

# PSYCHOLOGY

<http://www.pacific.edu/Academics/Schools-and-Colleges/College-of-the-Pacific/Academics/Departments-and-Programs/Psychology.html>  
Phone: (209) 946-2133

Location: Psychology/Communications Building  
Carolynn Kohn, Chair and Director of Graduate Studies

## Program Offered

### Master of Arts in Behavioral Psychology

The department offers a graduate program of study that leads to the MA degree in psychology with special strengths in behavior analysis and behavioral psychology.

## Mission

The mission of the Master's program in behavioral psychology is to train students to be researchers and clinicians using a scientist-practitioner model. Through a combination of coursework and practical experiences, we provide training that spans the domains of behavior analysis: the experimental analysis of behavior, applied behavior analysis, and service delivery. We have assumed this mission because we believe the solutions to many problems of great social significance require professionals who are engaged with the science and ethics of behavior analysis throughout their careers.

All students:

- take the same courses and receive formal academic training in behavior analytic principles and techniques.
- earn their funding through supervised clinical work in applied settings and/or through teaching assistantships.
- are required to engage in research throughout their graduate work and to conduct an empirical thesis
- are provided with research mentorship and supervision.

The Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) has verified that our course sequence meets the coursework requirements for eligibility to take the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB)® exam. We also provide supervised clinical experience which meets the BACB® Fieldwork requirements.

Supervised clinical experience is available in many settings including homes, schools, care homes, and treatment centers, and include working with typically developing children, children diagnosed with developmental disabilities and/or autism spectrum disorders, and adults diagnosed with developmental disabilities or mental illnesses. All students are supervised by masters-level BCBAs within our program.

Our students have a high rate of sitting for and passing the BACB® exam. Doctoral preparation students have a high rate of being accepted into quality doctoral programs. A list of former graduate students and their current employment or academic placements upon graduating our program is available upon request.

### The program prepares students for:

- 1) Sitting for the Behavior Analyst Certification Board® exam ([www.bacb.com](http://www.bacb.com) (<http://www.bacb.com>)) and subsequent employment in settings where applied behavior analysis is used.
- 2) Applying to PhD programs in behavior analysis.

- 3) Applying to PhD programs in behaviorally-oriented clinical/counseling psychology.

Answers to FAQs can be downloaded here ([http://catalog.pacific.edu/stocktongraduate/collegeofthepacific/psychology/FAQ\\_MA\\_program\\_Pacific-F24.pdf](http://catalog.pacific.edu/stocktongraduate/collegeofthepacific/psychology/FAQ_MA_program_Pacific-F24.pdf))

### Clinical Skills Development

Students should be able to demonstrate clinical skills and the ability to apply knowledge and research to clinical problems. Students are evaluated on the following (based on the BACB® requirements).

- a. Professionalism and Interpersonal Skills
- b. Clinical Judgement
- c. Written Skills

### Professional Skills Development

Students should be able to independently articulate appropriate, reasonable, and achievable goals for their academic development as evaluated by faculty advisor.

### Student Self-Regulation of Learning

Students should be able to:

- a. Propose their thesis no later than their fourth semester
- b. Defend their thesis no later than their third December (i.e., fifth semester)
- c. Graduate within 3 years of entering the program
- d. Gain admittance into a doctoral program, pass the BACB® exam, and/or obtain employment commensurate with their training upon graduating (depending on the goals of the student).

## Master of Arts in Behavioral Psychology

Students must complete a minimum of 32 units with a Pacific cumulative grade point average of 3.0 in order to earn the master of arts in psychology.

Minimum 28 units, including each of these required courses:

PSYC 207	Psychology of Learning	4
PSYC 251	Behavioral Treatment/Applications	4
PSYC 258	Behavioral Assessment	4
PSYC 262	Ethical Behavior	4
PSYC 278	Controversial Treatments in Applied Settings	4
PSYC 283	Research Design	4
PSYC 299	Thesis	2
		or
		4

Four units from the following:

PSYC 285E	Personnel Supervision and Management I
PSYC 285F	Personnel Supervision and Management II
PSYC 297	Graduate Independent Research

**Notes: 1)** Students are expected to spend four semesters and one summer in residence in Stockton as part of completing the program. **2)** All students must complete a one year research apprenticeship with the same faculty research mentor during their first year. During their second year, students may continue with the same faculty mentor, change faculty mentors, or remain with the same faculty mentor and join additional research teams. **3)** Registration for Psyc297 and

*Psyc285e/Psyc285f is by instructor permission and is based on students' performance.*

## Psychology Courses

### **PSYC 115. Advanced Lab in Cognitive Psychology. 4 Units.**

This advanced lab will focus on more in-depth exploration of a specific topic area within the field of Cognitive Psychology. The course will include strong research/applied component that will help students get more hands on feel for research and/or application of the concepts within the field. Possible topics include Memory, Thinking Fast and Slow, or other topics. Prerequisites: PSYC 015 and PSYC 050, both with a C- or higher.

### **PSYC 117. Advanced Lab in Clinical Psychology. 4 Units.**

This course is intended to give students a broad overview of the field of clinical psychology as well as experience grappling with some of the current controversies in the field. This course covers several topics, including: foundations and early history; current research and practice; major theoretical orientations; diagnoses and the DSM, ethical standards; differences between the doctoral degree in clinical psychology and a master's degree in counseling, social work, or marriage and family therapy, and current controversies in these fields. Prerequisites: PSYC 017, PSYC 053, and PSYC 050, all with a C- or higher.

### **PSYC 118. Advanced Lab in Child Clinical Psychology. 4 Units.**

This lab is a more in depth look at topics within the field of clinical child psychology. Each time the course is taught, a specific topic of study such as parenting, child mental health, etc. will be the focus. The course relies heavily on becoming aware of the available research within the field of Clinical Child Psychology as well as more effectively accessing and understanding research in general. Experiential opportunities will be included. Prerequisites: PSYC 017 and PSYC 050, both with a "C-" or higher.

### **PSYC 125. History and Systems of Psychology. 4 Units.**

This course traces the development of "modern psychology" from its birth in early philosophy to its founding as an independent discipline in the late 1800s to its current status with an emphasis on modern behaviorism and cognitive psychology as the two dominant theoretical systems in psychology. In addition, other modern developments such as evolutionary psychology and cognitive neuroscience are discussed. The course focuses on specific content areas and ideas in psychology and the individuals who are most credited with their development.

### **PSYC 129. Advanced Lab in Developmental Psychology. 4 Units.**

This advanced lab will focus on a more in-depth exploration of a specific topic area within the field of Developmental Psychology. The course will include a strong research/ applied component that will help students get a more hands on feels for research and/ or application of the concepts within the field. Possible topics include The Study of Infants, Psychology of Aging, Cognitive Aging, or other topics. Prerequisites: PSYC 029, PSYC 050 with a C- or better. (ETHC)

### **PSYC 150. Advanced Research Methods in Psychology. 5 Units.**

The purpose of this course is to teach students how understanding research methods can help them become better consumers of information and better professionals, no matter their career. This course includes a lab component to facilitate hands-on learning. The goals for this course align with the psychology department's program learning outcome of scientific literacy and critical thinking. They also align with the university-wide core competencies of critical thinking, information literacy, quantitative reasoning, and written communication. Upon completion of this sequence, students will be able to: Discuss the role of research in advancing our knowledge of psychological phenomena, read and evaluate psychological research, identify the ethical issues surrounding the conduct of psychological research, distinguish scientific sources from pseudoscientific sources, state the basic research designs and the types of data analyses for conducting sound psychological research, write research reports using APA style. Prerequisites: Psychology major and a Grade of C- or higher in PSYC 050 and a Grade of C- or higher in one of the following: MATH 035, MATH 037, or PSYC 035.

### **PSYC 153. Advanced Lab in Behavioral Psychology. 4 Units.**

This advanced lab will focus more in-depth exploration of a specific topic area within the field of Behavioral Psychology. The course will include a strong research/ applied component that will help students get a more hands on feel for research and/or application of the concepts within the field. Possible topics may include Behavioral Economics, Behavioral Approaches to Common Childhood Problems, the Power of Habit, or other topics. Prerequisites: PSYC 053 and PSYC 050, both with a C- or higher.

### **PSYC 169. Advanced Lab in Social Psychology. 4 Units.**

This advanced lab will focus on a more in-depth exploration of a specific topic area within the field of Social Psychology. The course will include a strong research/applied component that will help students get a more hands on feel for research and/ or application of the concepts within the field. Possible topics may include Social Influence, Conformity, or other topics. Prerequisites: PSYC 069 and PSYC 050, both with a C- or higher.

### **PSYC 187. Internship. 1-4 Units.**

This internship course gives experiences in a work setting and is contracted on an individual basis. PSYC 187 represents advanced internship work that involves increased independence and responsibility. Students may register for only one course listed below in any semester and may receive no more than four units of credit for any of these courses. Pass/no credit is the only grading.

### **PSYC 189. Practicum. 4 Units.**

The practicum offers non-classroom experiences in activities related to the curriculum under conditions that is determined by the appropriate faculty member. PSYC 189 represents advanced practicum work which involves increased independence and responsibility. Students may register for only one course listed below in any semester and may receive no more than four units of credit for any of these courses. Pass/no credit is the only grading.

### **PSYC 191. Independent Study. 1-4 Units.**

### **PSYC 195. Seminar. 4 Units.**

### **PSYC 197. Independent Research. 1-4 Units.**

### **PSYC 207. Psychology of Learning. 4 Units.**

This course focuses on the scientific investigation of learning and behavior. Both experimental and related theoretical developments are considered, as well as applications of the basic principles of learning to issues of social significance.

**PSYC 251. Behavioral Treatment/Applications. 4 Units.**

This course focuses on the application of behavior analytic principles and methods in applied settings, with an emphasis on behavior change procedures, maintenance and generalization of behavior change, and emergency interventions. Topics addressed include the definition and characteristics of applied behavior analysis, selection and evaluation of intervention strategies, measurement of behavior, display and interpretation of behavioral data, and behavioral assessment. Additionally, basic behavioral principles, single-case experimental design, and ethical issues are discussed in the context of behavioral assessment and intervention. Prerequisite: Open only to graduate students in the psychology major.

**PSYC 258. Behavioral Assessment. 4 Units.**

Students study an overview of behavioral assessment techniques is examined. Specific topics covered include data collection, inter-observer agreement, social validity, treatment integrity, functional assessment, stimulus preference assessment, indirect assessment techniques, and functional analysis procedures.

**PSYC 262. Ethical Behavior. 4 Units.**

This course will cover professional conduct and ethical behavior with the broad discipline of psychology, as well as the specific ethical and professional guidelines for the Behavior Analysis Certificate (BACB®). This course addresses ethical decision-making, regulatory standards, and professional behavior in assessment, treatment, and research, in a variety of settings. Although this course will encompass a variety of disciplines and settings within psychology, primary attention will be given to those disciplines intersecting with the practice of applied behavior analysis and on those settings in which behavior analysts in practice are most likely to operate. Topics include accountability, confidentiality and informed consent, quality of services, quality of life, emergency management, research and academic settings, professional collaborations, boundaries, cultural competence, and ethical safeguards. Prerequisites: Psychology major and graduate student status.

**PSYC 278. Controversial Treatments in Applied Settings. 4 Units.**

This graduate seminar covers the varieties and consequences of pseudoscience in the helping professions and how to avoid being influenced by them. The helping professions comprise a significant industry in the United States. This includes medicine, psychology (including behavior analysis), psychiatry, social work, and other forms of counseling. It includes community mental health centers, and other venues such as mental hospitals, crisis centers, and schools. Each profession has a code of ethics that calls on professionals to help clients, to avoid harm, to honor informed consent requirements and promote independence. Professional codes of ethics call on professionals to draw on practice-related research findings. What do we find if we look closely at their everyday behavior? To what extent do professionals and researchers honor obligations described in such codes of ethics? Although this course will encompass a variety of disciplines and settings, primary attention will be given to those disciplines intersecting the practice of applied behavior analysis and on those settings in which behavior analysts in practice are most likely to operate. Prerequisites: Psychology major and graduate student status.

**PSYC 283. Research Design. 4 Units.**

Students learn the design and analysis of research using single subject and group designs.

**PSYC 285E. Personnel Supervision and Management I. 1 or 2 Unit.**

This course focuses on personnel supervision and management. Students will learn how to train others to design and implement behavioral assessments and interventions and oversee the implementation of behavioral programs by others. Students will also attend behavioral program planning meetings and review program-relevant literature. Prerequisites: Instructor permission.

**PSYC 285F. Personnel Supervision and Management II. 1 or 2 Unit.**

This course focuses on personnel supervision and management. Students will learn how to train others to design and implement behavioral assessments and interventions and oversee the implementation of behavioral programs by others. Students will also attend behavioral program planning meetings and review program-relevant literature. Prerequisites: Instructor permission.

**PSYC 287. Graduate Internship. 1-4 Units.**

**PSYC 289. Practicum. 1-4 Units.**

**PSYC 291. Graduate Independent Study. 1-4 Units.**

**PSYC 297. Graduate Independent Research. 1-4 Units.**

Pass/No Credit grading only.

**PSYC 299. Thesis. 2 or 4 Units.**

This course requires students, under the guidance and supervision of a designated faculty research advisor, to independently plan, organize, conduct, evaluate and write-up an original research project as partial fulfillment of the MA degree. Permission of instructor. Pass/No Credit grading only.