



Master's Program in Psychology

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.
 - We are a general psychology program intent on preparing students for doctoral level work.
 - We also offer an Industrial/ Organizational concentration for students interested in entering the business professions following graduation with their master's degree.

Admissions Information

If you do decide to apply to our program, you will need to provide us with certain information and Graduate Admissions with other information (mailing addresses listed below).

Psychology application procedures:

1. **A letter of application.** The letter of application should include: (a) your interest in an assistantship, (b) a brief description of your ultimate career goals, and (c) a brief summary of your credentials, (e.g., GPA in Psych, GRE scores, research experience, publications/presentations, practical experience, etc.).
2. **A vita**
3. **3 letters of reference.** The three letters of reference should be from individuals who can assess your potential as a graduate student in psychology.

Your letter of application and the letters from your three references should be sent directly to the Graduate Coordinator. In addition, send copies of everything sent to Enrollment Services (unofficial copies are acceptable). Send these to the following address:

Paula Varnado-Sullivan, Ph.D.
Graduate Coordinator
SLU Box 10831
Hammond, LA 70402



Graduate Admissions:

1. **Official transcripts from all the universities that you have attended**
2. **Official GRE score reports**
3. **A completed "Application for Admission" form**
4. **Completed immunization form**
5. **The application fee**

All these items should be sent directly to the Office of Admissions; however, we would appreciate a copy of the completed "Application for Admission" form along with your application letter. This information should be sent to:

Enrollment Services
Graduate Admissions
SLU 10752
Hammond, Louisiana 70402-0752

Application Deadlines

To be assured of consideration your application must be completed (this includes all reports of GRE scores, transcripts, letters of recommendation, etc.) by March 15 for entry in the fall semester and October 15 for entry in the spring semester. You will be informed of the selection decisions on April 15 (Fall) or December 15 (Spring). Applications after the departmental dates may be considered; however, since the department does limit the number of students admitted, there is a danger that all of the openings will have been filled. International student deadlines are May 1 (Fall) and September 1 (Spring).

Admission Requirements

Our admission requirements include the following minimum standards for consideration for admission to the program:

- (a) have an undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 (2.5 for provisional admission) on all psychology courses taken
 - (b) complete a minimum of 18 hours of undergraduate work in Psychology (or Educational Psychology) which must include a statistics course and a general experimental (research design) course
 - (c) obtain a combined score of 950 (850 for provisional admission) on the verbal and quantitative subtests of the GRE; or a score of at least 550 on the psychology subject test of the GRE (450 for conditional status). For those students who have taken the new version of the GRE, equivalency scores will be used to determine if the GRE requirements have been met. Typically, a combined score of 289 is required for provisional admission and a combined score of 294 is required for regular admission.
- There are no exceptions to the GRE and GPA requirements; the scores required for conditional admission are the lowest acceptable scores.**



In order to insure the highest level of instruction, we cap the program at a total of 30 graduate students; thus, we cannot necessarily accept all of the students who apply even though they meet the minimum requirements.

If you would like to discuss your specific situation/credentials, please feel free to contact the graduate coordinator at 985/549-5535 or by email at pvarnado@selu.edu.

Assistantships

Graduate Assistantships

The Department has a limited number of graduate assistantships each year for the Fall and Spring each with a value of \$4,500 per semester plus a tuition waiver. The Department may also have a small number of Summer assistantships with a value of \$2,250 plus a tuition waiver. Students should apply to the graduate coordinator (summer assistantships require a separate application).

Assistantships are awarded on a competitive basis according to the following criteria:

- a. GRE scores
- b. Undergraduate GPA (overall and Psychology courses) and Graduate GPA where relevant
- c. Research experience and past performance (undergraduate and graduate).
- d. Standing (Regular, Conditional, Non Degree, Probation). As a general rule only regular status students are likely to receive an assistantship.
- e. Special skills needed by the department

Roughly half of the assistantships will be assigned to new students and half to returning students. A student may hold an assistantship for a maximum of four semesters (excluding summer semesters). Also, there is no guarantee for renewal of an assistantship. Students who earn unsatisfactory grades (below B) during their first year are unlikely to have their assistantships renewed.

Students who do receive an assistantship should check in with the department secretary during the first day of registration. An orientation session will be scheduled with Personnel to fill out various forms (W-4's, etc.).

Distinguished Graduate Fellowships

Highly qualified applicants may also be considered for a Distinguished Graduate Fellowship in Psychology. The fellowship adds \$3,500 to the original assistantship (\$12,500 total for Fall and Spring) and can be renewed for up to 3 years. These fellowships are highly competitive and only a small number are awarded to exceptional applicants university-wide.



Southeastern Psychology Graduate Faculty and their Research Interests

Brandon Baiamonte, Ph.D. (University of New Orleans). Assistant Professor. Applied Biological Psychology: Addiction and Pain Perception.

Susan E. Coats, Ph.D. (Purdue University). Associate Professor. Social Psychology: Social Cognition; Intergroup Processes

Monique LeBlanc, Ph.D. (Louisiana State University). Assistant Professor. Child Clinical: Violence exposure; Health Behaviors in Children

Matt J. Rossano, Ph.D. (University of California, Riverside). Professor. Cognitive Psychology: Evolutionary Psychology; Perception

Sara Sohr-Preston, PhD (University of New Orleans). Assistant Professor. Applied Developmental Psychology: Early Childhood Development, Parenting, Pregnancy

Paula Varnado-Sullivan, Ph.D. (Louisiana State University). Associate Professor and Graduate Program Coordinator. Clinical Psychology: Eating Disorders; Gender Issues.