

PSYCHOLOGY

THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

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DEGREES OFFERED: BA, MA, PH The undergraduate program offers the core preparation recommended by the nation's leading graduate schools of psychology, with advanced courses and research opportunities to fit individual needs. Programs of study may be structured around prospective careers in medicine, law, business, and education as well as in psychology.

Program emphasis in graduate study is on doctoral training. An important feature of our doctoral program is its strong research orientation. Students are expected to spend a good portion of their graduate years actively engaged in research and are expected to acquire a high level of research competence. Faculty research interests and areas of specialization for graduate students include: cognitive psychology (basic mental activities as perceiving, attending, remembering, learning, judging, verbalizing, and imagining), systems and cognitive neuroscience (understanding the relationship between the human brain and higher forms of behavior), human factors/human-computer interaction (the scientific discipline concerned with the understanding of interactions among humans and other elements of a system and the application of theories, principles, data and other methods of design in order to optimize human well-being and overall system performance), industrial and organizational psychology (human behavior in organizational and work situations), perception (psychology of sensory and perceptual systems in humans and animals), social/personality (examines both the way people think about, influence, and interact with others as well as individual differences in people that accentuate such cognitions and behaviors), and training (broad interdisciplinary area drawing on cognitive psychology, industrial/organizational psychology, and educational psychology).

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR BA IN PSYCHOLOGY

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (pages 16–19). Students majoring in psychology must complete 29 semester hours in departmental courses, including the following required courses.

Core Courses

PSYC 101 *Introduction to Psychology*
 PSYC 202 *Introduction to Social Psychology*
 PSYC 203 *Introduction to Cognitive Psychology*
 PSYC 339 *Statistical Methods—Psychology*
 PSYC 340 *Research Methods* (no substitutions or

transfer credits allowed for PSYC 339 or 340)

At least 1 course from each block

Block 1

PSYC 308 *Memory*
 PSYC 309 *Psychology of Language*
 PSYC 350 *Psychology of Learning*
 PSYC 351 *Psychology of Perception*
 PSYC 360 *Thinking*
 PSYC 362 *Biopsychology*
 PSYC 375 *Neuropsychology of Language and Memory*

Block 2

PSYC 321 *Developmental Psychology*
 PSYC 329 *Psychological Testing*
 PSYC 330 *Personality Theory*
 PSYC 331 *The Psychology of Gender*
 PSYC 332 *Abnormal Behavior*
 PSYC 352 *The Psychology of Emotion and Motivation*

*No substitutions or transfer credits allowed to fulfill Block 1 and 2 requirements. Once enrolled at Rice, students must have prior approval from the psychology department to transfer courses taken at another college or university.

Students are encouraged to take PSYC 339 and PSYC 340 as soon as possible, preferably by the end of their sophomore year.

Honors Program—Qualified students may apply to the honors program during preregistration in the spring semester of their junior year. A written proposal for the project must be submitted by the end of the second week of classes in fall of the senior year, and the faculty will decide on final admission to the honors program by the end of the 4th week of classes. Admission to the honors program requires a psychology GPA of 3.7 and an overall GPA of 3.5, completion of PSYC 339, and completion or concurrent enrollment in PSYC 340. To graduate with departmental honors, students must complete the requirements for the psychology major, a written honors thesis approved by a faculty committee, and other requirements as determined by their honors committee (see Honors Program, page 28). Detailed information about the honors program is available from the instructor of the course or the departmental office.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR MA AND PHD IN PSYCHOLOGY

Students must complete an admission-to-candidacy procedure that should establish their expertise in their chosen specialty. For general university requirements, see Graduate Degrees (pages 61–62). For both MA and PhD degrees, students must complete a research thesis, including a public oral defense, and accumulate 30 semester hours for the MA and 60 hours for the PhD. Required coursework is determined by the student's research area (cognitive, cognitive neuroscience, human factors/human-computer interaction, industrial organizational, perception, or training.) Competence in a foreign language is not required.

See PSYC in the Courses of Instruction section.