Psychology, MS

Are you fascinated by what people do and why they do it? Collaborate with esteemed faculty and talented colleagues to design and conduct your own research and present your findings at scientific conferences.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MS Psychology
The MS program in psychology offered by the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences has two main options.

One 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.

Elective courses in all options are offered 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 campus 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 and master's degree with:

- Psychology, BA
- Psychology, BS

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. During their junior year, eligible students are advised by their academic departments 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 (6 credit hours)**
PSY 502 Professional Issues in Psychology (3)
PSY 513 Fundamentals of Quantitative Research (3) or PSY 515 Quantitative Analysis I (3)

**Foundation (0 or 15 credit hours)**

**Research (3 or 9 credit hours)**

**Electives (9 or 12 credit hours)**

**Other Requirement (0-6 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 MS 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 take PSY 516 Quantitative Analysis II and PSY 517 Quantitative Analysis III for six credit hours as an other requirement.

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. As an other requirement, applied project students take PSY 516 Quantitative Analysis II for three credit hours.

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. Foundation coursework is required for the capstone course option only. Students should see the academic unit for a preapproved list of courses.

All students take core course PSY 502. Students take either PSY 513 or PSY 515 as their secondary core course based on the option selected. Thesis and applied project students take PSY 515, capstone course online students take PSY 513 or PSY 515.

For research, all students take PSY 500 for three credit hours. Students who are in the thesis or applied project options also take PSY 592 for six credit hours.

Students are able to specialize or go more in-depth in one or two focus areas with their elective coursework.

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. GRE scores (combined minimum verbal and quantitative score of 300)
5. three letters of recommendation
6. proof of English proficiency

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

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. Three letters of recommendation are required for applications to the in-person option and two letters of recommendation are required for applicants to the online option.

Applicants for the applied project or thesis program option (offered face to face) are required to submit a GRE score. Priority is given to applicants who have achieved a 305 or higher on the GRE.

Students applying to the capstone course option offered in the online delivery of the program are encouraged to submit GRE scores; it is a recommendation, not a requirement.

Attend Online
ASU offers this program in an online format with multiple enrollment sessions throughout the year. Applicants may view the program description and request more information here.

Application Deadlines
Fall
Spring
Summer

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
ncgradadvising@asu.edu | 602-543-3000
Admission Deadlines