Program Mission Statement

The Master of Science in Experimental Psychology program follows a student-centered mentorship model that provides rigorous training and experiences to develop and implement independent, theoretically driven empirical science.

Program Student Learning Objectives

Upon completion of the program, graduates will have demonstrated:
1. Advanced understanding of theory, principles, and research within fundamental areas of experimental psychology.
2. Ability to independently apply skills at designing, analyzing, and communicating empirical research.
3. Engagement in independent original research including developing research questions and strategies to answer them, interpreting results, and communicating findings across a range of relevant venues.

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<th>Program Objectives</th>
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<td>1. Advanced understanding of theory, principles, and research within fundamental areas of experimental psychology.</td>
<td>Identification, evaluation, and application of appropriate theories, concepts, processes within neuroscience, cognitive, developmental and social areas of psychology</td>
<td>Completion of coursework in Seminars (PSY 501, 503, 504, 505)</td>
<td>Direct Quantitative: Quiz/Exam performance Participation/Response paper points GRE Psychology Exam Direct Qualitative Paper/presentation rubrics Quarterly interviews with program director Exit interview Self-assessment questionnaire Indirect Quantitative Peer evaluations Exit survey Alumni survey Indirect Qualitative Advisor meetings Letters of progress/improvement Faculty review/discussion of student progress</td>
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| 2. Ability to independently apply skills at designing, analyzing, and communicating empirical research. | Identification, evaluation, and application of appropriate methods of conducting, presenting, and writing psychological research | Completion of coursework in Statistics (PSY 512, 513), Research Design (PSY 584), Scholarship & Communication (PSY 585, 586)  
- Reading primary sources of design & methodology  
- Writing and presenting the methodology of others  
- Seminar discussion  
Public presentation (e.g., professional conference) | Direct Quantitative:  
Quiz/Exam performance  
Participation/Response paper points  
GRE Psychology Exam  
Direct Qualitative  
Paper/presentation rubrics  
Quarterly meetings with program director  
Exit interview  
Self-assessment narrative  
Indirect Quantitative  
Peer evaluations  
Exit survey  
Alumni survey  |
| 3. Engagement in independent original research including developing research questions and strategies to answer them, interpreting results, and communicating findings across a range of relevant venues. | Identification of a theoretically novel and methodologically appropriate research question. Successful defense of the strengths, weaknesses, and implications of the research. | Completion of the Master's Thesis  
- Hypotheses supported by literature review  
- Proposed method for addressing hypotheses  
- Successful proposal meeting to thesis committee  
- Data collection & analysis  
- Successful defense meeting to thesis committee | Direct Quantitative:  
Satisfactory completion of Thesis credits (PSY 690)  
Committee ratings of proposal document/meeting  
Committee ratings of thesis document/defense  
Direct Qualitative  
Thesis committee discussion of proposal document and proposal meeting  
Thesis committee discussion of thesis document and defense meeting  
Indirect Quantitative  
Exit survey  
Alumni survey  |
|                                                                                  |                                                                          |                                                                           | Indirect Quantitative  
Advisor meetings  
Letters of progress/improvement  
Faculty review/discussion of student progress |
As part of ongoing assessment, the MS Experimental Psychology program will collect information focused on SLO #2 (Ability to independently apply skills at designing, analyzing, and communicating empirical research), and specifically within the context of the course PSY 585: Scholarship & Communication 1. Direct assessment will be based on qualitative evaluation of student presentations. Indirect assessment will be based on student self-evaluations. The instructor will discuss the results of the assessment and consequent plans to modify instruction with the Program Director.