Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Degree in the field of Psychology and a Major Concentration in Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience

Program Learning Outcomes for the PhD Degree in the field of Psychology and a Major Concentration in Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience

Upon completing the PhD degree in the field of Psychology and a major concentration in Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience, students will be able to:

1. Apply theoretical and methodological tools necessary to carry out independent research in cognitive or affective neuroscience.
2. Write an independent and original thesis that is of sufficient quality to merit publication in a top cognitive psychology, cognitive neuroscience, health neuroscience, or affective neuroscience journal.
3. Conduct a focused review of the literature and develop a research design to carry out independent research.
4. Defend their research design and data analysis choices by presenting their paper in a seminar environment.
5. Communicate their research effectively by writing clearly, concisely, and cogently.
6. Read critically and assess research manuscripts related to their field of study and in other fields.

Requirements for the MA and PhD Degrees in the field of Psychology

MA Degree Program

The MA degree is a thesis master's degree. For general university requirements, please see Thesis Master's Degrees (https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-thesis-masters-degrees/). For additional requirements, regulations, and procedures for all graduate programs, please see All Graduate Students (https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/). Although students are not normally admitted to study for an MA in Psychology, graduate students may earn the MA degree after obtaining approval of their candidacy for the PhD. For general university requirements for PhD degrees, please see Doctoral Degrees (https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-doctoral-degrees/). For both MA and PhD degrees, students must complete a research thesis, including a public oral defense. Required coursework is determined by the student's major concentration. Students must complete an admission-to-candidacy procedure to establish their expertise in their chosen major concentration. Competence in a foreign language is not required.

PhD Degree Program

For general university requirements, please see Doctoral Degrees (https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-doctoral-degrees/). For additional requirements, regulations, and procedures for all graduate programs, please see All Graduate Students (https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/). In addition, students pursuing the PhD degree in the field of Psychology must:

• Complete all coursework with a minimum grade of B- (2.67 grade points) in each required course.
• Complete all of the course requirements in their major concentration.
• Successfully complete and present the first-year project in May of the first year.
• Successfully complete and present the second-year project in May of the second year.
• Write and defend a thesis. The thesis committee must be in the area of Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience and be overseen by a Psychology faculty member affiliated with the Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience Major Concentration.

Students who have not previously completed a master's degree in Psychology or a related field, must successfully defend a master's thesis and earn the MA degree in Psychology. Students who come to Rice with a master's degree in a related field can be exempted from this requirement.

Degree Requirements for the PhD Degree in the field of Psychology and a Major Concentration in Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<td>Total Credit Hours Required for the PhD Degree in the field of Psychology</td>
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Core Requirements

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<tr>
<td>PSYC 502 /</td>
<td>ADVANCED PSYCHOLOGICAL STATISTICS I</td>
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<td>STAT 509</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 503 /</td>
<td>ADVANCED PSYCHOLOGICAL STATISTICS II</td>
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<td>STAT 510</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>PSYC 520</td>
<td>FOUNDATIONS OF COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY</td>
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<td>PSYC 587</td>
<td>FUNCTIONAL HUMAN NEUROANATOMY</td>
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<td>PSYC 660</td>
<td>PROFESSIONAL ISSUES</td>
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Custom Core Courses
Select 1 course from the following: 1
PSYC 529 COGNITIVE RESEARCH SEMINAR
PSYC 532 HEALTH RESEARCH SEMINAR

Neuroscience Core Courses
Select 2 courses from the following: 6
PSYC 575 / NEUR 501 ADVANCED COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE: ATTENTION AND PERCEPTION
PSYC 576 / NEUR 502 ADVANCED COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE: HIGHER MENTAL FUNCTIONS
PSYC 586 SOCIAL AND AFFECTIVE NEUROSCIENCE

Cognitive Core Courses
Select 2 courses from the following: 6
PSYC 524 MEMORY
PSYC 525 PSYCHOLINGUISTICS
PSYC 527 REASONING, DECISION MAKING, PROBLEM SOLVING
PSYC 581 VISION SCIENCE

Affective/Health Core Courses
PSYC 546 PSYCHONEUROIMMUNOLOGY 3
PSYC 547 FOUNDATIONS OF HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY 3
PSYC 550 FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY 3

Elective Requirements
Select 2 courses from the following: 2 6
BIOE 592 SENSORY NEUROENGINEERING
NEUR 505 OPTICAL IMAGING
PSYC 511 HISTORY AND SYSTEMS OF PSYCHOLOGY
PSYC 522 INFORMATION PROCESSING AND ATTENTION
PSYC 524 MEMORY
PSYC 525 PSYCHOLINGUISTICS
PSYC 527 REASONING, DECISION MAKING, PROBLEM SOLVING
PSYC 543 COMPUTATIONAL MODELING OF COGNITIVE PROCESSES
PSYC 546 PSYCHONEUROIMMUNOLOGY
PSYC 550 FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
PSYC 552 EMOTION REGULATION
PSYC 574 / NEUR 508 INTRODUCTION TO COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE
PSYC 575 / NEUR 501 ADVANCED COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE: ATTENTION AND PERCEPTION
PSYC 576 / NEUR 502 ADVANCED COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE: HIGHER MENTAL FUNCTIONS
PSYC 578 COGNITIVE NEUROPSYCHOLOGY: THEORIES AND METHODS
PSYC 580 DEVELOPMENTAL COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE
PSYC 581 VISION SCIENCE
PSYC 586 SOCIAL AND AFFECTIVE NEUROSCIENCE
PSYC 590 ADVANCED TOPICS IN NEUROSCIENCE 3
PSYC 620 ADVANCED TOPICS IN COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY 3
PSYC 621 TOPICS IN MEMORY 3
PSYC 622 TOPICS IN PSYCHOLINGUISTICS 3

Additional Coursework as Approved by Department

Footnotes and Additional Information
1 Students enrolled in the PhD degree major concentration in Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience must select either PSYC 529 or PSYC 532 and attend the seminar each semester throughout their enrollment.
2 Students enrolled in the PhD degree major concentration in Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience can select UT School of Public Health courses, subject to approval by department.
3 Elective options PSYC 590, PSYC 620, PSYC 621, and PSYC 622 may only be taken once.

Policies for the PhD Degree in the field of Psychology

Department of Psychological Sciences Graduate Program Handbook
The General Announcements (GA) is the official Rice curriculum. As an additional resource for students, the department of Psychological Sciences publishes a graduate program handbook, which can be found here: [https://gradhandbooks.rice.edu/2021_22/Psychology_Graduate_Handbook.pdf](https://gradhandbooks.rice.edu/2021_22/Psychology_Graduate_Handbook.pdf)

Transfer Credit
For Rice University’s policy regarding transfer credit, see [Transfer Credit](https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/transfer). Some departments and programs have additional restrictions on transfer credit. Students are encouraged to meet with their academic program’s advisor when considering transfer credit possibilities.

Departmental Transfer Credit Guidelines
Students pursuing the PhD degree in the field of Psychology should be aware of the following departmental transfer credit guidelines:

- Requests for transfer credit will be considered by the program director on an individual case-by-case basis.

Additional Information
For additional information, please see the Psychological Sciences website: [https://psychology.rice.edu/](https://psychology.rice.edu/)

Opportunities for the PhD Degree in the field of Psychology

Additional Information
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