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. Learn theoretical and methodological tools necessary to carry out independent research in cognitive neuroscience.
2. Write an independent and original dissertation that is of sufficient quality to merit publication in a top cognitive psychology or cognitive neuroscience journal.
3. Conduct a focused review of the literature and develop a research design to carry out independent research.
4. Learn to 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 (ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-thesis-masters-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 (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). 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 dissertation. The dissertation 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 502</td>
<td>ADVANCED PSYCHOLOGICAL STATISTICS I</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 503</td>
<td>ADVANCED PSYCHOLOGICAL STATISTICS II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 520</td>
<td>FOUNDATIONS OF COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 574</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 577</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO FUNCTIONAL NEUROANATOMY</td>
<td>2-3</td>
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<td>PSYC 660</td>
<td>PROFESSIONAL ISSUES</td>
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Custom Core Courses

Select 1 from the following:

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<tr>
<td>PSYC 529</td>
<td>COGNITIVE RESEARCH SEMINAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 532</td>
<td>HEALTH RESEARCH SEMINAR</td>
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Neuroscience Core Courses

Summary

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Credit Hours Required for the MA Degree in the field of Psychology</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Total Credit Hours Required for the PhD Degree in the field of Psychology and a Major Concentration in Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience</td>
<td>90</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Degree in the field of Psychology and a Major Concentration in Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience

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

Affective/Health Track Core Courses  
Select 2 from the following:  
PSYC 546 PSYCHONEUROIMMUNOLOGY  
PSYC 547 FOUNDATIONS OF HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY  
PSYC 550 FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Elective Requirements  
Select 2 from the following:  
BIOE 592 SENSORY NEUROENGINEERING  
NEUR 430 FUNDAMENTALS OF HUMAN NEUROIAMING  
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 / NEUR 501 EMOTION REGULATION  
PSYC 575 / NEUR 502 ADVANCED COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE: ATTENTION AND PERCEPTION  
PSYC 576 / NEUR 503 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  
PSYC 620 ADVANCED TOPICS IN COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY  
PSYC 621 TOPICS IN MEMORY  
PSYC 622 TOPICS IN PSYCHOLINGUISTICS  
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 and a Major Concentration in Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience

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: http://gradhandbooks.rice.edu/2018_19/ 
Psychology_Graduate_Handbook.pdf

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 and a Major Concentration in Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience

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