

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/) (<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/) (<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/) (<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.

Summary

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Total Credit Hours Required for the MA Degree in the field of Psychology		30

Requirements for the PhD Degree in the field of Psychology

PhD Degree Program

For general university requirements, please see [Doctoral Degrees](https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-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/) (<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.

Summary

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Total Credit Hours Required for the PhD Degree in the field of Psychology and a Major Concentration in Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience		90

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

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Core Requirements		
PSYC 502 / STAT 509	ADVANCED PSYCHOLOGICAL STATISTICS I	4
PSYC 503 / STAT 510	ADVANCED PSYCHOLOGICAL STATISTICS II	3
PSYC 520	FOUNDATIONS OF COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY	3
PSYC 587	FUNCTIONAL HUMAN NEUROANATOMY	3
PSYC 660	PROFESSIONAL ISSUES	3

Custom Core Courses

Select 1 course from the following:¹ 1-3

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

PSYC 665	SEMINAR IN GENES AND COGNITION
PSYC 681	PERCEPTUAL ORGANIZATION

First-Year Project

Second-Year Project

Thesis Requirement

Completion and public defense of a thesis

Additional Coursework as Approved by Department

Total Credit Hours **Minimum
of 90**

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

Transfer Credit

For Rice University's policy regarding transfer credit, see [Transfer Credit \(https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/#transfer\)](https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/#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/>

Opportunities for the PhD Degree in the field of Psychology

Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Psychological Sciences website: <https://psychology.rice.edu/>