

Program Description
M.A. IN PSYCHOLOGY

MASTER OF ARTS IN PSYCHOLOGY

The Dyson College of Arts and Sciences Psychology Department in New York City offers a 36 graduate credit hour Master of Arts (M.A.) in Psychology program. The program includes 18 hours of required courses and 18 hours of elective courses. The purpose of this program is to provide graduate students with a general, academic foundation in the field of psychology with the intention to fill a gap in the training and changing professional preparation in human service organizations. This program is designed for those who seek advanced knowledge in psychology, or those who would like to further their careers. This program is also for those who may eventually seek to further their study at the doctorate level.

A wide variety of required and elective courses are available that provide students with a variety of skills and resources that are necessary to examine and understand the broader context of a person's life that may include family, schools, work groups, and other significant systems.

Admissions

Admission to the M.A. program is competitive and open to qualified holders of bachelor's degrees from accredited institutions. Applicants must take the General Test of the Graduate Record Examinations. Evaluation of applicants for admission is based on interest in the master's degree offering, a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education, GRE scores, letters of recommendation, a personal statement, and potential for success. Candidates are expected to have at least 12 hours of undergraduate psychology course prerequisites, which may include but are not restricted to general psychology, developmental psychology, statistics, and learning theory.

Students are admitted in the fall and the spring. Applications for the M.A. program must be completed by August 1 for the fall, and December 1 for the spring. Supporting documentation must be received by the Graduate Admissions Office by the due dates for the fall and the spring.

Pace University participates under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Students with disabilities must notify the Coordinator of Disabled Students, prior to matriculation, regarding possible educational modifications.

REQUIRED COURSES:

		Credits
PSY 604	Developmental Psychology	3
PSY 608	Community Psychology	3
PSY 615	Research Design and Statistics II	3
PSY 617	Human Learning	3
PSY 623	Social Psychology	3
PSY 625	Personality Theories	3

		18

ELECTIVE COURSES (18 Credits):

PSY 616	Research Design and Statistics II	3
PSY 618	Community Mental Health	3
PSY 619	Community Resources: Interagency Coordination in the Delivery of Services	3
PSY 621	Psychological Measurement	3
PSY 646	Critical Thinking I	3
PSY 647	Critical Thinking II	3

PSY 648	Critical Thinking III	3
PSY 649	Critical Thinking IV	3
PSY 656	Developmental Disabilities	3
PSY 667	Multicultural/Gender Issues	3
PSY 680	Program Evaluation	3
PSY 681	Organizational Psychology	3
PSY 682	Personnel Psychology	3
PSY 683	Organizational Development	3
PSY 684	Occupational Health Psychology	3
PSY 690	Special Topics in Psychology	3
PSY 695	Independent Study (MA)	1-3

Dismissal Regulations

Students must maintain at least a "B" (3.00) average in the M.A. Program. Students whose averages fall below a "B" are referred to the M.A. Committee or the Psychology Department Scholastic Standing Committee and may be dismissed or allowed a period of one semester to restore their standing to a "B" average. Failure to do so in one semester will constitute sufficient reason for dismissal from the M.A. Program. Two grades below "B" in graduate courses will be sufficient grounds for review by the M.A. Committee, and possible dismissal from the program. A grade of "F" in any course is grounds for dismissal from the program. Failure to complete the program within five years also constitutes grounds for dismissal. Further, students engaged in unethical or unprofessional practices may be dismissed.

Time Limit

Students entering the M.A. Program have a maximum of five years to complete the program.

Course Descriptions MASTERS IN PSYCHOLOGY

PSY604 - DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY (MA)

3 credits

This course covers life span psychology. Theories of development, as well as issues in studying development, are addressed. Topics include cognition, language, physical, and social development.

PSY608 - COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGY (MA)

3 credits

Community Psychology is an action-oriented movement. It is characterized by innovative approaches to problems based upon an ecological and interactionist view of behavioral dynamics in the community. This course covers the development of community psychology as a specialty area in both theory and application, including the central assumptions in methodology of the field. Contributions of an ecological model, and emphasis on prevention, competence building, population focus, and related research and interventions will be discussed. It emphasizes community interventions and the theories and principles needed to help people in various settings achieve maximum mental health.

PSY615 - RESEARCH DESIGN AND STATISTICS 1 (MA)

3 credits

The primary goal of this course is to develop critical thinking skills necessary for students to (1) evaluate primary, empirical research in psychology, (2) translate theoretical ideas into testable research hypotheses, and (3) test these hypotheses by means of a logically developed statistical plan. Material to be covered includes scientific methodology and major statistical techniques used in analyzing behavioral data (i.e., correlation/regression analyses, contrast models, analysis of variance, non-parametric procedures). Statistical analyses and graphical representations of data via the computer are required of students.

Prerequisite: Undergraduate psychology statistics and/or experimental psychology

PSY616 - RESEARCH DESIGN AND STATISTICS II (MA)

3 credits

This course builds on the critical thinking skills developed in PSY 615. Materials to be presented include (1) complex experimental designs (including quasi-experimental design appropriate to field settings) (2) advanced statistical techniques (i.e., multiple regression analysis, mixed model analysis of variance, multivariate techniques). Students are required to carry out statistical analyses and graphical representations of data via the computer.

Prerequisite: PSY615 or consent of the Instructor

PSY617 - HUMAN LEARNING (MA)

3 credits

This course introduces both basic and advanced principles and theories of learning and motivation, including cognition. Conditioning, behavior systems, generalization and discrimination, information processing, and complex cognitive functioning are some of the topics discussed. Research on learning theory and their general application to a variety of contexts will also be covered.

Prerequisite: Undergraduate learning course

PSY618 - COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH: PHILOSOPHY AND CONCEPTS (MA/MSED/PSYD)

3 credits

This course covers the development of community mental health as a specialty area in both theory and application. It emphasizes the development and implementation of preventive interventions in the school and for the community.

PSY619 - COMMUNITY RESOURCES: INTERAGENCY COORDINATION IN THE DELIVERY OF SERVICES (MA/MSED/PSYD)

3 credits

This course is designed to acquaint the student with the range of community facilities that are available to draw upon in urban and rural areas. Specific federal, state, and municipal agencies will be explored. In addition, pri-

vate foundations and religious service agencies will be examined with the aim of securing an awareness of appropriate assistance for clients.

PSY621 - PSYCHOLOGICAL MEASUREMENT (MA)

3 credits

This course covers basic psychological measurement theory. An introduction to scaling, reliability, validity and other measurement topics is provided.

PSY623 - SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY (MA)

3 credits

This course will cover social psychology including attitudes, behavior change, group processes, multicultural and gender issues, and social perceptions. Focus will be on methods of studying social behavior and theories of social behavior.

PSY625 - PERSONALITY THEORIES (MA)

3 credits

This course covers personality theories. Personality factors throughout the lifespan are addressed

PSY646 - CRITICAL THINKING I: FOUNDATION (MA/MSED/PSYD)

3 credits

This course emphasizes the enhancement of skills of observation and evaluation in various personal and work-related situations. Through demonstrations, interactions and role-playing, participants will explore and study the following basic operations: intuiting, feeling, categorizing, analyzing, synthesizing, explaining and arguing, influencing, cooperating, competing, deciding, committing to values, participating-observing.

Prerequisite: Baccalaureate degree

PSY647 - CRITICAL THINKING II: APPLICATIONS (MA)

3 credits

This course emphasizes the incorporation of the principles of critical thinking into academic disciplines and into professional and personal life. Includes analysis of public events and broadcast news and practice in communication and decision-making.

Prerequisite: PSY646

PSY648 - CRITICAL THINKING III: TEACHING METHODS (MA)

3 credits

This course emphasizes the teaching others using high interaction methods, practice in using and developing lesson plans. Class participation and feedback is highly expected.

Prerequisite: PSY647

PSY649 - CRITICAL THINKING IV: INTERNSHIP (MA)

3 credits

In this course, students/participants will conduct an on-going group using basic principles of critical thinking. Supervision provided. Co-leadership possible. Continued readings and group support. Successful participants will be awarded a certificate.

Prerequisite: PSY648

PSY656 – DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (MA/MSED/PSYD)

3 credits

This course focuses on developmental disabilities in human development. Factors in vulnerability from infancy to later age levels will be covered, including genetic and environmental variables. Research and theory in developmental disabilities are the main aspects of this course.

PSY667 – MULTICULTURAL/GENDER ISSUES (MA/MSED/PSYD)

3 credits

This course considers the range of multicultural and gender issues involved in human development and learning. The focus in this course is on development and related multicultural and gender issues.

PSY680 - PROGRAM EVALUATION (MA/MSED/PSYD)

3 credits

This is an advanced course in evaluation research emphasizing both traditional and non-traditional designs. The course examines how to evaluate social programs along with different orientations to program evaluation. Program evaluation within a variety of contexts will be reviewed.

PSY681 - ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY (MA)

3 credits

This course is designed to introduce students to a variety of topics, including theories, related research findings and their practical implications in the field of organizational psychology. Topics will include a history of organizational psychology, work attitudes, work motivation, group processes, and leadership.

PSY682 - PERSONNEL PSYCHOLOGY (MA)

3 credits

This course is designed to introduce students to a variety of topics, including theories, related research findings and their practical implications in the field of psychology. Topics will include job analysis, employee selection and classification, performance appraisal and feedback, criterion theory and development training, and legal issues.

PSY683 – ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (MA)

3 credits

This course provides students with an overview and fundamental understanding of theories, techniques, and research about facilitating change in individuals, groups and organizations to improve their effectiveness. Topics covered include issues such as institutional entry and contracting, assessment and feedback, and intervention and evaluation.

PSY684 - OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY (MA)

3 credits

This course introduces the field of occupational health psychology and to raise awareness about career possibilities. The overarching goals are to train future professionals to create a healthy and safe workplace, and to improve productivity and profits by decreasing the costs associated with hazards. In addition, it addresses the role of occupational health and safety research in increasing worker protection from physical and psychosocial sources of injury, methodologies used to evaluate existing worksite hazards, effective control measures, identification and prevention of negative consequences of emerging hazards.

PSY690 – SPECIAL TOPICS IN PSYCHOLOGY (MA)

3 credits

This course provides master's level students with an overview of a selected topic or topics in psychology. The course will address current research and methodologies related to the topic(s). A sample of topics would include health psychology, psychology of women and work, history of psychology, sports psychology, and cross-cultural psychology.

PSY695 – INDEPENDENT STUDY (MA)

1-3 credits

With the approval of the appropriate faculty member, student's advisor, and/or M.A. Program Coordinator, students may select a topic for guided research or supervised practica not included in the regular course offerings within the M.A. in Psychology Program. This course may include practica, thesis work, or research/collaborative work with faculty research. The student meets regularly with the faculty member to review progress. A research project or appropriate paper must also be submitted. (This course may only be taken once.)

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