Psychology, PhD

The Department of Psychology's doctoral program offers collaborative and interdisciplinary training in innovative, mentored research across six major areas of study. Training is tailored to the unique needs of the student, including the distinctive opportunity to develop expertise in quantitative methods from one of the nation's top-ranked programs.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: PHD Psychology

The Department of Psychology offers PhD programs designed to provide outstanding training in innovative research, methodology and the application of psychological principles to a wide variety of human conditions. The department is organized into six major areas of interest:

- behavioral neuroscience
- clinical psychology
- cognitive science
- developmental psychology
- quantitative (must apply to the Quantitative Research Methods PhD)
- social psychology

Students pursue their graduate studies within one of these six areas, and each area determines the basic curriculum for their graduate program. There is, however, substantial opportunity to integrate courses of study across areas in the department.

Further specialized emphases are available that integrate across programs in the university (e.g., integrating psychology and law).

At the core of doctoral training in psychology is an emphasis on the development of skill in research and quantitative methods. Faculty in all six areas are actively engaged in major research programs. These theoretically grounded research programs address the breadth of psychological processes:

- cognitive processes (e.g., attention, language, memory) as they occur within the context of perception and action, personality and issues of stigma and prejudice
- cultural influences on psychological processes
• evolution and behavior
• individual resilience
• lifespan developmental aspects of emotion and cognition
• neurobiological and psychosocial processes that underlie behavior and health (e.g., drug abuse, stress, heart disease)
• prevention of child mental health problems

A unique strength of the Department of Psychology is the wealth of outstanding faculty members whose specialization is quantitative methods. A breadth of courses and experiences in quantitative methods are available that are well-integrated into the areas of research that characterize the department and offer students the distinctive opportunity to develop expertise in this critical domain.

At a Glance

• College/School: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
• Location: Tempe campus

Concurrent Degrees

This degree is also offered as concurrent degree program with:

Juris Doctor, JD

Degree Requirements

84 credit hours, a written comprehensive exam, an oral comprehensive exam, a prospectus and a dissertation

In addition to required coursework (according to training area), students take courses related to their area of interest as determined in consultation with their supervisory committees. All doctoral students complete 12 dissertation credit hours. Requirements vary across training areas.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.
Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in psychology or a related field from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of a student's first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

The Department of Psychology application process is completed online through ASU's Graduate Admission Services which includes the application form and official transcripts. Application to Department of Psychology doctoral programs is also completed via SlideRoom, to process supplemental application materials. The SlideRoom account requires an additional fee. To apply to the doctoral programs, applicants must follow the instructions on the Doctoral Program Admissions Instructions and Checklist.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. SlideRoom application and fee
4. statement of purpose form
5. applicant response form
6. graduate assistantship application
7. curriculum vitae or resume
8. GRE scores
9. three letters of recommendation
10. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information

An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency.

It is strongly recommended that applicants download and print the Doctoral Program Admissions Instructions and Checklist to ensure completion of the application process and include all of the required supplemental forms:

Applicants must submit three academic letters of recommendation from faculty members who know the student well. Three letters are required but four letters of recommendation may be submitted.

Contact Information

Department of Psychology | PSY 203
psychgrad@asu.edu | 480-965-7598
Admission Deadlines