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.

The requirements listed in the General Announcements (GA) satisfy the minimum requirements for this degree program. In certain instances, courses (or requirements) not officially listed here may be substituted upon approval of the program's academic advisor, or where applicable, the department or program's Director of Graduate Studies. Course substitutions or any exceptions to the stated official curricular requirements must be approved by the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (https://graduate.rice.edu/). Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

Summary

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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/). 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.

The requirements listed in the General Announcements (GA) satisfy the minimum requirements for this degree program. In certain instances, courses (or requirements) not officially listed here may be substituted upon approval of the program's academic advisor, or where applicable, the department or program's Director of Graduate Studies. Course substitutions or any exceptions to the stated official curricular requirements must be approved by the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (https://graduate.rice.edu/). Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

2022-2023 General Announcements PDF Generated 09/26/22
**Summary**

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

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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 521: PSYCHOLOGY OF PERCEPTION
  - PSYC 524: MEMORY
  - PSYC 525: PSYCHOLINGUISTICS
  - PSYC 527: REASONING, DECISION MAKING, PROBLEM SOLVING
  - PSYC 581: VISION SCIENCE

**Affective/Health Core Courses**
- PSYC 546: PSYCHONEUROIMMUNOLOGY
- PSYC 547: FOUNDATIONS OF HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY
- PSYC 550: FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

**Elective Requirements**
- Select 2 courses from the following: ²
  - 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

**Total Credit Hours**
- Minimum of 90

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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.

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**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/2022_23/Psychological_Sciences_PhD_Graduate_Handbook.pdf](https://gradhandbooks.rice.edu/2022_23/Psychological_Sciences_PhD_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/)
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/