Department of Psychology

The Department of Psychology offers two graduate programs: the M.S. in Psychology and the Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology.

The Master of Science (M.S.) program in Psychology produces graduates who are knowledgeable in specific content areas of scientific psychology as well as skilled in conducting independent research. Guided by psychological science and a dedication to preparing students for a psychology (or psychology-related) doctoral program, college teaching, or other employment within the social sciences, the department faculty provide graduate students with rigorous coursework and opportunities to engage in one-on-one research collaborations and pedagogical instruction.

The Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) program in Clinical Psychology trains doctoral-level professional psychologists to practice psychotherapy and assessment skills in underserved rural areas. This training will be accomplished through coursework, practicum, capstone activities, and internship experiences. The Psy.D. program is directly involved in providing health care and human services in the region, both by educating practitioners of applied psychology who have voiced a dedication to continuing practice in rural areas and by offering practicum experiences in which students provide clinical service to those in our predominantly-rural region.

The Psy.D. program is accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA).

Psychology Degrees

Doctoral Degree


Masters Degrees

- Psychology M.S. (http://catalog.georgiasouthern.edu/archive/2017-2018/graduate/liberal-arts-social-sciences/psychology-psychology-ms)
- Psychology M.S. (Psy.D. Track) (http://catalog.georgiasouthern.edu/archive/2017-2018/graduate/liberal-arts-social-sciences/psychology-psychology-ms-psyd-track)

PSYC 5030G Selected Topics
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Scheduled on an irregular basis to explore special areas in psychology not offered in the regular curriculum and will carry a subtitle.
Cross Listing(s): PSYC 5030.

PSYC 522G Psychology and Law
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
An introduction to the interdisciplinary study of psycholical research and scholarship.
Prerequisite(s): PSYC 1101.
Cross Listing(s): PSYC 5232.

PSYC 5431G Evolutionary Psychology
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A survey of methods and theories of the new field of evolutionary psychology emphasizing how human behavior and cognition develop from an interaction of life experiences with inherited interests, tendencies, and abilities that have been shaped by natural selection.
Prerequisite(s): PSYC 1101.
Cross Listing(s): PSYC 5431.

PSYC 7030 Selected Topics
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Scheduled on an irregular basis to explore several areas in psychology not offered in the regular curriculum and will carry a subtitle.

PSYC 7111 Supervision
1 Credit Hour. 0 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Students will receive feedback and consultation designed to encourage maturation of psychotherapy skills and competencies, including therapist-client transactions, self-reflective skills, and report writing.

PSYC 7130 Statistics for Psychology
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Covers the logic of statistical inference, fundamental principles of analysis of variance, complex analysis of variance designs, selected non-parametric procedures, and a brief introduction to multivariate procedures with emphasis upon the application of these methods in psychological research.

PSYC 7131 Research Design
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
An examination of research techniques for dealing with specific problems in psychology.
Prerequisite(s): PSYC 7130.

PSYC 7132 Advanced Learning
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
An examination of behavior theory and the types of learning that help account for similarity and diversity in the behavior of human and nonhuman animals. Course focuses on the learning processes of habituation, classical conditioning, and operant conditioning.

PSYC 7133 Affective and Cognitive Psychology
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course provides an overview of contemporary cognitive psychology research and theory. Classic and recent theoretical approaches will be covered. The course also covers emotion and affect within the context of cognitive models, research, and theory.

PSYC 7134 Physiological Psychology
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course is a graduate level survey of the nervous system with emphases on functional relationships between the nervous system and behavior and on the techniques and methods used to examine the physiological bases for human and nonhuman animal behavior.

PSYC 7135 Health Psychology
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course will serve as an examination of the psychological factors affecting health and wellness, including emotional, cognitive, social, and behavioral aspects. Students will analyze the role of psychology in preventing illness and promoting wellness, learn about the interaction of physical health and mental health, compare various health psychology theories, gain an understanding of the health challenges facing people across the life span, and learn about the integration of psychology in medical settings.

PSYC 7136 Geropsychology
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course will cover psychological aspects of aging in relation to both theory and practice. Students will become familiar with aging related changes in mental and physical functioning, common disorders, public policy regarding age-related issues, and successful aging.

PSYC 7230 Research for Applied Psychology
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Exposes students to the terminology, methodology, and ethical considerations of quantitative and qualitative research with an emphasis on developing the skills necessary to critically read and evaluate research.
PSYC 7231 Assessment I: Psychometric Theory
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course is the first in a series and provides theoretical grounding for psychological assessment. Topics to be covered include statistical properties of tests; test development, construction, and analysis; types of tests; and legal issues in testing.

PSYC 7232 Foundations of Psychotherapy I
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
An advanced examination of several of the major therapy systems, comparing them, contrasting them, and looking for the bases of meaningful integration. Systems examined include: psychoanalysis, Jungian analysis, and Adlerian individual psychology. Also examined will be research in psychotherapy.
Corequisite(s): PSYC 7237.

PSYC 7233 Ethics and Professional Issues
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Designed to provide the clinician in training with a clear understanding of the legal and ethical responsibilities incurred when working with clients in a clinical capacity. Lectures and class discussion will cover specific legal and ethical principles and the application of those principles in clinical settings. Topics related to professionalism will also be covered.
Corequisite(s): PSYC 7235.

PSYC 7234 Assessment II: Intellectual Assessment
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course is the second of the assessment series and provides an introduction and the beginning of skill development in assessing persons' intellectual abilities, academic achievement, and cognitive strengths and weaknesses. A minimum grade of "B" in PSYC 7231.

PSYC 7235 Group Psychotherapy
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Provides the clinician in training with an overview of the concepts and various theories of group psychotherapy.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "B" in PSYC 7433.
Corequisite(s): PSYC 7233.

PSYC 7236 Neuropsychology and Neuropsychological Assessment
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course serves as an introduction to the anatomical, empirical, and clinical aspects of neuropsychology, with an emphasis on clinical assessment.

PSYC 7237 Psychotherapy Skills I
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Practice and practical application of the theories covered in PSYC 7232.
Corequisite(s): PSYC 7232.

PSYC 7238 Child Psychotherapy
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
The general goal of this course is to provide graduate students, who are therapists in training, with a comprehensive overview of the theories and concepts of child psychotherapy.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "B" in PSYC 7237.

PSYC 7239 Psychopathology
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Focuses on descriptions, hypothesized etiologies, and treatment modalities of major classes of mental disorders as classified by the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of the American Psychiatric Association.

PSYC 7331 Advanced Developmental Psychology
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
An examination of the major themes, theories, and research in developmental psychology.

PSYC 7332 Advanced Social Psychology
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Examines theory and research on selected topics in social psychology.

PSYC 7333 Psychotherapy Skills II
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
These changes will allow this course to be included in the Psy.D. program.
Prerequisite(s): Minimum grade of "B" in PSYC 7232.
Corequisite(s): PSYC 7433.

PSYC 7334 Couples and Family Psychotherapy
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Students will learn the theory and practice associated with couple and family psychotherapy, including basic principles of systems therapy, common factors and effective practice strategies in couple and family therapy, unique features of interrupting dysfunctional patterns of close relationships, and characteristics of healthy couples and families.

PSYC 7335 Assessment III: Personality Assessment
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This is the third course in the assessment series and focuses on measurement of personality constructs, attributes, and unique characteristics that organize and define an individual.

PSYC 7336 Child Psychopathology and Assessment
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course is oriented to teaching students the range of children's psychological problems, which are understood in the context of human development. A primary goal of the course will be to bridge the gap between research and practice. The course will teach application of a wide range of assessment procedures available to the generalist psychologist.

PSYC 7337 Clinical Health Psychology
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Students will learn practical information and guidance on how to apply clinical health psychology research and techniques to make decisions and modify patients' behavior. Students will learn about the interaction of physical health with the individual's cognitive, emotional, behavioral, and social functions. Students will learn specific skills related to clinical health psychology.

PSYC 7390 Development of Original Research
1-6 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Provides students with opportunity to develop an original research idea and implement it.

PSYC 7433 Foundations & Skills II
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
The focus of this course is to continue to study the major therapy systems, comparing them, contrasting them and looking for the bases of meaningful integration.
Prerequisite(s): Minimum grade of "B" in PSYC 7232.
Corequisite(s): PSYC 7333.

PSYC 7490 Advanced Directed Study
1-6 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A directed study at the graduate level providing an examination and analysis of current literature pertaining to selected content areas in psychology.

PSYC 7531 Advanced Personality Psychology
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course provides an overview of classic personality perspectives, with in-depth investigation of current personality theories and research.

PSYC 7610 Research Seminar
1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Hour. 0 Lab Hours.
An overview of ongoing research in the Department of Psychology designed to prepare students for the research requirements of the MS degree program.

PSYC 7630 Clinical Seminar
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Seminar provides the opportunity to research a clinical topic of current interest to the class and to present scholarly work before peers. Emphasis is on the development of skills in researching the literature, development of ideas through critical thinking, and oral and written presentation. May be repeated with different topics.
PSYC 7631 Seminar in Teaching Psychology
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Seminar in Teaching Psychology involves lecture, discussion, activities and homework designed to explore how to effectively teach psychology classes at the university level. Using readings from books and journals, along with personal experience, the class will discuss and apply issues such as how to plan effective lectures, test writing and grading, demonstrations, leading discussions, handling controversial issues, dealing with disruptive students, seeking out opportunities for experiential learning, and so on.

PSYC 7633 Psychotherapy Skills III: Child and Family Interventions
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course focuses on the development of therapy skills and practices associated exclusively with children and families.

PSYC 7730 Practicum I
3 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
The general goal of Practicum I, II, and III is to provide graduate students, who are therapists in training, with additional support and “practice wisdom” while they are engaged in field work at various mental health settings. (These settings may include both on-campus and off-campus programs such as the GSU Psychology Clinic, GSU Counseling Center, Regents Center for Learning Disorders, outpatient community mental health centers, inpatient psychiatric/correctional/or residential treatment facilities).
Prerequisite(s): Minimum grade of “C” in PSYC 7233 and a minimum grade of “B” in PSYC 7234 and PSYC 7237 and PSYC 7239.

PSYC 7731 Practicum II
3 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Continuation of Practicum I.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "B" in PSYC 7730.

PSYC 7732 Practicum III
3 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course is a continuation of PSYC 7731.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "B" in PSYC 7731.

PSYC 7733 Combined Group Practicum
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course will bring students in their first and second year of practicum into a peer supervision group focused on clinical practice, case management, and deepening of psychotherapeutic skills and techniques. Students will be engaged in field work at community mental health agencies during this course.

PSYC 7810 Research Experience
1-6 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Student works with a faculty member on a research project in progress, obtaining experience and skills to enhance the student's understanding of the research process.

PSYC 7999 Thesis
1-6 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Thesis.

PSYC 9130 Professional Development
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course examines current issues in professional psychology. It also prepares students for pre-doctoral internship, post-doctoral work, licensure, and independent practice.

PSYC 9131 Supervision and Consultation
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course will explore professional consultation and clinical supervision, focusing on developing knowledge and skills related to the construction, dissemination and implementation of specialized programming for small and large systems; students also will learn theories, techniques and processes that will help them become more effective clinical supervisors.

PSYC 9230 Diversity Issues in Psychology
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Students will learn about the social-psychological diversity in rural areas; the scientific literature on the impact of diversity on mental health; and the role of cultural identity development and social justice on psychotherapy assessment, consultation, and service delivery in rural areas.

PSYC 9235 History and Systems of Psychology
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course examines the development of experimental and clinical psychology with an emphasis on relating the development to current issues in psychology.

PSYC 9330 Rural Mental Health
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Students will learn about the current state of rural mental health, unique challenges in working in rural areas, ethical and professional considerations, and research-driven recommendations for working with specific populations in rural communities.

PSYC 9331 Psychopharmacology
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Designed to give the clinician in training a foundation in the use of drugs to treat mental disorders.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of “B” in PSYC 7236 and PSYC 7239.

PSYC 9711 Pre-Doctoral Internship I
1 Credit Hour. 0 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
The pre-doctoral internship is a sequence of three courses designed to ensure on-going contact with the university during the required year of practice prior to graduation. The internship agency is responsible, and holds full authority, for course content, assessment, and grade.

PSYC 9712 Pre-Doctoral Internship II
1 Credit Hour. 0 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
The pre-doctoral internship is a sequence of three courses designed to ensure on-going contact with the university during the required year of practice prior to graduation. The internship agency is responsible, and holds full authority, for course content, assessment, and grade.
Prerequisite(s): PSYC 9711.

PSYC 9713 Pre-Doctoral Internship III
1 Credit Hour. 0 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
The pre-doctoral internship is a sequence of three courses designed to ensure on-going contact with the university during the required year of practice prior to graduation. The internship agency is responsible, and holds full authority, for course content, assessment, and grade.
Prerequisite(s): PSYC 9711 and PSYC 9712.

PSYC 9731 Rural Practicum
3 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course provides supervised experience in psychological assessment and psychotherapy in rural settings. Students will be placed in rural clinical sites. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 hours.

PSYC 9735 Practicum in Supervision
3 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Provides supervised experience in the supervision of pre-master's degree graduate students in their psychological assessment and psychotherapy work. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 hours.

PSYC 9999 Dissertation
1-6 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Students are provided support and direction in completing the doctoral dissertation. The course provides guidance from both the dissertation supervising chair and the dissertation committee. The dissertation may consist of an empirical investigation, an in-depth clinical case study, or a theoretical work suitable for publication.