



Graduate Academic Learning Compact

General Psychology

Program Mission Statement

The mission of the Masters of Science in Psychological Science program is to maintain the highest standards of graduate education in the field of general psychology by: (a) maintaining excellence in teaching, (b) offering innovative academic opportunities both within the classroom and in the community, (c) instilling the ethical standards of the profession, and (d) offering research, applied, and other professional opportunities to students through a dedicated faculty and community support. Moreover, our goal is to instill in our students the knowledge, values, and skills that are required of an educated and responsible citizen in our global and multicultural society. The highest personal, professional, and academic accountability is expected of both the faculty and students in the MAGP program.

Student Learning Outcomes

Graduates will be able to:

Knowledge of Literature of Discipline (req)

- Demonstrate advanced knowledge of foundational and emerging concepts, theoretical perspectives, applications, and empirical bodies of knowledge in core areas of psychology.
- Demonstrate mastery of the literature in a topic of interest by identifying and synthesizing relevant empirical and theoretical literature, drawing sound inferences that lead clearly to research questions and hypotheses

Independent Research/ Professional Practice (req)

- Demonstrate competency skills in using the methodologies of psychology by conducting a research project that constitutes a justifiable contribution to the discipline of psychology.
- Demonstrate professional skills by presenting and disseminating research in the following ways: 1) Engaging in Departmental activities (e.g. participation in faculty searches, attendance at colloquium and thesis defenses); 2) Presenting to peers; 3) Presenting at professional conferences; and 4) Journal publication (preparing and/or submitting to a peer-reviewed journal)
- Demonstrate knowledge of ethical principles pertaining to behavioral and social sciences and apply these principles to scientific inquiry through research design.

Professional Skills (opt)

- Identify and explain quantitative techniques and research designs, and appropriately apply these designs and analyses to original research.

Communication (opt)

- Demonstrate proficiency in the written and oral presentation of scientific content in psychology, including the appropriate use of APA style.

Other (opt)

- Possess the knowledge and skills required for either further academic advancement or employment at the masters level in a psychology-related field.

Assessment Approaches

Advanced understanding of foundational and emerging knowledge in core areas of psychology are assessed through analyses of assignments in courses selected on a rotating basis. All students complete a capstone research thesis that constitutes a justifiable contribution to the discipline of psychology. Ethical knowledge and application is demonstrated through CITI certification and the development of an approved Institutional Review Board research proposal. Thesis proposal and defense evaluations by a thesis committee are used to assess mastery of the literature and oral, written, quantitative technique, and research design competencies.