Program Offered

Master of Arts in Psychology

The department offers a program of graduate study that leads to the MA degree in psychology with special strengths in behavior analysis and behavioral clinical psychology. Students receive formal academic training in behavior analytic principles and techniques. All students obtain experience in relevant applied settings and/or teaching assistantships. The design and conduct of research is required throughout a student’s graduate work and students are provided with research mentorship and supervision.

The program prepares students for 1) entrance into doctoral programs and for 2) employment in applied behavior analysis settings. Students who apply to the doctoral preparation track are those who wish to increase their experiences and skills in order to become more competitive doctoral program applicants. Students in this track are interested in obtaining their doctorate in clinical or counseling psychology (behavioral emphasis) or behavior analysis. Previous graduates have been successful in entering quality doctoral programs and obtaining employment in a variety of settings.

Opportunities for specialized training, applied experience, and research are available in many settings that include:

1. The Community Re-Entry Program, a multifaceted treatment program for adults diagnosed with chronic mental illness closely affiliated with the Psychology Department. It is designed to move adults diagnosed with chronic mental illness to greater independence, and it provides special intervention and research opportunities with individuals diagnosed with schizophrenia;
2. Behavior Assessment and Intervention Service, a program that provides in-home intervention for people with developmental disabilities in conjunction with Valley Mountain Regional Center;
3. Contracts with local schools, several of which provide opportunities for experience in behavioral assessment and intervention. Most of these services are provided in the field, such as working with students and their teachers in area schools and working with parents of typically developing children with behavioral problems.
4. Additional practicum facilities in the community include Stockton Children’s Home, Regional Youth Services Program, San Joaquin County Mental Health Services, Head Start, Stockton Unified School District, and the Transitional Learning Center for homeless children. The Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB)® has accepted many of these applied experiences toward eventual board certification in Behavior Analysis.

Our course sequence and supervised experience have been approved by the BACB® and our students have had a high rate of sitting for and passing the BCBA® 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.

Psychology Faculty

Scott A. Jensen, Associate Professor and Chair, 2006, BS, Brigham Young University, 1998; MS, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, 2003; PhD, 2004.; sjensen@pacific.edu

Matthew P. Normand, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, 2007, BA, Western New England College; MA, Western Michigan University, 1999; MS, Florida State University, 2002; PhD, 2003, BCBA., mnormand@pacific.edu

Master of Arts in Psychology

Students must complete a minimum of 30 units with a Pacific cumulative grade point average of 3.0 in order to earn the master of arts in psychology.

Minimum 18 units, including each of these required courses:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 207</td>
<td>Psychology of Learning</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>PSYC 283</td>
<td>Research Design</td>
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<td>PSYC 253</td>
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<td>PSYC 299</td>
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Select one of the following options: 12

A) Doctoral Preparation Track

- PSYC Three electives from 200 level (PSYC 297 - Graduate Independent Research recommended)

B) Applied Behavior Analysis Track

- PSYC 258 Behavioral Assessment

Two PSYC behavior analysis electives (e.g., Behavioral Medicine, Radical Behaviorism, Controversial Treatments in Applied Settings)

Note: 1) Students are expected to spend four semesters and one summer in residence in Stockton as part of completing the program. 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.

Psychology Courses

PSYC 103. Statistical Inference in Behavioral Sciences. 4 Units.

Students examine the applications and limitations of statistical methods of inference in behavioral research. Topics include measurement, data collection, parameter estimation and confidence intervals, hypothesis testing, Type I and Type II errors and power. Parametric and non-parametric data analysis techniques and graphic analysis are studied and included chi square, t-test and analysis of variance. Students learn how to use “eyeball” estimation procedures to facilitate understanding of statistical concepts, and learn how to use spreadsheet and statistical computer programs for data analysis. Prerequisite: MATH 003 or appropriate score on the Mathematics Placement Test. PSYC 103 (or MATH 035 or MATH 037) with a grade of C- or better is required for psychology majors. Sophomore standing.

PSYC 105. Experimental Psychology. 5 Units.

This course is introduces to research methodology in the field of psychology. The course covers experimental design and statistical analysis appropriate to various designs and includes conducting reviews of research literature, writing research proposals and reports, and research ethics. All students use word processing and statistical analysis computer programs. All students complete an individual experimental research project. This course is required for psychology majors. Prerequisite: PSYC 103 or MATH 035 or MATH 037 with a grade of C- or better. Recommended: PSYC 031 and/or PSYC 053 taken in sophomore year. Sophomore standing.
PSYC 107. 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. Prerequisite: PSYC 105 or permission of instructor.

PSYC 109. Biological Psychology. 4 Units.
This course investigates the relationship of the nervous system to mental processes and behavior. Lecture and laboratory exercises introduce current research and methodology, clinical application, and hands-on demonstration of this rapidly developing field. Topics include the evolution and development of the human brain, neuroanatomy and neural transmission, biological rhythms, sensory and motor systems, sleep, emotional control, brain damage and disease, and many others. Prerequisite: PSYC 105 with a "C-" or better, or permission of instructor.

PSYC 110. Psychoactive Drugs and Behavior. 4 Units.
This course is an in-depth study of how drugs affect psychological processes and behavior. The course covers neuroanatomy, neuron physiology, basic psychopharmacological terminology, commonly used and recreational drugs, major psychotherapeutic drugs and the interaction between drug treatments and various psychotherapeutic and behavior change techniques. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or above is required.

PSYC 111. Abnormal Psychology. 4 Units.
Students study the causes, classification and treatment of abnormal behavior. The class is of interest to any student who is curious about people and what they do, especially the unusual things that people do. The class addresses the distinction between being different and having a mental disorder, what we can change and what we cannot change, psychological testing, the DSM classification system, the role of genetic factors in abnormal behavior as well as the current status of empirically validated psychosocial and pharmacological treatments for mental disorders. The class is highly recommended for any student who aspires to go into clinical psychology, marriage family counseling, child psychology, forensic psychology, social work, or pharmacy.

PSYC 115. Cognitive Psychology. 4 Units.
PSYC 115 is an introduction to the field of cognitive psychology that focuses on the mental processes that underlie thinking, remembering, forgetting, perception, attention, knowledge, language, and problem solving. Lecture and laboratory activities emphasize the current research on cognition, as well as applications of research findings. Prerequisite: PSYC 105 or permission of instructor.

PSYC 125. History and Systems of Psychology. 4 Units.
This senior capstone 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. Prerequisites: PSYC 105 and or permission of instructor. Junior standing. The course is required for psychology majors and it is recommended for the senior year.

PSYC 129. Developmental Psychology. 4 Units.
Students compare major models and specific theories of the development of behavior and examine an overview of research methodology that includes those methods particularly appropriate to the study of developmental phenomena. The major emphasis is on current empirical theory and data about child development. Field observation of children and/or adolescents is required. Prerequisite: PSYC 105 or permission of the instructor.

PSYC 131. Adolescence and Young Adulthood. 4 Units.
This course is the psychosocial examination of the transition from childhood to adulthood. Topics include conceptual issues and moral development, sexual and personality changes, role conflicts and problems unique to adolescence. The material is selected to interest both majors who plan to work with adolescents and to students who want to better understand their own life cycle phase or their future role as parents of adolescents. Prerequisites: sophomore standing is required.

PSYC 133. Adulthood and Aging. 4 Units.
This course provides an overview of developmental issues that occur in the adult and aging population. Topics include developmental theories, research techniques, and the biological, psychological, and sociological aspects of aging. Some emphasis is placed on providing psychological services to the aging population. Some field experiences in nursing homes will be part of the course. Sophomore standing is required.

PSYC 140. Psychology of Gender. 4 Units.
This course introduces students to psychological research on the experiences, behaviors, and abilities of men and women. A comparative approach is used to examine historical, contemporary, and cultural differences. Topics include gender differences and similarities in mental abilities, social behavior, mental health issues, and experiences of men and women in the workplace. Sophomore standing.

PSYC 144. Psychological Assessment. 4 Units.
An overview of the statistical underpinnings of psychological tests which include reliability, validity, and test creation as well as an overview of the most commonly administered psychological tests and their appropriate applications and use. The ethics of test creation and administration as well as practical application of various assessment techniques are discussed. This class is recommended for students who plan to pursue graduate training in clinical psychology. Prerequisite: PSYC 103.

PSYC 149. Sensation and Perception. 4 Units.
This course is an introduction to human sensory systems and perception. Building upon a detailed analysis of visual processing, students explore through lecture, readings, demonstrations, case studies, and investigations how scientists research the various sensory systems and how they shape our experience of, and interaction with the world. This draws on diverse fields such as biology, physics, philosophy and art in addition to psychology. This course is open to all students.

PSYC 152. Parenting. 4 Units.
This course discusses the role of parents in society as well as what is effective parenting. The course explores the available research on effective parenting as well as discussing and experiencing effective interventions to improve parenting skills. The course is intended to focus on both personal application as well as larger scale societal issues and interventions for others. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing.

PSYC 154. Child Mental Health. 4 Units.
Students study the casual factors that relate to the development of mental health problems in children. The emphasis is on the environmental issues associated with specific disorders that include behavioral learning histories, cognitive behavioral patterns, and family/parenting issues. Socio-cultural contributions to mental health are presented in addition to discussion of Evidence-Based Treatments for commonly diagnosed disorders and problems in childhood. Sophomore standing.

PSYC 155. Couples and Family Therapy. 4 Units.
This course is an introduction to couples and family therapy, theory, and practice. Behavioral psychology is used as the foundation, and students learn a broad systems perspective. Students are familiarized with the history of family therapy, as well as current family therapy strategies. Sophomore standing.
PSYC 156. Behavioral Medicine/Health Psychology. 4 Units.
Students examine the overlapping fields of behavioral medicine and health psychology. The course focuses on a biopsychosocial model of illness, how this model compares to a more traditional biomedical model of illness, and the applications of a biopsychosocial model to the treatment and prevention of chronic illnesses. Topics include health promotion and medical compliance. This course may interest any student who aspires to become a health care professional in health psychology, clinical psychology, medicine, pharmacy, physical therapy, or nursing. Prerequisite: PSYC 053. Junior or Senior standing recommended.

PSYC 158. Behavioral Assessment. 4 Units.
An overview of behavioral assessment techniques is examined. Specific topics include data collection, inter-observer agreement, social validity, treatment integrity, functional assessment, stimulus preference assessment, indirect assessment techniques, and functional analysis procedures. Prerequisites: PSYC 053 and permission of instructor.

PSYC 166. Psychology of Personality. 4 Units.
This course is a survey of contemporary personality theories and research. The course focuses on the study of individual difference and how these differences are explained and measured using different personality assessment devices. This course is recommended for students who aspire to enroll in graduate study of clinical psychology, school psychology, marriage and family counseling, child development, or social work. It may interest those who want to learn more about themselves and the diversity of the species. Junior or Senior standing recommended.

PSYC 167. Psychology and the Law. 4 Units.
The course examines the contribution of psychology to the judicial system. Students explore both the role of forensic psychologists in criminal cases and applied psychological research designed to assist police and courts in their functions. Case studies illustrate forensic issues, such as examining serial killers and the uses and abuses of police interrogation in criminal cases. Topics include insanity and incompetency of defendants; psychopathy; problems with eyewitness testimony; issues involved with sentencing (including the death penalty); the mistreatment of children and adolescents by the justice system; and false confessions. Students visit actual course trials early in the semester. Not recommended for first-year students.

PSYC 169. Social Psychology. 4 Units.
Students study the interaction of social and psychological factors (how psychological factors affect group behavior and how social factors affect individual behavior). This course is primarily for psychology majors and is taught with an emphasis on research methods in social psychology. Prerequisite: PSYC 105 or permission of the instructor.

PSYC 183. Research Design. 4 Units.
This course is the design and analysis of research using single subject and group designs. Prerequisite: PSYC 105 and permission of instructor.

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. 1-4 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 220. Clinical Neuropsychology. 4 Units.
This course focuses on the relationship between human brain functioning and behavioral/ psychological functioning. The primary emphasis is on the diagnosis and treatment of brain dysfunction in humans. Methods to evaluate clients for the presence of various types of brain dysfunction using psychological testing are studied in depth, along with corresponding neuroanatomy and neuropathology. Research techniques to develop a clearer understanding of both normal and abnormal brain functioning are studied. Permission of instructor.

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. Open This course is open only to graduate students with permission.

PSYC 253. Supervising and Teaching Behavior Changes. 2 Units.
This course introduces graduate students to the role of practicum supervisor and instructor. Under the supervision of the PSYC 053 course instructor, students develop, sustain, and evaluate their own interventions at pre-approved externship sites. Students conduct bi-weekly discussion groups that provide undergraduate students enrolled in PSYC 053 with additional resources for the course. Students meet weekly with the instructor to discuss practicum concerns and teaching responsibilities. Students gain practical experience carrying out independent research projects, which are often presented at research conferences, as well as teaching experience. All responsibilities are carried out under the supervision of the PSYC 053 instructor. Prerequisites: PSYC 251, PSYC 258, extensive training in behavior analysis and permission of instructor.

PSYC 254. Child Mental Health. 4 Units.
Students study the casual factors related to the development of mental health problems in children. The emphasis is on the environmental issues associated with specific disorders, that include behavioral learning histories, cognitive behavioral patterns, and family/parenting issues. Socio-cultural contributions to mental health are presented in addition to discussion of Evidence-Based Treatments for commonly diagnosed disorders and problems in childhood.

PSYC 255. Couples and Family Therapy. 4 Units.
This course is an introduction to couples and family therapy, theory, and practice. Behavioral psychology is used as the foundation, and students learn a broad systems perspective. Students are familiarized with the history of family therapy, as well as current family therapy strategies.

PSYC 256. Behavioral Medicine/Health Psychology. 4 Units.
Students examine the overlapping fields of behavioral medicine and health psychology. The course focuses on a biopsychosocial model of illness, how this model compares to a more traditional biomedical model of illness, and the applications of a biopsychosocial model to the treatment and prevention of chronic illnesses. Topics include health promotion and medical compliance. This course is of interest to any student who aspires to become a health care professional in health psychology, clinical psychology, medicine, pharmacy, physical therapy, or nursing.
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 283. Research Design. 4 Units.
Students learn the design and analysis of research using single subject and group designs.

PSYC 285E. Behavior Analysis Internship I. 1 Unit.
This course provides clinical experience with the University of the Pacific Behavior Analysis Services Program. This course includes practice in conducting behavioral interventions, designing, implementing, and monitoring behavior analysis programs for clients. Students oversee the implementation of behavioral programs by others, attending behavioral program planning meetings, and reviewing program-relevant literature. Faculty and staff will observe interns engaging in the activities in the natural environment at least once every two weeks, and provide specific feedback to interns on their performance. Multiple populations and sites will be available, including but not limited to, typically developing school-aged children in school and home settings, and individuals with psychiatric diagnoses and/or developmental disabilities in their homes or in community settings. Permission of instructor. Pass/No Credit grading only.

PSYC 285F. Behavior Analysis Internship II. 1 Unit.
This course provides clinical experience with the University of the Pacific Behavior Analysis Services Program. This course includes practice in conducting behavior analysis programs for clients, overseeing the implementation of behavioral programs by others, attending behavioral program planning meetings, and reviewing program-relevant literature. Faculty and staff observe interns engaging in activities in the natural environment at least once every two weeks, and they provide specific feedback to interns on their performance. Multiple populations and sites are available, including but not limited to, typically developing school-aged children in school and home settings, and individuals with psychiatric diagnoses and/or developmental disabilities in their homes or in community settings. Permission of instructor. Pass/No Credit grading only.

PSYC 291. Graduate Independent Study. 1-4 Units.
PSYC 295. Graduate Seminar in Psychology. 4 Units.
PSYC 297. Graduate Independent Research. 1-4 Units.
Pass/No Credit grading only.
PSYC 297D. Independent Research. 1-4 Units.
PSYC 297E. Independent Research. 1-4 Units.
PSYC 299. Thesis. 2 or 4 Units.