



Biological
Handbook

2013

Graduate School policy and department coursework for the doctoral student.

Psychology

Biological Psychology Handbook

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Introduction:

The following contains information regarding policies and procedures for clinical psychology graduate students. This document was created with the goal of integrating both Graduate School and departmental rules and procedures specifically related to the clinical psychology training program. However, it is not intended to be a substitute for the Graduate Bulletin and students are encouraged to read the “General Graduate School Regulations” as well as the “Requirements for Advanced Degrees” sections of the Graduate Bulletin. Students are responsible for knowing and following Graduate School policies and departmental requirements. If you still have questions after consulting this document, please contact your advisor (for academic/research matters, etc) or the Graduate Secretary (for forms, deadlines, etc).

Failure to follow procedures may result in delay of your progress, result in a loss of funding and/or possible termination from the program.

General Rules and Guidelines:

- 1) You are responsible for maintaining frequent communication with the department during your enrollment in the Ph.D. program. It is also your responsibility to inform the department of your most current and accurate contact information; including email, telephone numbers and address.
 - Remember that when problems arise, the faster we are able to find you, the faster the problem can be resolved. Expediting contact with you can be very important with time sensitive issues.
 - Please provide a working email address. Full mailboxes and/or closed email accounts do not allow you to receive the necessary information. The Graduate Secretary sends out numerous emails throughout the year with notices of new information and/or reminders of deadlines, rules and other important information to students. Emails will be sent to your PAWS account. It is up to you to be sure emails are forwarded to your current email address, if you do not regularly check your PAWS account.
 - Occasionally, new rules are implemented during or between semesters that will not be found in the information contained in this document. You will be informed of any changes via email.
 - If you are not able to receive email for any reason, contact the Graduate Secretary immediately so that other arrangements can be made.
 - There are mailboxes for the graduate students in the Psychology Office (Room 236) and at the PSC. Staff and faculty members will frequently place mail in them for you. The mailboxes are organized by last name. (All students with a last name beginning with “A” will find their mail in the box marked “A” etc.) Please be courteous to the other students and check your mail on a regular basis. No one wants to constantly sort through your mail to get his or her own.

- 2) If you have questions about the rules or what step to take next, read the information in this document. After reading it, if you are still unsure, contact your advisor (for academic/research matters, etc) or the Graduate Secretary (for forms, deadlines, etc). This

document and the Graduate Bulletin, along with links to the Graduate School website and Graduate School forms are also available on the Psychology Departmental website at www.lsu.edu/psychology.

- 3) Your professors are not always available during the Summer semesters. It is possible that you will not be able to hold a meeting (proposals, defenses, exams, etc) during the Summer semesters so plan accordingly.
- 4) The terms “successfully propose,” “successfully defend” or “successfully pass” an exam mean that you have your necessary paperwork (forms differ for each exam) signed as passed by your committee.
- 5) If you would like to apply for travel funds for a conference/meeting, you may qualify for travel reimbursement. It is your responsibility to apply at least 3 weeks prior to the trip and to turn in all completed paperwork in a timely manner. Please see the departmental accountant (Susan) for rules and forms.
- 6) You are not allowed to attempt proposals and defenses (thesis proposal, thesis defense, dissertation proposal, and dissertation defense) during the same semester. If approved by your advisor, you may schedule the general exam and the dissertation proposal during the same semester. A semester begins on the first day of orientation and ends on the day prior to graduation. Additionally, before you can schedule any of these meetings they must be reviewed and approved by your major professor.
- 7) If you have earned a master’s degree in psychology from another university, you may submit your thesis to the department for possible acceptance of the department’s master’s thesis requirement. Contact the clinical director (Dr. Johnny Matson) and provide him with an email copy of your thesis. Once the clinical director has reviewed the document, you will be informed of his decision.
- 8) Any student with grievances is eligible to appeal. The guidelines for the appeals process are given in LSU Policy Statement 48 (PS-48 can be found at <http://appl003.ocs.lsu.edu/ups.nsf/d18275cbffaad4b10625635a006e196c/266da3186d2ba0eb86256c250062aea8?OpenDocument>.)
- 9) Any graduate student wishing to be appointed as an instructor of record on a graduate assistantship must fulfill the following requirements to apply:
 - ✓ Applicants must have earned their master’s degree prior to the beginning of the appointment.
 - ✓ Applicants must have completed PSYC 7990, Teaching of Psychology, or receive written approval for an equivalent course at another university.
 - ✓ Once appointed to the position, the instructor must enroll in the Teaching of Psychology Practicum, PSYC 7690.
- 10) The Department of Psychology expects the highest ethical and professional behavior from all graduate students at all times. This includes adhering to the LSU Code of

Student Conduct (this can be found at www.lsu.edu/deanofstudents.) as well as the APA's Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct (this can be found at <http://www.apa.org/ethics/>). Unethical or improper behavior (on or off campus) may warrant disciplinary action by the department and/or the university, including termination from the program in severe cases.

Graduate School Information:

The department is your liaison to the Graduate School. If you have questions or concerns about Graduate School rules or procedures, call or email the Graduate Secretary. Please do not initiate contact with the Graduate School. *You should never send/bring any documents/forms directly to the Graduate School (exceptions are the final thesis and final dissertation documents).* The department must submit all paperwork and retain copies in your departmental file. These documents should be routed through the Graduate Secretary.

You must be registered continuously for at least 3 credit hours each regular semester. The Graduate School considers the Spring and Fall semesters as "regular semesters" but not the Summer. If you are on any type of assistantship (teaching assistant, research grant) you must be registered for a minimum of 9 credit hours each regular semester.

You must maintain a GPA of 3.0 or better (cumulative and semester GPA) to remain "in good standing" with the Graduate School. The first semester your GPA is below 3.0, you will be placed on academic probation. Academic probation is NOT considered "in good standing." While on academic probation, you are not eligible for funding of any kind. If your cumulative and semester GPAs are not 3.0 or better after one semester of academic probation, you will be terminated from the university.

If you are the recipient of an assistantship, you must secure written permission to work additional hours outside of that assistantship. The additional work must be related to your education in some way to merit approval. If you wish to apply for additional compensation, please contact the Graduate Secretary. She, including your major professor and the Director of Graduate Studies, will need to know where you will be working, what services you will provide, how many hours per week you will be working, as well as your beginning and ending date for that commitment. She will then file the appropriate paperwork to request that permission be granted.

Qualifying Core Courses:

Satisfactory completion of the qualifying core courses is required to be qualified for advanced doctoral study. Satisfactory completion constitutes passing the required courses with a grade of "A" or "B" by the end of your 2nd year in the program. It is recommended that as many of these classes as possible be taken during the first year of graduate school. Each course is generally offered once a year. If you feel you have a particularly strong background in one or more of the core areas, you may take the final exam in any course; you will have satisfied the core requirement if you earn a grade of "A" or "B." However, this is a rare event. As evidence of satisfying this requirement you must secure a letter from the course instructor giving your exam grade for inclusion in your file.

Qualifying Core Courses

Biological Basis of Behavior (Psyc 7034)
Cognitive Basis of Behavior (Psyc 7030)
Social Basis of Behavior (Psyc 7040)
History of Modern Psychology (Psyc 4008)

And

Must take 1 of the 2

Measurement of Behavior (Psyc 7020)⁺
Methodology and Research Design (Psyc 7117)

And Must take 1 of the 2

Intermediate Statistics (Psyc 4111)*
Advanced Statistics (Psyc 7111)

* All clinical students must take and pass Intermediate Statistics PYSC 4111 or Advanced Statistics PSYC 7111. The student must take PSYC 4111 unless granted permission by the instructor of PYSC 4111 to take PSYC 7111. This decision will be based on a determination that an equivalent course to PSYC 4111 has been taken.

+ PSYC 7020 doubles as a Qualifying Core Course and Clinical Core Course

You have two attempts to complete these qualifying core courses. Failure to do so within your first two years will result in dismissal from the program. If you wait until year two to take the course, you will get only one opportunity to pass the course.

Any new student failing more than one core course on the first take will be dismissed from the program.

Areas of Specialization

Biological Psychology

The training provided in the **Biological Psychology Area** emphasizes both course work and research on humans. This training is intended to qualify students for positions in the rapidly expanding field of behavioral neuroscience in either the academic or private sector. This curriculum is flexible enough to allow students to tailor a program appropriate to their particular interests. In addition to formal instruction in Psychology, students receive training in other complementary disciplines. This provides an appreciation for the interdisciplinary nature of behavioral neuroscience and the specialized skills and knowledge more appropriately taught by other departments in the University. A listing of the Biological Psychology Program Requirements and faculty follows.

Course Work for the Doctoral Degree^Δ

Qualifying Core Courses

		Must pass by the end of the 2 nd Year	Credit Hours
PSYC	4008	History of Modern Psychology	3
PSYC	7030	Cognitive Basis of Behavior	3
PSYC	7034	Biological Basis of Behavior	3
PSYC	7040	Social Basis of Behavior	3

Must Take 2 of the 4

PSYC	7020	Measurement of Behavior	3
PSYC	7117	Methodology and Research Design	3
PSYC	4111	Intermediate Statistics	3
PSYC	7111	Advanced Statistics	3

Biological Core Courses

Must take 5 of the courses below
At least 3 of the required 5 must be from Groups A & B

Group A

PSYC	4031	Sensory and Perceptual Processes	3
PSYC	4035	Drugs and Behavior	3
PSYC	4036	Comparative Psychology	3
PSYC	4037	Neuropharmacology	3
PSYC	4039	Madness and Medicine	3
PSYC	7937	Seminar in Behavioral Neurology	3
PSYC	7939	Seminar in Experimental Psychology	3
PSYC	7983	Biological Variables in Psychopathology	3

Group B

BIOL	4158	Endocrinology	3
BIOL	4160	Vertebrate Physiology	3
BIOL	4177	Neurobiology	3
BIOL	4270	Animal Behavior	4
BIOL	4299	Genetics of the Evolutionary Process	4
BIOL	4800	Nerve Cells and Animal Behavior	2-4
BIOL	7290	Complex Carbohydrates	3
CBS	7614	Central Nervous System	3

Group C

KIN	4605	Habituating and Addictive Drugs in Our Culture	3
KIN	4512	Lifespan Motor Development	3
KIN	4520	Psychosocial Aspects of Physical Activity	3

Group D

KIN	7512	Motor Control	3
KIN	7530	Exercise Physiology	3
KIN	7535	Neuromuscular Aspects of Exercise	3
KIN	7503	Dimensions of Aging	3
KIN	7508	Analysis of Human Movement	3
KIN	7510	Motor Learning	3
KIN	7601	Changing Health Behavior	3

Group E

COMD	4250	Anatomy and Physiology of Speech and Hearing	3
COMD	7280	Neuroanatomical Basis of Speech and Hearing	3
COMD	7385	Neuropathologies of Speech	3
COMD	7387	Aphasia in Adults Related to Disorders	3
COMD	7854	Physiological Acoustics	3

Group F

HUEC	4010	Human Nutrition	3
HUEC	4011	Medical Nutrition Therapy I	3
HUEC	4014	Medical Nutrition Therapy II	3
HUEC	7004	Molecular & Clinical Nutrition I	2
HUEC	7005	Molecular & Clinical Nutrition II	2

Other Required Coursework

PSYC	8000	Thesis Research	6*
PSYC	9000	Dissertation Research	12*
PSYC	4999	Independent Research	6*
PSYC	8939	Independent Research	15*

A minimum of 1 research hour is required each semester.

Optional

PSYC	7990	Teaching of Psychology	3
PSYC	7690	Teaching of Psychology Practicum	3

* Additional hours may be taken, but number listed is the maximum allowed applied to degree.

^ This list is intended as an example of courses for the degree and is subject to change. All students will be informed of their requirements upon entry to the program.

Note: Some of the courses listed have prerequisites: Endocrinology, Vertebrate Physiology, and Neurobiology require Introductory Zoology Laboratory (BIOL 1509) and Principles of Genetics (BIOL 2153). An additional prerequisite for Neurobiology is one year of organic chemistry. The prerequisite for Neurosensory Physiology is Environmental Physiology (BIOL 4155), Cellular Physiology (BIOL 4157), or Vertebrate Physiology (BIOL 4160). Students who have not taken prerequisite or equivalent courses must be prepared to do so or to obtain permission from the instructor to have the prerequisite waived.

Biological Faculty

Alan A. Baumeister • *Professor; Ph.D., Peabody College, Vanderbilt University*
History of biological psychiatry, neuropharmacology.

Paula J. Geiselman • *Associate Professor; Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles*
Physiological, behavioral, and nutritional mechanisms in the control of energy, appetite, and body weight; role of the female sex hormones in the control of appetite, food intake, specific macronutrient selection, and body weight; role of macronutrients in the control of appetite, food intake, and body weight; effects of smoking and smoking cessation on the control of appetite, food intake, and body weight across the menstrual cycle; relationship between the female sex hormones and smoking behavior; development of an individually tailored, dietary and weight control, smoking cessation program for weight-concerned women.

Mike F. Hawkins • *Associate Professor; Ph.D., Colorado State University*
Human psychophysiological responding to stress and learning, historical analysis of neurophysiological descriptions of human psychological disorders.

For more information on Biological Psychology, please contact Dr. Baumeister at abaumei@lsu.edu.