

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. Read critically and assess scholarship related to Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience and in other fields in the psychological sciences.
2. Apply theoretical and methodological tools to conduct independent research in Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience.
3. Write an independent and original thesis that is of sufficient quality to merit publication in a top journal within Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience.
4. Communicate Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience research clearly and effectively in papers and presentations.

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.

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 \(https://graduate.rice.edu/\)](https://graduate.rice.edu/). Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

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.

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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 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	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	
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 549	PSYCHOPATHOLOGY, DEVELOPMENT, & AGING
PSYC 550	FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
PSYC 552	EMOTION REGULATION
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 635	MULTILEVEL MODELING IN PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH
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/2024_25/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/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. Requests for transfer credit must be approved for Rice equivalency by the appropriate academic department offering the Rice equivalent course (corresponding to the subject code of the course content) and by the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS). Students are encouraged to meet with their academic program's advisor when considering transfer credit possibilities.

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

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