2018

Master of Science in Experimental Psychology
2018

Nova Southeastern University

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The Master of Science in Experimental Psychology degree program provides students with a strong academic foundation in the theories and concepts of experimental psychology. Through focused coursework and the experience of mentored independent research, students are equipped with comprehensive skills in scientific inquiry and research methodology. These skills may prepare students for admission into a doctoral program in psychology or for career opportunities that include teaching and research in industrial, government, private consulting, health care, and community settings.

Learning Outcomes

The successful M.S. in Experimental Psychology graduate is expected to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of major concepts, theories, and supportive research in the four non-clinical foundational areas of experimental psychology (biological, cognitive, developmental, and social psychology) and in experimental design and analysis;
2. Apply research skills in at least one area of experimental psychology by carrying out an independent piece of research in at least one area of experimental psychology with collaboration from a faculty mentor;
3. Demonstrate the ability to write experimental reports using APA format and language of the discipline.

Curriculum Requirements

Major Requirements (33 credits)

Core Courses (12 credits)

**PSYC 5100 - Behavioral Neuroscience (3 credits)**

This course emphasizes the principles of behavioral neuroscience, stressing the methods and rationales used to acquire information and reach conclusions about brain mechanisms underlying behavior. Students will survey topics related to the biology of psychology including: the basic anatomy of the nervous system, the normal physiological functions of the nervous systems, cellular electrophysiology, behavioral disorders, and brain diseases. The course also reviews current research on the role of biological basis of behavior. The relative contribution of heredity and environment will also be examined.

**PSYC 5200 - Cognitive Psychology (3 credits)**

This seminar reviews historical and current research in cognition. Topics include literature from cognitive psychology, cognitive neuroscience, cognitive development, and social cognition. Students in this course are expected to take an active role in class and express their ideas and opinions in class.

**PSYC 5300 - Developmental Psychology (3 credits)**

This course is designed to provide graduate students with a broad overview of current theories and research in developmental psychology. The focus of this seminar is the examination of development during infancy and childhood, including biological, cognitive, social, emotional, and cultural aspects. In particular, we will focus on theories, research, and applications for everyday interactions and contexts to garner an appreciation and understanding of normative and non-normative patterns of development. The principal goal of this course is to help students develop foundational knowledge
about child development, and also to develop analytical skills for evaluating and conducting developmental research.

**PSYC 5400 - Social Psychology (3 credits)**

This course is designed to provide graduate students with a broad overview of current theories and research in social psychology. This course will review, in detail, the scientific study of how people’s thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by the real or imagined presence of other people. Topics such as self-perception, judgment and decision-making, rationalization, attitude change, conformity, social influence, obedience, attraction, love, aggression, violence, altruism, deception, nonverbal communication, and prejudice will be covered.

### Required Methodology Courses (9 credits)

**PSYC 5900 - Psychological Quantitative Methods I (3 credits)**

This course will focus on the theory and application of the most commonly used parametric statistical methods in Psychology. Specifically, this course will explore the relationship between advanced statistical methods and psychological research methods by providing students with an advanced understanding of the univariate methods commonly used for the analysis of behavioral data.

**PSYC 5910 - Psychological Quantitative Methods II (3 credits)**

Study of multiple-response, multi-factor regression analysis, multivariate analysis of variance, alternative models in factor analysis, moderator/mediator effects, dyadic data analysis, and statistical classification methods. **Prerequisite:** PSYC 5900.

**PSYC 5920 - Research Methods in Experimental Psychology (3 credits)**

This course covers the methodological tools used in psychological research studies, with specific emphasis on observational, correlational, experimental, and quasi-experimental designs. Students will develop testable hypotheses, design a quantitative experimental research study, and use APA-format to write a report similar to those found in professional psychological journals.

### Thesis (6 credits)

**PSYC 6000 - Master's Thesis (3 credits, repeatable)**

In this course, the student will conduct and report an extensive independent research project under supervision of a faculty advisor. As part of the master's thesis the student will develop scientific questions and hypotheses, study design, data collection, data analysis, interpretation of the results. The students will also write a report and successfully defend the study to the master’s thesis committee in an oral colloquium. This course is repeatable up to 12 credits. **Prerequisite:** Permission of department chair.

**Application Deadlines**

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<td>Main Campus</td>
<td>August (Fall)</td>
<td>June 1</td>
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*International Student Applicant Information*
Applicants whose native language is not English are required to demonstrate English proficiency. Please visit the Office of International Affairs website for a list of English proficiency test that satisfies the Universities requirements.

Students who have obtained a degree from a foreign country should view the list of approved agencies to have their official transcripts reviewed for university credit. Please visit the Office of International Affairs website for a list of National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES). International Students are encouraged to contact the Office of International Affairs at (954) 262-7240 or 1800-541-6682, ext. 27240 or by email at intl@nova.edu.