

# MASTER OF ARTS (M.A.)

## PSYCHOLOGY

### PURPOSES

The purposes of offering graduate study in the Department of Psychology are:

1. To prepare the student for a Ph.D. program in Psychology through a Master of Arts degree program providing knowledge and research skills.
2. To provide students not intending to pursue a Ph.D. degree with a variety of courses that will help prepare them for paraprofessional positions.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION—MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE

Applicants should apply by April 1 for Fall Admission and December 1 for Spring admission. To be eligible for admission, the applicant must:

1. Apply to enter the Master of Arts degree program.
2. Complete at least 18 semester hours of undergraduate credit in psychology and/or educational psychology, including at least three semester hours each in a statistics course and in a general experimental (laboratory) course.
3. Have an undergraduate cumulative average of at least 3.00 on a 4.00 point scale (2.50 for conditional status) in all psychology and/or educational psychology courses pursued.
4. Obtain a combined score of at least 950 on the combined Verbal and Quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Examination (850 for conditional status); or a score of at least 550 on the psychology subject test of the Graduate Record Examination (450 for conditional status).
5. Supply at least three appropriate, satisfactory letters of reference.
6. Satisfy all applicable University admission requirements.
7. Satisfy any other admission requirements, which may be established for the Consortium as a whole (Consortium applicants only).

### REQUIREMENTS FOR DEGREE

To receive the Master of Arts degree in Psychology, the student must:

1. Pass 38 hours of graduate courses, including 6 hours of thesis approved by student's thesis committee.
2. Maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA with no more than two grades of "C" for the entire program. A grade of at least "B" is required for satisfactory completion of Psychology 635 and Psychology 636.
3. Pass comprehensive examinations administered by the Department. This requirement is satisfied by grades of B or better in core courses.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

#### Required Core Courses (26 hours)

- Psychology 635—Experimental Design and Analysis (4)
- Psychology 636—Nonexperimental Design and Analysis (4)
- Psychology 612—Learning, Memory, and Cognition (3)
- Psychology 613—Physiological Psychology (3)
- Psychology 614—Social Psychology (3)
- Psychology 660—Special Topics in Psychology (3)
- Psychology 770—Thesis (6)

#### Elective Courses (12 hours)

- Psychology 521—History and Systems of Psychology (3)
- Psychology 549—Individual Research in Psychology (3)
- Psychology 575—Industrial/Organizational Psychology (3)
- Psychology 615—Psychometry (3)
- Psychology 616—Theories of Personality (3)
- Psychology 620—Developmental Psychology (3)
- Psychology 679—Psychotherapy Techniques (3)

Psychology 668—Independent Readings in Psychology (3)  
Psychology 683—Practicum (3)  
Psychology 685—Practicum III (3)  
Psychology 692—Psychopharmacology (3)  
Psychology 660—Special Topics in Psychology (up to 9)

## **THESIS REQUIREMENTS**

A complete description of the thesis requirements (as well as other departmental policies) can be found in the *Guide to Graduate Study in Psychology at Southeastern Louisiana University* given to all students when they first enter the program.

## **THESIS COMMITTEE**

The student will be supervised by a thesis committee consisting of the major professor and a minimum of two other members from the Psychology faculty. Committees may include one member from outside the Department in addition to the required three members from the department. The committee should be chosen by the student in consultation with the major professor. Faculty chosen for the committee should not be asked to serve until the student and major professor have agreed on the exact topic for the thesis as well as the methodology to be used.

## **MAJOR PROFESSOR**

The major professor who directs the thesis project must be a member of the Psychology Department faculty and a member of the Graduate Faculty. A faculty member is limited to chairing three thesis committees at a time, with no more than two in the pre-proposal stage.

After 2 semesters, if the thesis proposal has not been accepted, the major professor's commitment to the project ends. In addition if the entire thesis project has not been completed in 2 years, the major professor's commitment to the project ends. In the event that a student goes past one of the thesis deadlines, it may be necessary to change major professors and possibly thesis topic (this applies even to students who have thesis proposals approved).