

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

As a special-purpose institution of higher education for urban programming, Texas Southern University embraces the concept of a liberal arts education, particularly as it addresses the biopsychosocial needs and societal values and norms of culturally diverse populations in urban environments. Within this context, the mission of the Master of Arts degree program in the **Department of Psychology** is to facilitate the acquisition of knowledge, values, and competencies of professional psychology through didactic training and practical experience; to develop a master's level psychologist who is clinically competent, ethically-grounded, scientifically informed, and culturally responsive to the practice, research, and policy mandates of psychology as a profession; and to lay the foundation for doctoral level training or professional licensure at the master's level. The learning objectives of the graduate program in the Department of Psychology are as follows:

1. To enhance students' understanding of the major theories, concepts, current research, and historical trends in professional psychology;
2. To train students in basic research methods, including study design, data analysis and reporting, and interpretation of results so that they can conduct research and be scientifically informed consumers of the empirical literature;
3. To promote students' acquisition of critical thinking skills, skeptical inquiry, and evidenced-based approaches to solving human problems of living and disorders related to behavior and mental processes;
4. To train students to apply psychological principles and techniques to personal, social, and organizational issues; and
5. To promote professional competence so that students will be able to reflect the values underlying the practice of psychology by weighing evidence, tolerating ambiguity, acting ethically, and keeping abreast of advancements in the field.

Degree Programs

The Department of Psychology provides academic studies leading to the Master of Arts (M.A.) degree. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) approves only the awarding of the M.A. degree in Psychology with no specialization. The department, however, offers two areas of concentration, Clinical- Community and School Psychology. Students are required to choose one of the areas of concentration, meet the required semester credit hours and those requirements designated in the degree plan for successful completion of the program. Students also have the option of completing a Master's Thesis.

Master's Thesis Option

Students in both the Clinical-Community concentration and the School Psychology concentration have the option of completing a Master's Thesis. After completing 12 hours of coursework in the program and being advanced to candidacy, students may enroll in PSY 832 Masters Res & Thesis I one semester and PSY 833 Masters Res & Thesis II the following semester. No more than 6 credit hours may be earned toward the Master's Thesis. The 6 hours of Master's Thesis coursework may be used to replace two courses on the student's degree plan. However, students may not replace courses that are required for licensure.

Thesis research courses receive grades of satisfactory or unsatisfactory only. Grades are assigned only after the defense of the thesis. A successful defense and submission of the thesis requires the supervising

member of the faculty to assign a satisfactory grade for the appropriate research courses.

Degree Requirements

In general, the departmental requirements for advancement to candidacy for the Master of Arts degree in Psychology are as follows:

1. Demonstrated proficiency in English by passing an examination in English or by completing the course English 501. A GRE analytical writing score of 3.5 or more may be presented to satisfy this requirement.
2. Departmental recommendation to candidacy status for the Master of Arts in Psychology.
3. Successful completion of the department's Comprehensive Examination in Psychology. This examination is offered once during the fall semester and once during the spring semester. Students who fail one or both parts of the Comprehensive Examination will be given a second chance to take the part(s) they fail. A third attempt to pass the Examination will be permitted only after consultation and/or remediation.
4. Completion with a GPA of not less than 3.00 in all required and elective graduate courses taken to satisfy program requirements.
5. Complete 60 semester credits of graduate course work of which:
 - a. All must have been earned within the past 7 years immediately preceding completion of the requirements for the degree.
 - b. Not more than 6 hours may be transfer, extensions, and/or Classified or Unclassified Post- baccalaureate courses. In addition, a grade of B or better must have been earned in courses to be transferred into the program.
 - c. Not more than 15 hours may be a combination of fieldwork and thesis/project when taken as individual supervision.
6. Earn no more than 6 semester hours with a grade of C+ or below. Grades of C+ or below are not accepted toward the Master of Arts in Psychology.

Candidacy

Advancement to candidacy as a formal candidate for the master's degree requires prior completion of the following steps:

1. Completion in classified graduate status of four or more courses at the 500 level (minimum of twelve (12) hours) within the Department of Psychology.
 2. Maintenance of a 3.0 GPA or better in all departmental coursework and in overall coursework.
 3. Acceptance by the department of a proposed formal degree plan.
 4. Recommendation by the faculty of the department for acceptance as a candidate.
- Psychology (Clinical Community Concentration), Master of Arts (<https://catalog.tsu.edu/graduate/schools-colleges/liberal-arts-behavioral-sciences/psychology/psychology-clinical-community-concentration-ma/>)
 - Psychology (School Psychology Concentration), Master of Arts (<https://catalog.tsu.edu/graduate/schools-colleges/liberal-arts-behavioral-sciences/psychology/psychology-school-psychology-concentration-ma/>)

PSY 533 Survey Psy Statistics (3 Credits)**Lecture:** 3, **Lab:** 0

Designed for students who need practical competence in statistics. The techniques considered include reliability, validity, correlation, t-test, analysis of variance, non-parametric methods and experimental designs. (Prerequisite: Three semester hours of elementary statistics.)

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Scie**Department:** Department of Psychology**PSY 536 Behavior Management (3 Credits)****Lecture:** 3, **Lab:** 0

For perspective teachers, counselor, and clinicians. A survey of psychological concerns, treatment procedures, and resources important in management of child behaviors. 3 credit hours.

Prerequisite(s): PSY 531**College/School:** Liberal Arts & Behavioral Scie**Department:** Department of Psychology**PSY 538 Group Therapy (3 Credits)****Lecture:** 3, **Lab:** 0

Theories and concepts underlying the process of group therapy. 3 credit hours.

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Scie**Department:** Department of Psychology**PSY 539 Human Growth and Development (3 Credits)****Lecture:** 3, **Lab:** 0

And advanced study of knowledge and thory about human development across the lifespan. The role of genetics, environment, and maturational processes in cognitive, affective, and behavioral development are covered. 3 credit hours.

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Scie**Department:** Department of Psychology**PSY 540 Consultation (3 Credits)****Lecture:** 3

This course is designed to the provide an overview of consultation theory, research, and practice in psychology with various settings (e.g. education). Practical application of consultation skills within a problem solving, behavioral/conjoint behavioral consultation framework will be emphasized.

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Scie**Department:** Department of Psychology**PSY 541 Psychological Assessment I (3 Credits)****Lecture:** 3

This course will prepare students for work in the field of psychology by training them in the process of comprehensive psychological assessment, including emotional, behavioral, social, personality and vocational assessment methods.

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Scie**Department:** Department of Psychology**PSY 542 Learning and Behavior Management (3 Credits)****Lecture:** 3

This course introduces students to major theories of learning and how they can be used to change and manage behavior. This course teaches students the building blocks of behavior management, including how to observe, define and assess behavior, as well as how to effectively implement various behavior management strategies.

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Scie**Department:** Department of Psychology**PSY 631 Research Design (3 Credits)****Lecture:** 3, **Lab:** 0

Emphasis on the designing experimental studies that investigate a therapeutic intervention. Provides a systematic analysis and evaluation of research as applied to academic and community problems. (Prerequisite: Three hours in statistics.)

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Scie**Department:** Department of Psychology**PSY 632 Theories of Counseling and Psychological Inverntions (3 Credits)****Lecture:** 3

The study of the theoretical principles of counseling and the application of psychological interventions for the treatment of clients in communities and schools. 3 credit hours.

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Scie**Department:** Department of Psychology**PSY 635 Psychological Counseling, Interviewing, and Report Writing (3 Credits)****Lecture:** 3, **Lab:** 0

Survey of the techniques and processes involved in psychological counseling, interviewing, and report writing. 3 credit hours.

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Scie**Department:** Department of Psychology**PSY 636 Cognitive Behavior Therapy (3 Credits)****Lecture:** 3

Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT) is one of the most widely used intervention/treatment approaches in the nation. CBT has been shown efficacious in treating various psychological conditions. This course will train in the selection/implementation of CBT techniques based on disorder, symptoms and patient characteristics.

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Scie**Department:** Department of Psychology**PSY 637 Personality Assessment (3 Credits)****Lecture:** 3, **Lab:** 0

Major concepts and techniques in the development and construction of personality assessment instruments including the administration and interpretation of structured and semi-structured instruments.

(Prerequisite: PSY 532)**College/School:** Liberal Arts & Behavioral Scie**Department:** Department of Psychology**PSY 638 Career Development (3 Credits)****Lecture:** 3

Introduction to the theoretical models, research, assessment, and techniques of career counseling. 3 credit hours.

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Scie**Department:** Department of Psychology**PSY 640 Professional Orientation in the Field of Psychology (3 Credits)****Lecture:** 3

This course helps prepare students for their careers as mental health professionals. Topics covered include resume/CV writing, seeking licensure, establishing a private practice, self-care, and professional opportunities available within the field.

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Scie**Department:** Department of Psychology

PSY 641 Social, Cultural, and Systemic Bases of Behavior (3 Credits)**Lecture:** 3

This course will emphasize critical analysis and application of social and cross-cultural psychological theories and concepts in understanding human behavior for culturally sensitive conceptualization, diagnostic assessment and treatment of mental illness and psychological disorders across diverse populations.

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Science**Department:** Department of Psychology**PSY 642 African American Psychology (3 Credits)****Lecture:** 3

This course will examine the history of African/Black psychology as an evolving field of study. The course will explore a range of topics relevant to the psychological experiences of African Americans such as racism and discrimination, education, kinship and family, religion and spirituality, and racial identity.

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Science**Department:** Department of Psychology**PSY 643 Psychological Assessment II (3 Credits)****Lecture:** 3

This course will continue to prepare students for work in the field of psychology by training them in the process of comprehensive psychological assessment, including intellectual (IQ) and cognitive functioning, adaptive behavior, academic achievement, autism, and brief language assessment methods.

Prerequisite(s): PSY 541**College/School:** Liberal Arts & Behavioral Science**Department:** Department of Psychology**PSY 730 Eth & Legal Issues in Mental Health (3 Credits)****Lecture:** 3, **Lab:** 3

The study of ethical and legal issues which relate to the mental health professionals.

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Science**Department:** Department of Psychology**PSY 731 Role of School Psychologist (3 Credits)****Lecture:** 3

The development of the school psychologist as a member of the school staff. Includes an examination of the research on the role, function, legal and ethical responsibilities of the school psychologist as well as the relationship to staff, administrative and teaching personnel.

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Science**Department:** Department of Psychology**PSY 733 Physiological Psychology (3 Credits)****Lecture:** 3, **Lab:** 0

A systematic study of the interrelationship between physiology and the physiological basis of mental functions and the influences of various psychological phenomena on the system of the body. (Prerequisite: Consent of the instructor)

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Science**Department:** Department of Psychology**PSY 735 Practicum (3 Credits)****Lecture:** 0, **Lab:** 6

The student will spend at least 150 clock hours working in an approved agency or institution under the clinical supervision of a staff member of the agency or institution who is a certified/licensed psychologist. (Prerequisite: Completion of at least thirty [30] hours of approved graduate work and consent of the cooperating agency. This course may be repeated one time for credit.)

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Science**Department:** Department of Psychology**PSY 736 Practicum (3 Credits)****Lecture:** 0, **Lab:** 6

The second of three practicums where the student must spend at least 150 clock hours working in an approved agency or institution under the supervision of a staff member of the agency or institution who is a certified/licensed psychologist. (Prerequisite: Completion of at least thirty [30] hours of approved graduate work and consent of the cooperating agency. This course may be repeated one time for credit.)

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Science**Department:** Department of Psychology**PSY 737 Practicum (3 Credits)****Lecture:** 0, **Lab:** 6

The third of three practicums where the student must spend at least 150 clock hours working in an approved agency or institution under the supervision of a staff member of the agency or institution who is a certified/licensed psychologist. (Prerequisite: Completion of at least thirty [30] hours of approved graduate work and consent of the cooperating agency. This course may be repeated one time for credit.)

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Science**Department:** Department of Psychology**PSY 739 Psychopathology (3 Credits)****Lecture:** 3, **Lab:** 0

A broad introduction to psychopathology. Students will be introduced to the process of diagnosing abnormal or maladaptive behaviors. Students will also cover the classification system of the most up-to-date DSM. 3 credit hours.

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Science**Department:** Department of Psychology**PSY 832 Masters Res & Thesis I (3 Credits)****Lecture:** 0, **Lab:** 6

Directed investigation of special problems in psychology.

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Science**Department:** Department of Psychology**PSY 833 Masters Res & Thesis II (3 Credits)****Lecture:** 0, **Lab:** 6

Directed investigation of special problems in psychology.

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Science**Department:** Department of Psychology**PSY 834 Consultation and Program Design in School Psychology (3 Credits)****Lecture:** 3

This acquisition of psychological consultation principles such as program design and evaluation and other skills, appropriate for the work of a school psychologist. 3 credit hours.

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Science**Department:** Department of Psychology

PSY 899 School Psychology (3 Credits)

Lecture: 0, **Lab:** 4

Direct experience in assessment, intervention, behavior management, and consultation within the schools. The intern must be supervised by a Licensed Psychologist and have at least two hour of face-to-face contact with the supervisor each week. 3 credit hours.

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Scie

Department: Department of Psychology