M.A. Research and Experimental Psychology

Mastering Your Future in Psychology

Program Overview
The Masters of Arts degree program in Research and Experimental Psychology affords you an opportunity for advanced study of psychological theory and research. For our students, obtaining a graduate-level degree in psychology often represents a critical step in their progression toward a variety of career objectives.

Purpose and Goals of the MA Program

To ultimately earn my Ph.D. in Psychology
The coursework and experience obtained in the M.A. Program is designed to enhance students’ credentials when applying to highly competitive doctoral programs.

To succeed in industry or a research setting
Our program’s emphasis on the mastery of statistical and methodological procedures, research experience, and critical thinking produces graduates well suited for many careers in business, government, and/or research settings.

Research Programs and Interests
The research interests of our program faculty are diverse and span the many domains of Psychology. These active research programs have resulted in hundreds of publications and substantial support from national granting agencies such as: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), National Science Foundation (NSF), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Research Areas

Cognitive Psychology
Research related to visual word recognition, human performance limitations, and effectiveness of early reading programs.

Biological-Behavioral Neuroscience Psychology
Research related to stress and cognitive performance.

Developmental Psychology
Research related to the socialization of emotion, effects of television on children, and children’s gender role development.

Human Factors
Research related to size and distance perception in virtual environments and visual attention in the use of head-up displays.

Social Psychology
Research investigating the role of affect on information processing, attitudes and attitude change, and stereotyping in social cognition.

Personality Psychology
Research investigating the influence of personality on creative behavior, scientific interest and talent, and social networking behavior.
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Specific Course Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program of Study</th>
<th>Course No.</th>
<th>Units</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Domain</td>
<td></td>
<td>(12 units)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Seminar</td>
<td>Psyc 280</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analysis of Variance</td>
<td>Psyc 245</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar in Experimental Psychology</td>
<td>Psyc 220</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applied Psychometrics or Multivariate Analysis</td>
<td>Psyc 240 or Stat 235</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breadth Domain</td>
<td></td>
<td>(12 Units)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognition or Perception*</td>
<td>Psyc 235 or Psyc 256</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physiology Psychology</td>
<td>Psyc 230</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar in Developmental Psychology</td>
<td>Psyc 204</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Psychology or Personality*</td>
<td>Psyc 254 or Psyc 200</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applied Domain</td>
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<td>(6 Units)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective**</td>
<td>100- or 200-level</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td>Psyc 299</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

Total Graduate Units 30

* These courses will rotate; each being offered every other year.
** Other courses (100 level or 200 level), either within or outside the psychology department, may be approved upon consultation with the MA Program Coordinator.

General Departmental Degree Requirement

Your combined total of approved undergraduate and graduate work must be at least 60 semester units, including 30 units from the M.A. Degree Program.

You must complete at least 30 approved graduate units, 21 within the Psychology Department.

Upon consultation with the M.A. Coordinator, selected upper-division undergraduate courses may be taken to fulfill M.A. Degree requirements.

You must complete and defend an acceptable thesis. This thesis will be a quantitative investigation of some degree of originality and be of publication caliber.

Finally, all graduate students are required to demonstrate their competency with regard to writing skills.

How to Apply

Separate applications must be submitted to both the Department and the University. Departmental applications are accepted for the Fall semester only and can be obtained online between October and February of each year. Deadline for applying is February 1st.

For extensive information as a prospective graduate student:
http://www.sjsu.edu/gape/prospective_students/

To apply to the University:
http://www.csumentor.edu/admissionapp/grad_apply.asp

To apply to the Psychology Department:
http://www.sjsu.edu/psych/GraduatePrograms/experimental-psych/maApply.htm

To be eligible, you must:
Submit a university graduate application and meet the University Graduate Studies admissions requirements (http://www.sjsu.edu/gape/).

Have the equivalent of a U.S. baccalaureate degree and a minimum of 30 semester units in psychology.

Have a minimum GPA of 3.0 in the last 60 semester units (or 90 quarter units) of all college and/or university coursework and a minimum GPA of 3.0 in all college and/or university psychology courses.

Submit all application material to the Psychology Department Graduate Secretary and the University by posted deadlines.

Why San José State University?

One of the 200 top research universities in the nation, SJSU offers rigorous course work and research opportunities to more than 30,000 undergraduate and graduate students in seven colleges.

San Jose State University’s location in the Silicon Valley makes it an exceptionally rewarding learning environment for students.

Silicon Valley firms and agencies seek SJSU students for internships, summer work programs and for assistance with research and development projects.

Silicon Valley firms employ more graduates from SJSU than from any other university in the nation.

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