

PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES (MS)

The Department of Psychological Sciences offers two pathways to a Master of Science (M.S.) in Psychological Sciences: an accelerated M.S. available to UConn undergraduates with research experience (e.g., PSYC 3889, PSYC 3899), and an M.S. available to students enrolled in the Psychological Sciences Ph.D.

The following concentrations are available via both pathways:

- Developmental Psychology
- Industrial and Organizational Psychology
- Language and Cognition
- Neuroscience
- Social Psychology

The following concentrations are only available to students in the accelerated M.S. program:

- Ecological Psychology
- Integrated Psychology

The Department also offers a concentration in Clinical Psychology, which is open only to M.S. students enrolled in the Psychological Sciences Ph.D. For information about the Clinical Psychology concentration, including program requirements, please refer to the Psychological Sciences Ph.D. page of the catalog.

See the "Related Programs" section for more information about the accelerated M.S. program.

Location

- Storrs Campus

Modality

- In Person

Requirements

Ph.D. and M.S. students are expected to complete a Plan A (Thesis). M.S. Students who are not continuing with the Ph.D. program or completing an accelerated M.S. may complete a Plan B (Non-Thesis).

Credits used for an M.S. in any concentration cannot be used to meet the program requirements for a Ph.D. Plan of Study.

M.S. Quantitative Methods Requirements

M.S. students are required to take three credits of quantitative methods and earn a grade of "B-" to meet the departmental quantitative methods requirement. Typically M.S. students fulfill this requirement by taking PSYC 5104 Foundations of Research in the Psychological Sciences I which is offered each fall semester.

M.S. students may take an alternative quantitative or computational course with explicit approval of their major advisor, the Director of the Quantitative Research Methods (QRM) Certificate Program and the Associate Head for Graduate Studies.

M.S. students may also take PSYC 5105 Foundations of Research in the Psychological Sciences II (3 credits) to fulfill the six credit quantitative

methods requirement for a Ph.D. in Psychological Sciences. PSYC 5105 Foundations of Research in the Psychological Sciences II may be taken during either the M.S. or Ph.D. portion of the program.

Research and Final Exam Requirements

Plan A (Thesis)

This plan emphasizes research activities and requires a minimum of 30 course credits that must include nine credits GRAD 5950 Master's Thesis Research or GRAD 5960 Full-Time Master's Research and a minimum of 21 content credits.

Students must complete a research-based thesis, following the rules specified by the Graduate School. Students are required to pass a final oral examination based on the candidate's thesis (M.S. defense) not more than one year after completion of any M.S. coursework.

Plan B (Non-Thesis)

This plan emphasizes a comprehensive understanding of a more general character than the Plan A (thesis) and requires a minimum of 30 content credits including at least three credits of PSYC 5800.

Students are required to pass a final examination to test the adequacy of the student's mastery of content within an area of concentration not more than one year after the completion of any M.S. coursework.

Concentration Requirements

In addition to the departmental requirements, each concentration has its own course requirements as detailed below.

Developmental Psychology Concentration

Course	Title	Credits
Required Core Courses		
PSYC 5104	Foundations of Research in the Psychological Sciences I (or approved alternate)	3
PSYC 5170	Current Topics in Psychology (First-Year Seminar (2 semesters))	2
PSYC 5400	Research Seminar in Developmental Psychology (2 semesters)	2
PSYC 5499	Research Team in Developmental Psychology (2 semesters)	2
Additional Content Courses		
Students must complete four courses from the following list: ¹		12
PSYC 5420	Cognitive Development	
PSYC 5425	Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience	
PSYC 5440	Development of Language and Related Processes	
PSYC 5450	Infancy and the Effects of Early Experience	
PSYC 5460	Social and Personality Development	
PSYC 5470	Current Topics in Developmental Psychology	
Total Credits		21

¹ Any 5000- or 6000-level graduate course approved by the Developmental Program Head may also be used toward the Additional Content requirement.

Ecological Psychology Concentration

Course	Title	Credits
Required Core Courses		
PSYC 5104	Foundations of Research in the Psychological Sciences I (or approved alternate)	3
PSYC 5170	Current Topics in Psychology (First-Year Seminar (2 semesters))	2
Additional Content Courses		
Students must complete five of the following courses: ¹		15
PSYC 5553	Introduction to Nonlinear Dynamics	
PSYC 5554	Advanced Nonlinear Dynamics for the Behavioral Sciences	
PSYC 5571	Sensation and Perception I	
PSYC 5574	Control and Coordination of Action	
STAT 5665	Applied Multivariate Analysis	
STAT 5825	Applied Time Series	
Total Credits		20

¹ Any 5000- or 6000-level graduate course approved by the Ecological Program Faculty may also be used toward the Additional Content requirement.

Industrial/Organizational (I/O) Psychology Concentration

Course	Title	Credits
Required Core Courses		
PSYC 5104	Foundations of Research in the Psychological Sciences I (or approved alternate)	3
PSYC 5170	Current Topics in Psychology (First-Year Seminar (2 semesters))	2
PSYC 5600	Research and Practice of Industrial/Organizational Psychology (2 semesters)	2
PSYC 5699	Research Team in Industrial/Organizational Psychology (2 semesters)	2
PSYC 5123	Occupational Health Psychology	3
PSYC 5613	Organizational Psychology	3
PSYC 5614	Personnel Psychology	3
PSYC 5615	Human Factors	3
Additional Content Courses		
Students must complete at least one of the following courses ¹		3
PSYC 5611	Work Motivation	
PSYC 5617	Occupational Health and Safety	
PSYC 5670	Current Topics in Industrial/Organizational Psychology	
PSYC 5701	Experimental Social Psychology	
Total Credits		24

¹ Any 5000- or 6000-level graduate course approved by the Industrial/Organizational Program Head may also be used toward the Additional Content requirement.

Integrated Psychology Concentration

Course	Title	Credits
Required Core Courses		
PSYC 5104	Foundations of Research in the Psychological Sciences I (or approved alternate)	3
PSYC 5110	First Year Proseminar (2 semesters)	2
Additional Content Courses		
Students must complete at least four 5000- or 6000-level graduate courses approved by the major advisor and advisory committee that includes at least two different graduate program offerings in either Neuroscience, Clinical, Developmental, Ecological, Industrial/Organizational, Language and Cognition or Social, including but not limited to the following list:		12
PSYC 5107	Statistical Analysis of Neural Data	
PSYC 5120	Health Psychology	
PSYC 5131	Meta Analysis: Theory and Practice	
PSYC 5150	Neurodevelopment and Plasticity	
PSYC 5170	Current Topics in Psychology	
PSYC 5228	Neuropsychopharmacology	
PSYC 5251	Neural Foundations of Learning and Memory	
PSYC 5270	Current Topics in Behavioral Neuroscience	
PSYC 5285	Neurobiology of Aging: Changes in Cognitive Processes	
PSYC 5332	Research Design and Test Construction	
PSYC 5420	Cognitive Development	
PSYC 5424	Cognitive Neuroscience of Language Across the Lifespan	
PSYC 5425	Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience	
PSYC 5440	Development of Language and Related Processes	
PSYC 5441	Language Modality, Neural Plasticity, and Development	
PSYC 5445	Neurobiology of Language: Typical and Atypical Cognition and Language Development	
PSYC 5450	Infancy and the Effects of Early Experience	
PSYC 5470	Current Topics in Developmental Psychology	
PSYC 5513	Memory	
PSYC 5516	Event Cognition	
PSYC 5517	Human Neuroimaging	
PSYC 5518	Introduction to Programming Complex Systems	
PSYC 5553	Introduction to Nonlinear Dynamics	
PSYC 5554	Advanced Nonlinear Dynamics for the Behavioral Sciences	
PSYC 5564	Dynamics of Language and Cognition	
PSYC 5565	Computational Approaches to Language and Mind	
PSYC 5567	Cognition	
PSYC 5568	Psychology of Language	
PSYC 5570	Current Topics in Cognitive Science	
PSYC 5571	Sensation and Perception I	

PSYC 5574	Control and Coordination of Action	
PSYC 5583	Sentence and Discourse Processing	
PSYC 5611	Work Motivation	
PSYC 5613	Organizational Psychology	
PSYC 5614	Personnel Psychology	
PSYC 5615	Human Factors	
PSYC 5670	Current Topics in Industrial/Organizational Psychology	
PSYC 5701	Experimental Social Psychology	
PSYC 5703	Advanced Social Psychology	
PSYC 5770	Current Topics in Social Psychology	
PSYC 6732	Attitude Organization and Change	
PSYC 6733	Social Cognition	
PSYC 6750	The Social Psychology of Stigma	
PSYC 6783	Tools to Analyze Language	
Total Credits		17

Language and Cognition Concentration

Course	Title	Credits
Required Core Courses		
PSYC 5104	Foundations of Research in the Psychological Sciences I (or approved alternate)	3
PSYC 5170	Current Topics in Psychology (First-Year Seminar (2 semesters))	2

Additional Content Courses

Students must complete four of the following courses: ¹ 12-13

PSYC 5424	Cognitive Neuroscience of Language Across the Lifespan	
PSYC 5445	Neurobiology of Language: Typical and Atypical Cognition and Language Development	
PSYC 5513	Memory	
PSYC 5516	Event Cognition	
PSYC 5517	Human Neuroimaging	
PSYC 5518	Introduction to Programming Complex Systems	
PSYC 5564	Dynamics of Language and Cognition	
PSYC 5567	Cognition	
PSYC 5568	Psychology of Language	
PSYC 5570	Current Topics in Cognitive Science (may be repeated with a change in topic)	
PSYC 5583	Sentence and Discourse Processing	

Total Credits 17-18

¹ Any 5000- or 6000-level graduate course approved by the Language and Cognition Program Faculty may also be used toward the Additional Content requirement.

Neuroscience Concentration

Course	Title	Credits
Required Core Courses		
PSYC 5104	Foundations of Research in the Psychological Sciences I (or approved alternate)	3

PSYC 5170	Current Topics in Psychology (First-Year Seminar (2 semesters))	2
PSYC 5200	Behavioral Neuroscience Research Seminar (2 semesters)	4

Additional Content Courses

Students must complete at least three of the following courses: ¹ 9

PSYC 5107	Statistical Analysis of Neural Data	
PSYC 5140	Foundations in Neuropsychology	
PSYC 5150	Neurodevelopment and Plasticity	
PSYC 5228	Neuropsychopharmacology	
PSYC 5270	Current Topics in Behavioral Neuroscience (may be repeated with a change in topic)	
PSYC 5285	Neurobiology of Aging: Changes in Cognitive Processes	

Total Credits 18

¹ Any 5000- or 6000-level graduate course approved by the Behavioral Neuroscience Program Head may also be used toward the Additional Content requirement.

Social Psychology Concentration

Course	Title	Credits
Required Core Courses		
PSYC 5104	Foundations of Research in the Psychological Sciences I (or approved alternate)	3
PSYC 5170	Current Topics in Psychology (First-Year Seminar (2 semesters))	2
PSYC 5701	Experimental Social Psychology	3
PSYC 5703	Advanced Social Psychology	3

PSYC 5104	Foundations of Research in the Psychological Sciences I (or approved alternate)	3
PSYC 5170	Current Topics in Psychology (First-Year Seminar (2 semesters))	2
PSYC 5701	Experimental Social Psychology	3
PSYC 5703	Advanced Social Psychology	3

Additional Content Courses

Students must complete at least two of the following courses: ¹ 6

PSYC 5770	Current Topics in Social Psychology (may be repeated with a change in topic)	
PSYC 6732	Attitude Organization and Change	
PSYC 6750	The Social Psychology of Stigma	
PSYC 6783	Tools to Analyze Language	

Total Credits 17

¹ Any 5000- or 6000-level graduate course approved by the Social Psychology Program Head may also be used toward the Additional Content requirement.

Learning Objectives

1. Knowledge: Demonstrate appropriate breadth and depth of disciplinary knowledge and comprehension of the major topics, theories, and issues of the discipline
2. Research/Applied skills: Uses, disaggregates, reformulates and/or adapts principal ideas, techniques or methods of the field of study, as appropriate.
3. Communication: Communicate proficiently and effectively to a specialist and non- specialist audience, verbally and in writing, a coherent argument or explanation summarizing aspects of the discipline

4. Ethics/Professional behavior: Conduct themselves in accordance with the highest ethical and responsible standards, values, and, where these are defined, the best practices of the discipline

Accelerated Psychological Sciences MS

An accelerated M.S. is available to UConn undergraduates with research experience (e.g., PSYC 3889, PSYC 3899) with concentration in:

- [Developmental Psychology](#)
- [Ecological Psychology](#)
- [Industrial and Organizational Psychology](#)
- [Integrated Psychology](#)
- [Language and Cognition](#)
- [Neuroscience](#)
- [Social Psychology](#)

Interested applicants should discuss this program with faculty mentors prior to application.

Students in the accelerated M.S. program may use up to twelve credits of graduate level courses toward both the undergraduate and M.S. plans of study.

Students in the Accelerated M.S. program can choose to complete a Plan A (Thesis) Master's or a Plan B Master's. This decision is up to the discretion of the major advisor.