PSYCHOLOGY (PSYC)

Graduate Degree Program
College: Behavioral and Social Sciences

Abstract

Psychology is a remarkably broad field that studies mind and behavior at all levels of analysis ranging from the micro to the macro; from single cells to complex systems; from individuals to groups and cultures; and from invertebrates to humans. Some of these endeavors connect with the biological sciences and others with the social sciences. As analytical, methodological, and theoretical advances in one domain increasingly influence developments in another, psychologists collaborate in ever greater numbers with scientists in neighboring disciplines, resulting in new subfields that blend the biological and social sciences.

Our department reflects well this combined diversity of and collaborations among approaches. In recognition of this fact, we organized our training structure into 5 Ph.D. Specialty Areas:

- Clinical (CLIN)
- Cognitive and Neural Systems (CNS)
- Counseling (COUN)
- Developmental (DEV)
- Social, Decision, and Organizational Science (SDOS)

Research collaborations across areas are common and we encourage students to consider training across areas as well. The Department's doctoral programs in both Clinical and Counseling Psychology have been approved by the American Psychological Association. School Psychology, also an APA approved program, is offered in the College of Education.

Financial Assistance

The Department attempts to provide financial aid for all incoming students, although aid is not guaranteed. The different possible types of financial support include fellowships (nominated by the department), teaching assistantships, research assistantships, work on campus, and funded externships.

Contact

Office of Graduate Studies-Ph.D. Program
Department of Psychology
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College Park, MD 20742
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Email: PsycPhD@ (psycPhD@umd.edu)umd.edu

Website: http://www.psyc.umd.edu/landing/Graduate (http://www.psyc.umd.edu/landing/Graduate/)

Courses: PSYC (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/courses/psyc/)

Relationships: Clinical Psychological Science (MPPS) (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/clinical-psychological-science-mpps/) Industrial/Organizational Psychology (MPIO) (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/industrial-organizational-psychology-mpio/) Neurosciences and Cognitive Science (NACS) (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/neurosciences-cognitive-science-nacs/)

ADMISSIONS

General Requirements

- Statement of Purpose
- Transcript(s)
- TOEFL/IELTS/PTE (international graduate students (https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/english-language-proficiency-requirements/))

Program-Specific Requirements

- Letters of Recommendation(3)
- CV/Resume *(Please do not indicate GPA or GRE scores on your CV)*
- Supplementary Application (one required from list below, up to one more optional, contact department for details)
  - Supplementary Application (https://gradschool.umd.edu/sites/default/files/2023-05/clinical_umd_programsupplemental_fall_2022.pdf) (Clinical Psychology only)
  - Supplementary Application (https://gradschool.umd.edu/sites/default/files/2023-05/umdsupplementaryapplicationpsyccounseling.pdf) (Counseling Psychology only)
  - Supplementary Application (https://gradschool.umd.edu/sites/default/files/2023-05/umdsupplementaryapplicationpsycsdos2020.pdf) (Social/Decision/Organizational Sciences only)
- Description of Research/Work Experience (optional)
- Writing Sample (optional)
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is not required and will NOT be considered if submitted
- GRE Subject-Psychology (optional for Clinical applicants only)

The Department accepts only those applicants who have demonstrated competence in completing the requirements of the doctoral degree. The typical student admitted to the graduate program has an overall undergraduate grade point average of 3.5 or above, a psychology grade point average over 3.5, appropriate background experiences, outstanding letters of recommendation, research experience and/or previous relevant work experience, and goals congruent with the program. The Department of Psychology encourages applications from members of racial/ethnic minority groups.

Students admitted to the graduate program often earn the M.S. degree en route to the Ph.D., however, this varies across specialty areas and the specific requirements within a given specialty area should be consulted. All students must be full-time until completion of all requirements of the doctoral program other than the dissertation has been met.

Application Deadlines

Type of Applicant	Fall Deadline
Domestic Applicants	
US Citizens and Permanent Residents	December 2, 2025
International Applicants	

F (student) or J (exchange visitor) visas; A,E,G,H,I and L visas and immigrants	December 2, 2025

RESOURCES AND LINKS:
Program Website: http://www.psyc.umd.edu/landing/Graduate (http://www.psyc.umd.edu/landing/Graduate/)
Application Process: gradschool.umd.edu/admissions (https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/)

REQUIREMENTS

- Psychology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/psychology-psyc/psychology-phd/)
- Psychology, Master of Science (M.S.) (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/psychology-psyc/psychology-ms/)

FACILITIES AND SPECIAL RESOURCES

The Department of Psychology shares a building with the Biology Department and is centrally situated on campus near three libraries and the student union. The Department has state-of-the-art laboratories, computer facilities, and video equipment. The geographic location in a suburb of Washington, D.C. provides access to a wide variety of laboratory and training facilities in governmental and other agencies. In addition, we are near the national headquarters for the American Psychological Association and Association for Psychological Science.

The Department follows all regulations involved in the use of human subjects and animals.