

The following coursework is required:

Core curriculum:

- Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience I PSB 6087; 3 credits (Devine)
- Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience II PSB 6088; 3 credits (Odegaard)
- Statistics I STA 6166 (or suitable alternate statistics coursework, such as CLP 6527C); 3 credits
- Statistics II STA 6167 (or suitable alternate statistics coursework, such as CLP 6528C); 3 credits
- Seminar in Psychological Science (required during first year of study)
- PSY6930 (or PSY 6910) Grant Writing; 3 credits (Scott or Keil)
- Research Ethics EAB6780; 1 credit (DeLeon)

Required in addition:

4 Elective courses. For example, in some years the following may be offered:

- Functional Neuroanatomy
- Neurobiology of Learning and Memory (PSB4810/PSY6930, Devine)
- Language and the Brain (taught by Edith Kahn)
- Clinical Cognitive Neuroscience: Methods and Theory (PSB 6115C)
- Odegaard seminar: Vision & Attention (DL/ML/SDT methods-focused)
- Ebner: Aging Brain
- Scott: Advanced Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience Methods, Face Processing
- Neurochemistry, Pharmacology and Behavior (PSB4434/PSY6930, Schwendt)
- Stress and the Brain (PSB 4000/6000 level, Schwendt)
- Neurobiology of Substance Abuse (PSB4934/PSY6930, Knackstedt)

Additional Neuroscience-relevant courses may be considered for fulfillment of the 3 elective course requirement. These courses may have been taken by an incoming student as part of a graduate program from an external institution (e.g. student entering with a Master's degree), or they may be courses offered at the University of Florida by a current student in the Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience graduate program. In the former case, the student will provide a syllabus to the examining committee during their first year in our graduate program. In the latter case, the student will provide a syllabus to the examining committee prior to registering for the course. Approval by the examining committee is required for the course(s) to count toward the 3 elective course requirement. Forms are here:

<https://psych.ufl.edu/graduate/current-grads/forms/>

The following coursework is required:

Available research credit courses:

Individual Work (PSY 6905; 1-3, max 5)

Supervised Research (PSY 6910; 1-3, max 10)

Research for Master's Thesis (PSY 6971; 1-6, no max)

Advanced Research (PSY 7979; 1-12, no max)

Research for the Doctoral Dissertation (PSY 7980; 1-12, no max)

→ See the [departmental regulations for research credit requirements](#) and options (! Section J. Independent Studies Courses)

→ Registration forms for PSY 6905 and other independent study courses are available on the Department website at <https://psych.ufl.edu/graduate/current-grads/forms/>.

Other requirements:

Master's thesis defense

Qualifying examination

Supervised teaching (one 3-credit undergraduate course)

Doctoral dissertation defense

Milestones

BCN students must adhere to the Psychology Dept. “Graduate Degree Regulations.” Details on these milestones can be found in that document.

<https://psych.ufl.edu/graduate/current-grads/degree-requirements/>

1. Establish your Master’s thesis committee before the end of your first year (3 members)
 - a. Write and submit a written proposal for your master’s thesis by Fall of your second year OR have your thesis committee approve your masters from another institution
 - b. Upon completing data collection, write your thesis and orally defend it. Typically this is done in the Spring semester of the second year.
2. Form a dissertation committee composed of at least 2 BCN faculty, 1 Psychology faculty from a different area and 1 faculty member outside of the Psychology Department
3. Select a topic for your Qualifying Exam and draft a Program of Study to be approved by your dissertation committee. See “BCN Qualifying Exam Guidelines” for details. The Qualifying exam must be completed PRIOR to the start of Fall semester of the 4th year. Failure to meet this deadline will result in being placed on academic probation.
4. Once you have advanced to candidacy, draft a dissertation proposal and circulate to your committee. Schedule an oral Dissertation Proposal meeting. This must be done no later than the Fall of your 4th year in the program.
5. Once your dissertation data is collected, write the dissertation and circulate the document to your committee. Schedule an oral Dissertation Defense meeting.

These deadlines are to help students proceed through our program and graduate on time, within 5 years.

Documents and Oral Defenses

- The [Psychology Graduate Regulations](#) specify rules regarding the documents and oral defenses of the 1) master's thesis, 2) qualifying exam, and 3) dissertation.
- Each of these three milestones require separate proposals and oral defenses.
- The qualifying exam should not be combined with the dissertation proposal, in written document or oral defense.

Degree Requirement	Written Document?	Oral Defense?	Deadline
Master's Thesis Proposal	Yes	Recommended	Year 2 Fall
Master's Thesis Completed	Yes	Yes	Year 2 Spring/Summer *
Qualifying Exam	Yes	Yes	Year 3 Spring
Dissertation Proposal	Yes	Yes	Year 4 Fall/Spring**
Dissertation	Yes	Yes	Year 5 Spring/Summer*

* Completion of milestones in Summer requires course registration and tuition payment

** Earlier is better so that you do not waste time doing research that will not be approved by your committee as part of your dissertation