

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD) DEGREE IN THE FIELD OF PSYCHOLOGY AND A MAJOR CONCENTRATION IN HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY AND BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE RESEARCH

Program Learning Outcomes for the PhD Degree in the field of Psychology and a Major Concentration in Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine Research

Upon completing the PhD degree in the field of Psychology and a major concentration in Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine Research, students will be able to:

1. Apply the theoretical tools necessary to carry out independent research in health psychology.
2. Apply the methodological and statistical tools necessary to carry out independent research in health psychology.
3. Conduct a focused literature review tied to an independent research question, design and run a health research study, and write up the results in an APA formatted paper.
4. Communicate and defend their research designs and modeling choices when presenting papers and presentations.
5. Write an independent and original dissertation that is of sufficient quality to merit publication in a top journal within the field of health psychology.

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 Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine Research and be overseen by a Psychology faculty member affiliated with the Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine Research 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 Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine Research		90

Degree Requirements for the PhD Degree in the field of Psychology and a Major Concentration in Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine Research

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 532	HEALTH RESEARCH SEMINAR	1-3

PSYC 546	PSYCHONEUROIMMUNOLOGY	3
or PSYC 586	SOCIAL AND AFFECTIVE NEUROSCIENCE	
PSYC 547	FOUNDATIONS OF HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY	3
PSYC 550	FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY	3
Statistical Requirements		
<i>Select 1 course from the following:</i>		
PSYC 507	RESEARCH METHODS	3
PSYC 601	MULTIVARIATE STATISTICS	3
PSYC 602	PSYCHOMETRICS	3
Professional Issues		
PSYC 660	PROFESSIONAL ISSUES	3
Elective Requirements ¹		
<i>Select 3 courses from the following:</i>		
PSYC 511	HISTORY AND SYSTEMS OF PSYCHOLOGY	3
PSYC 546	PSYCHONEUROIMMUNOLOGY	3
PSYC 586	SOCIAL AND AFFECTIVE NEUROSCIENCE	3
PSYC 630	ADVANCED TOPICS IN I/O	3
PSYC 631	FOUNDATIONS OF INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES	3
PSYC 636	ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY	3
PSYC 651	TOPICS IN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY	3
First-Year Project		
Second-Year Project		
Thesis Requirement		
Additional Coursework as Approved by Department		
Total Credit Hours		Minimum of 90

Footnotes and Additional Information

¹ Students may select other elective courses if approved by an advisor in consultation with the faculty under the Major Concentration.

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/2020_21/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

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