

PSYCHOLOGY**Office:**

SBSB 3222

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Faculty Emeriti:

Cherie O'Boyle, Ph.D.

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Programs Offered:

- Bachelor of Arts in Psychology *ical Science*
- Minor in Psychology *ical Science*
- Master of Arts in Psychology *ical Science*

Psychology is the scientific study of behavior. In order to discover more about behavior, psychologists study both humans and animals. Psychology covers a wide range of topics, from the inner workings of our brains and bodies to the ways our social environment and culture influence us. This breadth is reflected in the psychology curriculum. Given that psychology is an empirical science, our program gives considerable emphasis to research design, data analysis, and interpretation.

The psychology undergraduate major is designed to provide each student with a comprehensive overview of the major fields of psychology and methods used in psychological research. The major also provides elective courses that allow the student to focus upon an area of special interest. These specialty areas might include social, developmental, cognitive, clinical, or biological psychology.

Students majoring in other disciplines such as computer, health or clinical sciences, communication, business administration, or education will find that a minor or electives in psychology will provide them with knowledge of direct relevance to their chosen professions. Additionally, psychology has rich ties with other fields such as philosophy, history, literature, the arts, sociology, anthropology, linguistics, communication, and biology.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students who graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology *ical Science* will be able to:

1. Describe the major concepts theories, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology, and their application to behavioral and mental processes.
2. Describe (as a way of understanding) the scientific approach to psychology and apply basic research methods in psychology, including research design, quantitative analysis, interpretation and reporting in APA format.
3. Apply creative and critical thinking and employ skeptical inquiry to addressing issues and solving problems related to psychological phenomena.
4. Demonstrate the ability to independently locate, identify and critically evaluate scholarly literature in the discipline of psychology.
5. Thoughtfully consider and appraise alternative viewpoints, diverse socio-cultural perspectives and ethical issues related to psychological topics.

Career Opportunities

The psychology undergraduate major provides an excellent preparation for careers in a variety of psychology-related business and public organizations, social service agencies, and teaching institutions. Our undergraduate program provides the appropriate background for graduate training in experimental or clinical psychology. Coursework in psychology is also relevant to graduate training in counseling, teaching, medicine, law, business and management, and public administration.

The Master of Arts program prepares students for careers in research, teaching in community colleges, and for further graduate study at the doctoral level. Training specifically geared toward those seeking licensure as Marriage and Family Therapists (MFT) or as Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors (LPCC) is not currently available within the Master of Arts program.

Preparation

High school students are encouraged to take four years of English and three years of mathematics (including algebra). Courses in biology and psychology and the other social and behavioral sciences are recommended. Knowledge of computers is helpful for many courses.

Community College Transfer Students

A maximum of nine (9) lower-division semester (13.5 quarter) units of psychology courses may be applied toward the forty (40) semester units required for the psychology major. The nine (9) lower-division units must be articulated with PSYC 100, 220, and 230, or be approved as their equivalent by the student's advisor.

Special Conditions for the Bachelor of Arts and Minor in Psychological Science

All courses counted toward the major, including Preparation for the Major courses, and the minor must be completed with a grade of C (2.0) or better. No more than a total of three (3) units of either PSYC 498 or PSYC 499 may be applied toward the major. No more than three (3) units of PSYC 495 may be applied toward the major. A minimum of eighteen (18) units counted toward the psychology major must have been completed at Cal State San Marcos. For the Minor, nine (9) units must have been completed at Cal State San Marcos. Students majoring in Human Development may not satisfy the lab requirement with PSYC 395. Courses taken at other universities for which we do not have articulation agreements will not be counted toward the major at Cal State San Marcos without the written permission of any member of the Psychology faculty listed above.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE

	Units
General Education*	51
Preparation for the Major*	9
Major Requirements	40

Students must take a sufficient number of elective units to bring the total number of units to a minimum of 120

Preparation for the Major

Lower-Division (9 units)	
PSYC 100*	3
PSYC 220	3
PSYC 230	3

Major Requirements

Upper-Division (40 units)	
PSYC 330 or 348 or 356	3
PSYC 332	3
PSYC 334 or 336	3
PSYC 360	3
PSYC 362	3
PSYC 402	4
PSYC 490	3

Laboratory Courses 6

Select two of the following:

PSYC 390	PSYC 394
PSYC 391	PSYC 395
PSYC 392	PSYC 396
PSYC 393	

Note: Each laboratory course has prerequisite courses. See catalog description for specific prerequisites for each lab course.

Applied Psychology 3

Select one of the following courses:

PSYC 338	PSYC 354
PSYC 340	PSYC 428
PSYC 343	PSYC 432
PSYC 344	PSYC 495
PSYC 353	

Psychology Electives 9

Select three additional 300-, 400-, or 500-level psychology courses

**Three (3) units in lower-division General Education Area D (Discipline-Specific or Second Interdisciplinary Social Science Course) are automatically satisfied in Preparation for the Major.*

MINOR IN PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE

Lower-Division (9 units)	
PSYC 100	3
PSYC 220	3
PSYC 230	3

Upper-Division (12 units)
Choose one of the following courses: 3

PSYC 330	PSYC 356
PSYC 332	PSYC 360
PSYC 348	PSYC 362

Choose one of the following lab courses: 3

PSYC 390	PSYC 394
PSYC 391	PSYC 395+
PSYC 392	PSYC 396
PSYC 393	

Six (6) units of 300-, 400-, or 500-level psychology electives 6

Total Units 21

Note: Each laboratory course has prerequisite courses. See catalog description for specific prerequisites for each lab course.

**Human Development majors may not satisfy this requirement with PSYC 395.*

MASTER OF ARTS IN PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE

Graduate Coordinator:

Nancy G. Caine, Ph.D.

The mission of the graduate program in psychology at California State University San Marcos is to provide graduate education of the highest caliber to qualified students, leading to the Master of Arts degree. Our objective is to prepare students for continued study at the doctoral level, for a variety of positions in business, industry, and the public sector, or for academic careers at the two-year college level. It is our belief that excellent graduate education is best accomplished in an atmosphere in which graduate students are treated collegially, and are closely mentored by the faculty. We are committed to the study of psychology as a scientific enterprise, and our program encourages the development of skills that are consonant with the scientific spirit of inquiry in particular, and graduate-level study in general: critical thinking, articulate verbal expression, quantitative reasoning, and healthy skepticism.

In keeping with the mission of the University, we offer a curriculum that includes opportunities to enhance the professional development of our students and to contribute to the community around us. In addition, our program seeks to recognize the value of multicultural perspectives and to be sensitive to diversity concerns.

Preparation and Training Offered by the Program

The Master of Arts degree is traditionally seen either as a preparatory or terminal degree. Our program is designed to accommodate students with different goals. The active research programs of our faculty, and our recognition of psychology as a scientific enterprise, will provide graduate students with the intensive research training and coursework in primary content areas that are central to preparation for more advanced graduate work. Likewise, students who have in mind careers in community college teaching, community service, or business and industry, will benefit from our program's emphasis on critical thinking, research methods, and advanced coursework. Individual career goals will be served by allowing choice in the content of the thesis research.

Many students undertake graduate work in psychology in order to pursue careers in clinical psychology or psychological counseling. Training specifically geared to those seeking licensure in marriage and family therapy or Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors is not currently available within the program. However, the program will prepare students to better compete for admission to doctoral programs in clinical or counseling psychology. Students with interests in clinical or counseling psychology will find opportunities to pursue coursework and thesis topics at Cal State San Marcos that are related to their interests.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students who graduate with a Master of Arts in Psychology will be able to:

1. Explain and contrast important empirical and theoretical foundations of psychology, and identify unanswered questions stemming from those bodies of knowledge, with particular attention given to areas of psychology related to the thesis.
2. Identify and explain basic research designs and statistical analyses, and appropriately apply these designs and analyses to independent research leading to and including the thesis.
3. Demonstrate proficiency in the written and oral presentation of scientific content in psychology, including the appropriate use of APA style.
4. Identify and evaluate the appropriate use of pedagogical techniques and skills, and apply them to the teaching of psychology.
5. Cultivate their role as professionals by engaging in the relevant activities of the Psychology Department [e.g., participation in faculty searches, attendance at thesis proposals and defenses], participating in research conferences, and accepting graduate assistant assignments.

Admission Requirements and Application

Admission to the program requires a bachelor's degree in psychology, or a bachelor's degree plus at least one course in statistics and at least four upper-division courses of three to four (3-4) units each in psychology from an accredited university. Among the upper-division courses, there should be one or more laboratory courses in psychology.

Applicants should have computing skills relevant to graduate coursework in psychology. Admission to the program will be influenced by the breadth and appropriateness of undergraduate coursework and research experience in psychology. In addition, applicants should have a grade point average of not less than 3.0 in the last sixty (60) units of undergraduate study, plus a minimum 3.0 GPA in upper-division psychology courses.

The general Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is required of all applicants. The advanced test in psychology is recommended. Although the minimum cut-off scores may vary from year to year, we strongly prefer students with combined verbal and quantitative scores above the 50th percentile. The advanced test score should also be above the 50th percentile.

All graduate and post-baccalaureate applicants, regardless of citizenship, whose native language is not English and whose preparatory education was principally in a language other than English, must demonstrate competence in English. Those who do not possess a bachelor's degree from a postsecondary institution where English is the principal language of instruction must present a score of 80 or above on the internet-based TOEFL (213 on the computer-based TOEFL, and 550 on the paper-based TOEFL). Applicants may also submit IELTS results. An IELTS score of 6.0 or above is required.

A complete application consists of:

Application materials sent directly to the Admissions Office of California State University San Marcos:

- A completed university application form for admission to Cal State San Marcos
- Application fee
- One set of official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended, with indication of graduation

Application Materials sent directly to the Psychology Department (see address below):

- A completed application form for admission to the Master's Program in Psychology *Psychological Science*
- One set of official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended, with indication of graduation
- GRE (and TOEFL/TWE, if applicable) score reports
- Three letters of recommendation

Address for application materials sent directly to the Psychology Department: Administrative Coordinator, Psychology Department, California State University, San Marcos, San Marcos, CA 92096-0001.

Application Deadlines:

- Review of applications will begin on February 1 and will continue until all of the openings for the following Fall semester have been filled.

However, applications will be accepted for review as long as space is available in the program. There are no Spring admissions.

Degree Requirements

The program requires thirty-three (33) semester units (11 courses) of study, at least 27 of which are from the graduate level (500 or 600 series). Courses below the 400-level or those which bear General Education credit may not be counted toward the program. All students will do a substantial piece of empirical research leading to a thesis. The thesis will be planned and executed while the student is enrolled in the Master's program and must be approved by the student's thesis committee. The grade point average must be at least 3.0 to graduate. The typical full-time student will complete the coursework in four semesters. Many students need one or more additional semesters to complete the thesis. Units earned not in residence at Cal State San Marcos may not exceed six, and must be approved by the advisor. Graduate students may not elect credit/no credit for any course counted toward the degree that is also offered on a regular graded basis (PSYC 680 and 699 are graded only credit/no credit). Students must be continuously enrolled unless they apply for a leave of absence. All requirements for the degree must be completed within five years.

Course of Study

Students will proceed with the graduate coursework in the following sequence:

First Year, First Semester
 PSYC 600
 One Proseminar
 PSYC 520 or PSYC 424

First Year, Second Semester
 PSYC 530
 One Proseminar
 PSYC 690 or an elective

Second Year, First Semester
 PSYC 680
 PSYC 520 (If PSYC 520 was previously completed, PSYC 690 or an elective may be substituted.)
 One Proseminar

Second Year, Second Semester
 One Proseminar
 PSYC 699

It is important to note that the curriculum is designed for full-time students. Students who hope to study part-time should consult with the graduate coordinator prior to applying.

Continuation

Students must maintain a GPA of 3.0. A grade of C or better must be earned in all classes. If the GPA falls below 3.0 for two consecutive semesters, the student will be dropped from the program. Each student must present a formal thesis proposal to Psychology faculty, usually in the third semester of study but no later than September of the fifth semester of study.