

GRADUATE DEGREE REGULATIONS DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

The Department of Psychology has prepared this document to help explain rules, policies, and expectations to graduate students. The following regulations apply to all graduate students in the Department of Psychology and supplement those in the current Graduate School and Faculty Handbook and in the Graduate School Catalog. This revision supersedes all previous versions of the Graduate Degree Regulations for Psychology. As the Graduate Catalog states: "It is the responsibility of the graduate student to become informed and to observe all regulations and procedures required by the program the student is pursuing...Ignorance of a rule does not constitute a basis for waiving that rule." In no case will a regulation be waived or an exception be granted because students plead ignorance of the regulation or assert that they were not informed of it by their advisors or other authority. Students may petition the Graduate Studies Committee, through their advisors or a Supervisory Committee chairperson, to postpone or waive any departmental regulation believed to hinder their progress. In general, however, such deviations are discouraged.

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

The Department of Psychology consists of five areas of specialization (also called areas of study): Behavior Analysis, Counseling, Developmental, Neurobehavioral and Cognitive Sciences, and Social. Each student is assigned to one area, based on his or her designated preference at the time of admission. Each area has a training coordinator who implements an appropriate curriculum and requirements for graduate students in that area. In addition, a department-wide Graduate Coordinator oversees the quality and implementation of the entire graduate program and ensures compliance with college and university policies. The Graduate Studies Committee consists of the Graduate Coordinator and two other appointed faculty members, and they serve to assist and advise the Graduate Coordinator, as well as to advise the Chair of the Department on graduate student policies.

A. Graduate Advisor/Supervisory Committee. Upon admission to the graduate program, students will be assigned to a faculty advisor who will facilitate course registration, supervise student research, and serve as a resource person. All students must also have a Supervisory Committee. The University requires that students formally appoint this committee no later than the end of the first year, or before they have acquired 12 or more credits, in order to retain good standing in the Graduate School. Section II.B describes the Supervisory Committee for the Master's Degree and Section III.C describes the Supervisory Committee for the Doctorate. Special rules for committee structure apply to students who enter the program with a Master's Degree (see Section III.H). Committee appointment forms are available on the departmental website.

B. Stipends. Most assistantships are awarded on a 9-month, academic year appointment and most fellowships are awarded on a 12-month appointment. All graduate students are eligible for up to 4 academic years of departmental OPS (Teaching Assistantship) funding, assuming satisfactory progress in the program. Students admitted on or after the fall of 2007 are eligible for 5 academic years of departmental OPS funding. This funding can occur over the course of no more than six years in the program. Students may petition the Graduate Studies Committee for additional funding. Students are strongly encouraged to apply for their own research funding through the National Institute of Health and other organizations.

In most cases, students must apply for a special assistantship or obtain grant funding in order to receive a summer semester stipend. Applications for summer financial assistance should be made to the Area Coordinator who will direct the materials to the appropriate committee for consideration. Fellowships are usually awarded by extra-departmental committees, departmental assistantships are awarded by committees representing the various areas of study within the department, traineeships are awarded by funded faculty groups within or outside of the department, and research assistantships are allocated by principal investigators of research grants.

Students receiving assistantships through the department are discouraged from obtaining additional outside employment. The demands imposed by duties related to a stipend, plus those imposed by research and classroom activities, make it unlikely that satisfactory progress can be made if additional obligations are incurred. If a student's Supervisory Committee (see Sections II.B and III.C) determines that appropriate progress is not being made or would not be made because of conflicts arising from additional employment, the Committee may recommend termination of a stipend, thereby freeing the student from the time demands associated with an assistantship.

C. Work-Related Experience. All graduate students are required to do departmental research throughout their graduate careers. One or more faculty members will direct all research, teaching, or related activities. Generally, but not always, students work most closely with their faculty advisor who also serves as the Supervisory Committee chair.

D. Ethical Conduct. All graduate students are required to conduct themselves in accord with APA Ethical Principles. All students should acquaint themselves, as soon as possible, with the current version of the APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists concerning responsibilities to the public, conduct of research, dissemination of information, and professional relationships. Also, no student should engage in any professional activity except under immediate supervision in a graduate course in which the student is formally registered, or under the direct supervision of the student's advisor or a qualified person designated by that advisor. APA Ethical Principles and Federal regulations governing the use of human and animal subjects are binding on all psychology graduate students.

E. Changing Area of Specialization. Students who desire to change from one area of specialization to another should submit a written request to the Area Coordinator of the new area for written approval. Students must obtain approval from the faculty in both areas. The Area Coordinator in the new area will coordinate all details of the transfer with the Graduate Coordinator.

F. The Doctoral Co-Major. Students admitted into one graduate program in psychology occasionally desire to develop a co-major with another training program. In order to do so, students need the approval of the faculty of the original area and the admissions committee of the new area. Once both approvals are obtained, the two Area Coordinators will be responsible for the student's program until co-chairs are appointed for the student's Supervisory Committee. The Graduate Coordinator will review all of these arrangements and agreements.

Currently there is an approved Ph.D. co-major with the College of Education. The requirements for this co-major are provided on the departmental website.

Any interested students may also complete a Law degree in conjunction with the Ph.D., by obtaining the approval of their advisor and Supervisory Committee, and meeting the requirements of both programs.

G. Independent Studies Courses. Independent study courses are PSY 6905 (Individual Work), PSY 6910 (Supervised Research), PSY 6971 (Master's Thesis), PSY 7979 (Advanced Research) and PSY

7980 (Doctoral Dissertation). Registration forms for PSY 6905 and other independent study courses are available on the department website.

PSY 6910 enrollment is limited to 5 credits total. PSY 7979 may be taken (no limit on credits) once a student has completed the Master's Degree, or, in the case of a student who opts not to obtain a Master's Degree, as soon as a Ph.D. Supervisory Committee has been established. PSY 7980 (Doctoral Dissertation) may be taken only after admission to candidacy for the Ph.D. (that is, after the qualifying examination is completed).

After establishing a program of study with an appropriately expert faculty member, a student may enroll in PSY 6905 to do independent work on a topic not covered by established courses. PSY 6905 enrollment is limited to 3 credits per semester. However, PSY 6905 may not be used for preliminary work on the Master's thesis or doctoral dissertation, and each student is limited to 10 credits of PSY 6905.

H. Evaluation. Student promise as a psychologist is evaluated continuously by the area faculty. This evaluation is based on student progress, which is gauged in relation to the quality of the student's academic work, assigned instructional and research contributions and accomplishments, the student's professional and ethical conduct, and completion of degree requirements. At the end of each year, all students will receive formal written feedback concerning progress from the faculty in their area of specialization. Students who are not making satisfactory progress will be informed about what needs to be done to remediate their deficiencies and continue in the program.

In addition, certain minimum standards of scholarship are required. Students with two unsatisfactory grades (a grade of C+ or lower, or an "I" that remains on the record for more than one term) will have their records referred to the Graduate Studies Committee which will determine if those students should be allowed to continue in the program. Should the committee rule that a student be dropped from the program, the decision may be appealed to the Policy and Planning Committee of the Department. Under no circumstances will students be permitted to continue with three unsatisfactory grades. (Note: Any grade of C+ or lower in a required course must be replaced by presenting satisfactory evidence that B-level competency has been acquired).

Violations of ethical conduct by graduate students will be evaluated by the Graduate Studies Committee. If, in the judgment of the committee, unethical behavior is of a sufficiently serious nature as to compromise a graduate student's promise as a psychologist, that student will be dropped from the program. Examples of such serious violations are felony convictions or gross violations of the APA ethical code or Federal guidelines. The appeal process is the same as in the case of failure to meet minimum standards of scholarship.

I. Continuous Enrollment. The Department requires continuous enrollment (registration for two of every three semesters). Failure to maintain this continuity will result in the student's dismissal from the program. A dismissed student may apply for readmission when ready to resume status as a full-time student.

A student may request a leave of absence for a period lasting no longer than one year. Such a request, which must be approved by the Area Coordinator and the Graduate Coordinator, is usually granted if the student is in good standing and has good and sufficient reasons for the leave of absence. At the end of the leave, the student must apply for readmission to the University of Florida, but reentry into the program is automatic. Reentry is not automatic for a student taking a leave of absence for longer than one year.

J. Exceptional Cases. In exceptional cases, the Graduate Studies Committee may serve as the “area” in the admission of a graduate student and the administration of a student's program. The following conditions would have to be met: (1) the scholarly interests of the student would not fall within one the existing areas of the department, (2) the student's interests would be compatible with the supervisory capacities of at least one department faculty member with graduate faculty status, and (3) the Graduate Studies Committee would approve a preliminary program of study, developed by the prospective student, in conjunction with a member of the department graduate faculty. In such cases, the Graduate Studies Committee serves as the student’s advisory group until the student’s Supervisory Committee is appointed.

II. MASTER OF SCIENCES DEGREE

A. Master's Degree Option. Students may elect to proceed directly to the Ph.D. degree or take a Master’s Degree as part of their preparation for the doctorate. Students who wish to obtain the Master’s Degree may choose the thesis or the non-thesis option. (NOTE: The major difference between the options is the way research competency is demonstrated. ALL STUDENTS MUST PRESENT AN ACCEPTABLE WRITTEN REPORT OF ORIGINAL RESEARCH, which will usually entail empirical studies.)

B. Master's Degree Supervisory Committee. The Supervisory Committee must be formed no later than the end of the second semester in residence, or before completing 12 or more credits, in order to maintain good standing in the Graduate School. This committee will plan a program of study with the student, guide and evaluate student progress, and direct the student’s research. The committee should consist of at least two members of the Graduate Faculty in Psychology, and either a faculty member from another department or a third member of the psychology faculty whose research area of specialization is different from that of the student. The chair of this committee will normally be the student’s advisor, in the area of Ph.D. specialization.

To form a committee, each student must select a member of the Psychology Graduate Faculty who agrees to serve as chair (normally the student’s faculty advisor). Together, they recommend other committee members for approval by the appropriate Area Coordinator and the Graduate Coordinator. The Supervisory Committee must have at least one member who has a full-time appointment in the Department of Psychology.

Changes in membership of the committee may be made if necessary, but members of the original committee and the Graduate Coordinator must approve these changes. The Graduate School does not permit changes in the Supervisory Committee during the semester in which the degree is awarded, except by petition. Note that the Master's Supervisory Committee is automatically terminated with the awarding of the Master's Degree.

C. Master's Degree with Thesis. The general requirements for this degree are stated in the Graduate Catalog. In addition, the department requires students electing this option to submit an abstract of a formal research proposal to the Supervisory Committee for approval. Students must complete successfully at least 6 credits of PSY 6971 and at least 6 hours of graduate coursework in the Department of Psychology (the 6 hours must be completed in traditional courses, not research credits or independent study). The program of study also requires six hours of graduate coursework in quantitative methods of data analysis, as approved by the area of study. Completion of these requirements and any other courses required by the area must be certified by the Supervisory Committee prior to the date the MS degree is to be awarded. Students need to be registered for 3 credits of PSY 6971 in the final term.

The thesis must be an original, scholarly contribution to the student's area of Psychology. Most will entail empirical studies. Although the student will work closely with the advisor and Supervisory Committee throughout the thesis process, the writing and analysis of the thesis is expected to be conducted by the student. Should the student solicit any type of paid or substantive assistance in conducting the writing and analysis of the thesis, the student must provide a comprehensive description of all such assistance to the Supervisory Committee prior to scheduling the oral examination. Committee members may ask for additional details or prior drafts as needed to verify the independence of the work.

The oral examination will be conducted by the Supervisory Committee on the thesis and other aspects of the student's program. All faculty members are invited to participate in every oral examination, and student observers are welcome if invited by the candidate and approved by the committee chair. The oral examination ordinarily will take place during the fall or spring semester; this exam will be given during the summer only with the consent of all members of the Supervisory Committee.

All thesis and dissertation research must be approved by the University Institutional Review Board (University Human Subjects Committee) or by the University Animal Care and Use Committee before any subjects (including pilot subjects) are tested. Approval by the thesis or doctoral committee in no way substitutes for the approval of an appropriate research review board. Students who violate this regulation will be solely liable for any legal action stemming from their research activities.

D. Master's Degree without Thesis. The requirements for the non-thesis master's degree differ from the thesis degree in that:

1. Thirty-two hours of regular graduate coursework (excluding courses for which grades of S or U are given) must be completed successfully. During the term the degree is awarded, students must be enrolled for 3 credits of course work that can be counted toward that graduate degree (S/U credits are excluded).
2. Students must have passed an oral examination not more than six months prior to the date the degree is awarded.
3. In lieu of a thesis, the student must submit a research paper to the Supervisory Committee which has been accepted for publication in a refereed professional journal; the student must be the lead author for this publication.

E. Seminar Participation.

In addition to the requirements stipulated above, all first-year students are required to participate in a weekly *Seminar on Psychological Science*, organized by the Graduate Coordinator. The Seminar is not a graded course and is not offered for formal course credit. All first-year graduate students will be responsible for attending these sessions (ordinarily 14 sessions per semester) during their first year in the program (fall and spring). Missing more than 2 sessions would require the student to attend the Seminar again for a full semester in the following year. Deficiencies in attendance can be remediated through the second year of the student's program of study (i.e., the conclusion of the spring term of the student's second year), after which the student would no longer be in good standing and would be subject to termination of his or her degree program. Consistent with Departmental Guidelines, any petition for waiver of this requirement can be made to the Graduate Studies Committee.

F. Summary of the Major Requirements for the Master's Degree.

1. Appoint a Supervisory Committee
2. Complete program of study approved by the Supervisory Committee
3. Submit thesis research proposal (or proposal to satisfy the research requirement for the non-thesis degree) to the Supervisory Committee for approval
4. Courses
 - a. Thesis students: Finish statistics requirement, 6 hours of graduate Psychology courses, 6 hours of PSY6971
 - b. Non-thesis students: Finish statistics requirement, 6 hours of graduate Psychology courses, and 32 total hours of graduate coursework
5. Submit acceptable thesis or accepted publication to the Supervisory Committee.
6. Pass oral examination for the Master's Degree

III. THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM OF STUDY

The program of study consists of foundation courses and specialized experiences in designated areas of study. Students must demonstrate core knowledge within, and outside, the specialized area of study by completing appropriate coursework, teaching, and seminar participation. All students are expected to teach at least one course as the primary instructor, but no student will be given responsibility as a Graduate Instructor until he or she has completed the Master's Degree or its equivalent.

A. Coursework and Teaching.

1. **Core knowledge:** Students complete one of the options below.

Option A:

The student must successfully complete 9 graduate student credit hours within the Department of Psychology from at least 3 different doctoral training areas, all of which must be from courses outside of the student's area of doctoral specialization; and the student must be the instructor of record in at least one assigned undergraduate course in psychology.

Option B:

The student must take 9 graduate student credit hours from courses outside of the student's area of doctoral specialization (within or outside the department of psychology), and the student must be the instructor of record for General Psychology (PSY 2012).

2. **Statistics:** 6 hours, approved by area

The doctoral program of study requires completion of six hours of graduate coursework in quantitative methods of data analysis, as approved by the area of study. Students who have completed 6 hours of statistics accepted in the Department of Psychology for the Master's Degree at the University of Florida are not

required to take additional statistics courses, although many students choose to do so. Students may petition the appropriate instructor for a waiver of this requirement if they have already had courses in this area (see Section III.H for a description of the waiver process).

B. Seminar Participation.

In addition to the Coursework and Teaching requirements stipulated above, all first-year students are required to participate in a weekly *Seminar on Psychological Science*, organized by the Graduate Coordinator. The Seminar is not a graded course and is not offered for formal course credit. All first-year graduate students will be responsible for attending these sessions (ordinarily 14 sessions per semester) during their first year in the program (fall and spring). Missing more than 2 sessions would require the student to attend the Seminar again for a full semester in the following year. Deficiencies in attendance can be remediated through the second year of the student's program of study (i.e., the conclusion of the spring term of the student's second year), after which the student would no longer be in good standing and would be subject to termination of his or her degree program. Consistent with Departmental Guidelines, any petition for waiver of this requirement can be made to the Graduate Studies Committee.

C. Doctoral Specialization and Supervisory Committee.

All students are expected to work towards the Ph.D. degree whether or not they elect to complete a Master's Degree as part of their training. The Ph.D. program is designed to encourage specialization of skills and competencies within one of several broad areas: Behavior Analysis, Counseling, Developmental, Neurobehavioral and Cognitive Sciences, and Social. The Doctoral Supervisory Committee consists of at least four (4) members, including the Committee Chair (advisor) and at least two other members who must hold Graduate Faculty Status in the Department of Psychology. In addition, the composition of the committee must be as follows: Chair, from the student's area of study; a second member from the student's area of study; a third member from within the Department of Psychology but outside of the area of study; a fourth member from outside the Department of Psychology. The outside member must be an individual who does not have Graduate Faculty Status in the Department of Psychology but does have Graduate Faculty Status in another department at the University of Florida. In order to maintain good standing in the Graduate School, this committee must be appointed the semester following completion of the Master's Degree.

To appoint the committee, students select a member of the Graduate Faculty in the area of study who is willing to chair the committee (normally, the student's advisor). Together, the student and advisor should identify the other potential committee members, ask if they agree to serve, and present this proposed committee to the Area Coordinator and the Graduate Coordinator for approval. Appropriate forms are available on the departmental website. The committee may be changed, if necessary, with the approval of the members of the original committee and the Graduate Coordinator. The Graduate School does not permit changes in the Supervisory Committee during the semester in which the degree is awarded, except by petition.

D. Research Requirement. Any student who commences work on the Ph.D. without taking the Master's Degree must demonstrate research competence at least equivalent to the competency required to complete an acceptable Master's thesis. This competence may be established by submitting a research paper, for which the student is the lead author, which has been accepted for publication in a refereed professional journal. The research requirement must be satisfied prior to taking the qualifying examination.

E. Ph.D. Qualifying Examination. The basis for the qualifying examination will be the program of study that the student submitted to the Supervisory Committee prior to the examination. The program of study consists of specified content areas (e.g., topics, concepts, references) that the student is expected to know for the qualifying examination. This content is to be determined jointly by the student, his or her advisor, the faculty in the area of study, and the Supervisory Committee. The Supervisory Committee must approve a document prepared by the student that describes this jointly-determined content.

The qualifying examination, which is both written and oral, is administered and evaluated by the Ph.D. Supervisory Committee. Students must schedule the examination before earning 80 credit hours and at least two semesters prior to the date of graduation. The examination concerns the content areas identified in the student's program of study, skills required for dissertation research, and associated skills in the area of specialization, as well as background information and general competence. Upon the recommendation of the Ph.D. Committee, an "area paper" may constitute the written portion of the qualifying examination. The qualifying exam ordinarily will take place during the fall or spring semester; a summer exam will be given only with the consent of all members of the Supervisory Committee.

F. Doctoral Dissertation. The departmental regulations concerning the dissertation proposal and defense are identical to those for the Master's described in Section II above. The Doctoral dissertation must be an original, scholarly contribution to the discipline of Psychology. Most will entail empirical studies. As with the thesis, the writing and analysis of the dissertation is expected to be conducted by the student. Should the student solicit any type of paid or substantive assistance in conducting the writing and analysis of the thesis, the student must provide a comprehensive description of all such assistance to the Supervisory Committee prior to scheduling the oral examination. Committee members may ask for additional details or prior drafts as needed to verify the independence of the work. Ph.D. candidates must complete a minimum of 12 credits of PSY 7980 and be registered for 3 credits of PSY 7980 during the final term. The final oral defense of the dissertation should be scheduled no later than three weeks before the end of the term, and the Graduate Program Assistant should be notified as soon as the meeting is scheduled. The final defense ordinarily will take place during the fall or spring semester; a summer defense will be given only with the consent of all members of the Supervisory Committee.

G. Practicum and Internship. Practicum and internship assignments are administered through the Director of Training in Counseling Psychology. Internship credit will not be allowed before admission to candidacy for the Ph.D.

H. Students entering with a Master's Degree

Upon admission to the graduate program, each student will be assigned a faculty advisor who is responsible for facilitating initial registration and serving as a resource person. The University requires that all students formally appoint a Supervisory Committee no later than the end of the first year or before completing 12 or more credits, in order to retain good standing in the Graduate School. Committee appointment forms are available on the departmental website. For students entering with a Master's Degree, the initial committee will consist of the Chair (typically the student's advisor), and two other members from the Department of Psychology. This committee will serve until the student is ready to appoint a Doctoral Supervisory Committee, which must be appointed no later than the end of the student's second year in the program (the requirements for a Doctoral Supervisory Committee are described in Section III.C)

Students entering with a Master's Degree from an accredited institution continue their graduate studies in the Department of Psychology under one of the two scenarios described below. All students who enter with a

Master's Degree must be given the opportunity to submit materials and find out their status (a or b) within 1 year of entering the graduate program.

- a) The Master's Degree is fully accepted by the Supervisory Committee and the student proceeds directly to the Ph.D., completing any remaining required coursework, the qualifying examination and the dissertation.
- b) The Master's Degree is not accepted by the advisor and/or Supervisory Committee. In this case, the student will be required to complete a Master's Degree in our program or meet the Research Requirement as explained above in Section III.D.

Regardless of status, all students entering with graduate credit hours from other regionally accredited colleges or comparable international universities, may apply to have up to 30 credit hours of coursework (all with grades of A or B) transferred to the University of Florida (UF) as a block. This transfer must be requested within the first year as a UF student.

In addition, students may request a waiver for a specific course requirement if they have already completed a comparable course at another recognized institution with a grade of A or B. This process requires the student to present a detailed course syllabus, for the credit that was completed, to a faculty member who teaches a comparable course. If that faculty member agrees that the course material is comparable, that faculty member must send a written acceptance of that completed coursework to the Graduate Coordinator. The written acceptance must include a statement that the student has completed coursework acceptable in lieu of a required course (the course name and number must be specified) at UF. This process is used for courses that are departmental requirements and/or area requirements.

I. Summary of the Major Requirements for the Ph.D. Degree.

1. Appoint Ph.D. Supervisory Committee
2. Satisfy all coursework, teaching, and seminar requirements for university, department, and area
3. Complete the research requirement (Master's Degree or equivalent research experience)
4. Submit program of study including course work and/or qualifying examination plan to Ph.D. Committee for approval
5. Submit dissertation proposal to Ph.D. Committee for approval
6. Pass Ph.D. qualifying examination and submit formal paperwork for admission to candidacy
7. Pass oral defense of completed dissertation
8. Complete internship, if applicable

IV. AREA REQUIREMENTS

Be advised that each area of training has additional or special requirements for its students. It is each student's responsibility to obtain explanations of any supplemental requirements from the Area Coordinator and to meet those requirements.

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