Memory and Memory Disorders.**

This course provides a comprehensive overview of topics in human memory including different types of memory and the brain structures involved. Special emphasis will be given to problems with memory including aging memory, amnesia, and Alzheimer's disease. This course will cover current theories of memory with discussions of cutting-edge research.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PSY 5374. The Psychology of Language.**

This course provides a grounding in the cognitive theories/models of the major areas of language research: acquisition, comprehension, and production. It also provides an overview of the cognitive processes involved in several specific topic areas in language, such as syntax, semantics, discourse, prosody, bilingualism, neuro-linguistics, sign language, and reading.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PSY 5381. Introduction to Psychophysiology.**

This course will provide an overview of the principles, theory, and applications of using physiological measures to study mental processes. This course will illustrate how the use of psychophysiological measurements can enhance our understanding of brain/mind/behavior relationships.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PSY 5391. Research Methods & Experimental Design.**

Problems in psychology, emphasis on research procedures. A research project is required of each student. Restricted to M.A. students in Psychological Research.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 3 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PSY 5392. Program Evaluation.**

Introduces the theory and techniques of program evaluation. Addresses all phases of program evaluations, including: conceptualization, planning, implementation, methodological and ethical issues, and analyzing and reporting results. Emphasis is placed on experimental and quasi-experimental methods commonly used in the evaluation of health programs. Prerequisite: PSY 5320 or consent of instructor.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PSY 5395. Practicum I.**

Structured practical experience in health psychology at private or public setting. Supervision will be provided by a member of the graduate faculty and by a key individual at the site. Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Credit/No Credit

**PSY 5396. Practicum II.**

Structured practical experience in health psychology at private or public setting. Supervision will be provided both by a member of the graduate faculty and by a key individual at the site. Prerequisite: PSY 5395.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Credit/No Credit

**PSY 5398. Internship in Psychology.**

Students engage in extensive field work in a professional setting related to psychology. Prerequisites: PSY 5311 and PSY 5321 and PSY 5391, all with a grade of "C" or better.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PSY 5399A. Thesis.**

This course represents a student's initial thesis enrollment. No thesis credit is awarded until the student has completed the thesis in PSY 5399B. Prerequisite: PSY 5321 with a grade of "C" or better, and Instructor Approval.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Credit/No Credit

**PSY 5399B. Thesis.**

This course represents a student's continuous thesis enrollment. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding. Prerequisite: PSY 5399A with a grade of PR or better, and Instructor Approval.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Credit/No Credit

**PSY 5599B. Thesis.**

This course represents a student's continuous thesis enrollment. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding. Prerequisite: PSY 5399A with a grade of PR or better, and Instructor Approval.

**5 Credit Hours. 5 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Credit/No Credit

**PSY 5999B. Thesis.**

This course represents a student's continuous thesis enrollment. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding. Prerequisite: PSY 5399A with a grade of PR or better, and Instructor Approval.

**9 Credit Hours. 9 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Credit/No Credit