

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

College of Science and Mathematics
Department of Psychology
2576 E. San Ramon Ave., ST 11
Fresno, CA 93740-8039
(559)278-2691
(559)278-7910 (Fax)

Dear Potential Applicant:

Thank you for your inquiry about the California State University, Fresno (CSUF), Master's degree programs in Psychology. This brochure contains a description of CSUF, the Department of Psychology, the facilities and resources available for graduate students, and the courses and requirements for the Master's degree programs in Psychology.

We offer two Master's programs in our department. The Master of Arts (M.A.) program is oriented toward individuals who intend to eventually pursue a doctoral degree at another university or teach at the community college level; this program requires a minimum of 30 semester hours. An Applied Behavior Analysis emphasis is available within the M.A. program, which allows students to meet coursework and experience requirements for national certification as behavior analysts (these requirements involve an additional 13 units of coursework). The Master of Science (M.S.) program has an emphasis in School Psychology; this program requires a minimum of 86 semester hours and is a terminal degree program for those pursuing careers in School Psychology. Students in the M.S. program are required to spend one full day a week during the first year and one and a half days a week the second year at a school site in practicum. The third year of the program is spent in internship at a school site.

Admission to the graduate program is competitive. Due to the number of applicants we typically do not admit unclassified graduate students to our program. The acceptance to applicant ratio varies significantly from year to year.

We hope that the enclosed materials will help you make an informed choice about your graduate education. For further information about the M.A. program, please contact the Chair of the Graduate Committee; for further information about the M.S. program, please contact the Coordinator of the School Psychology Program.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Wilson, Ph.D.
Professor
Coordinator, M.A. Program
Chair, Graduate Committee
Graduate Program Advisor
(559) 278-5129
marilynw@csufresno.edu

Sincerely,

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Coordinator, School Psychology Program
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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
GRADUATE STUDY IN PSYCHOLOGY
THE PROGRAMS

The Department of Psychology offers programs leading to the:

1. Master of Arts in Psychology (30 unit program)

M.A. students may select an emphasis in one of the following areas:

- Applied Behavior Analysis (additional units required to meet certification requirements)
- Experimental Psychology with an emphasis in:
 - Cognitive
 - Developmental
 - Quantitative
 - Social/Personality
- Pre-Clinical
- or, with an advisor, construct a specialized area of emphasis

2. Master of Science in Psychology, School Psychology emphasis
(86 unit program)

Master's Degree Programs in Psychology at CSUF

The Master of Arts (M.A.) program in Psychology offers a choice of emphases in applied behavior analysis, experimental (cognitive, social/personality, developmental, quantitative) or pre-clinical psychology. Students completing this program receive a thorough grounding in psychology as an empirical science. Those students in the behavior analysis emphasis who complete the additional units required for certification will be prepared to sit for the national certification exam upon graduation, thus qualifying them for employment in the behavior analysis field. All M.A. students are prepared in the foundations necessary to successfully enter and complete doctoral programs - broad scholarship, quantitative methods, experimental design, psychological theory and research experience. About half of previous M.A. program graduates have continued their studies in academic or applied doctoral programs; others work in program evaluation, administration and junior college teaching.

Although in years past a Master's degree in Psychology was sometimes sufficient to allow one to work in applied settings (e.g., performing counseling and therapy), the contemporary practice of Clinical Psychology in California and most other states requires a doctoral degree (Ph.D. or Psy.D., or equivalent) along with additional supervised training and experience. With the exception of those seeking national certification as behavior analysts, applicants who intend to seek the Master's degree in Psychology as a direct means of gaining entry into the human services job market should not apply to the Master of Arts in Psychology program, but instead seek further information from CSUF's Department of Social Work Education (278-3992) or the Department of Counseling and Special Education (278-0340).

The Master of Science (M.S.) program in Psychology with an emphasis in School Psychology is a three year full-time, minimum 86 graduate hour program that prepares individuals for practice as School Psychologists. At program completion, students are given institutional recommendations for the Pupil Personnel Services Credential with Advanced Specialization in School Psychology. Nine undergraduate courses are required as prerequisites and all courses for the M.S. program with an emphasis in School Psychology are at the graduate level. Credit is not given for undergraduate classes, remedial classes, or coursework designed to remove deficiencies. A total of 500 clock hours of supervised practicum experience is required during the first two years of coursework. During the third year of the program, students complete one full year of supervised internship experience consisting of a minimum of 1200 clock hours, at least 600 of which must be in a school setting.

The M.S. program provides future school psychologists with a solid professional and academic foundation reflecting depth and diversity in both psychology and education. All students develop an understanding, respect for, and responsiveness to culture and individual differences. The program emphasizes the importance of delivering school psychological services from a consultation framework to prevent and remediate learning and adjustment problems experienced by children and adolescents. Students are taught to link assessment methodologies to the development of empirically-based interventions. They learn to view problems from a systems/ecological perspective focusing on the child, the family, the school, and the community, and to use a scientific problem solving approach in their work. Both the theoretical and the empirical bases of professional practice are emphasized in inner city, suburban, and rural settings.

FINANCIAL AID

The Psychology Department normally has a number of teaching assistantships and graduate assistantships available to qualified classified graduate students. Graduate students are also eligible for work study funds and other general university financial aid. Information concerning the latter is available from the Office of Financial Aid. Fellowship opportunities include the Graduate Equity Fellowship and the President's Graduate Scholarship Fellowship. Graduate students may also obtain Research Merit Awards, Travel Awards, and apply for the Robert and Norma Craig Graduate Fellowship. For more information, contact the scholarship office (<http://studentaffairs.csufresno.edu/scholarships/>).

TYPES OF ADMISSION

1. **Classified Standing**: Applicants to the Master's degree programs in Psychology are evaluated and granted classified standing by the members of the Department of Psychology Graduate Committee. Admission to the program is a competitive process and students are selected from the applicant pool based on the strength of their application materials. Classified standing enables the student to pursue all scholarly and professional requirements for the completion of a graduate degree. Meeting the requirements for classified status does not insure admission into the graduate program. Admissions decisions are based on the number and quality of applicants.
2. **Unclassified Post-baccalaureate Status**: Students who have not met all admission requirements may be admitted to the University with postbaccalaureate status. This classification is utilized by students to remediate deficiencies in their undergraduate training. This typically includes students who did not major in psychology as an undergraduate and need to complete prerequisite coursework for admission to the graduate program. Postbaccalaureate students may not be teaching assistants in the Department of Psychology. Completion of a student's deficiencies with postbaccalaureate standing does not insure admission into the graduate program. Upon fulfillment of these deficiencies a postbaccalaureate student must reapply to the Department of Psychology for admission to the graduate program as a classified graduate student. Further details on unclassified postbaccalaureate standing are available in the University General Catalog.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR MASTER'S PROGRAM, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

Admission to the graduate program in psychology is based on the evaluation of a student's capacity to successfully complete Master's level work. The graduate committee uses multiple criteria to assess an applicant's qualifications including coursework completed, grades, test scores, essays, and letters of recommendation. In addition, an applicant's professional interests and goals are evaluated in terms of the interests of the faculty and resources of the Department of Psychology. Separate evaluation of applicants are made for the M.A. general/experimental program and the M.S. School Psychology Program. Although many applicants meet our minimum admission requirements, we are limited in the number of positions available and some qualified students may not be offered admission.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Grade Point Average (GPA)

A four-year undergraduate degree is required for acceptance as a graduate student. A GPA of 3.0 or better in psychology undergraduate courses as well as a 3.0 overall undergraduate GPA are typically minimal expectations for successful applicants.

2. Graduate Record Examination (GRE)

All students are required to take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) for admission to CSU, Fresno. Students must submit scores for the General Test **and** the Subject Test in Psychology. The GRE General Test is considered an opportunity for applicants to demonstrate their potential for future academic success; total (Verbal + Quantitative) scores of 1000 or above are considered desirable. The Subject Test is regarded as a measure of knowledge of the field of psychology. Successful candidates for the Master's Program will demonstrate scores at or near the criterion (560 or 60th percentile) at the time of application to the program. However, acceptance into the Master's Degree programs in the Psychology Department is based on multiple criteria and there are no absolute cutoff scores on either the General or Subject Test for admission.

Students should contact the Testing Office at (559)278-2457 or the Family and Food Sciences Building Room 110 for testing dates and deadlines. You can also get on the ETS website at www.gre.org for more information. Remember the Subject GRE is a paper-based test and is only offered three times a year (Nov., Dec., and April); therefore plan to take the exam well in advance in order to receive scores on time. The General GRE is a computer-based exam and is offered every month, but you should still plan to register and take the exam well in advance in order to receive scores on time. Failure to submit GRE scores on time is a major cause of rejection. Original GRE test scores from ETS must be submitted directly to the Graduate Admissions Office; a **copy** of your scores should also be included with your department application materials in order to ensure that you will be evaluated in the application process. **Scores must be received in the Psychology Department office by the application deadline.**

A. Undergraduate Course Entry Requirements for MA Program

The following courses are part of the undergraduate psychology major at CSU, Fresno. Students from other institutions or those holding a bachelor's degree in areas other than psychology should also have completed the following courses or their equivalents.

- a. Applications: One course from the following:
- | | |
|---|------------|
| Clinical Processes | Psych 160T |
| Abnormal Psychology | Psych 166 |
| Psychological Aspects of
Physical Disability | Psych 169 |
| Environmental Psychology | Psych 173 |
| Family Counseling | Psych 175 |
| Industrial Psychology | Psych 176 |
| Behavior Modification | Psych 177 |
- b. Basic Content Area: One course from the following:
- | | |
|--|-----------|
| Personality | Psych 154 |
| Developmental Psychology | Psych 155 |
| Social Psychology | Psych 134 |
| Culture, Social Class &
Development | Psych 178 |
| History and Systems | Psych 182 |
- c. Basic Processes Area: One course from the following:
- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Learning and Memory | Psych 121 |
| Motivation | Psych 122 |
| Sensation and Perception | Psych 124 |
| Physiological Psychology | Psych 125 |
| Cognitive Psychology | Psych 128 |
- d. Assessment Area:
- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Elementary Statistics | Psych 42 |
| Research Methods | Psych 144 |
| Intermediate Statistics | Psych 143 |
- e. Applied Behavior Analysis*:
- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Applied Behavior Analysis | Psych 172 |
|---------------------------|-----------|

* Requirement e applies only to those students applying for the applied behavior analysis emphasis.

B. Prerequisites for the School Psychology Program

School Psychology applicants must take the following classes. These classes may be taken as a part of the Undergraduate Major where applicable.

Psych 36 or 125	Biological Basis of Behavior
Psych 136, 121, or 128	Human Learning & Behavior (136)
	Learning & Memory (121)
	Cognitive Psychology (128)
Psych 155	Developmental Psychology
Psych 174	Introduction to Counseling
Psych 42	Introduction to Statistics
Psych 143	Intermediate Statistics
Psych 144	Research Methods
Psych 149	Psychological Testing
Psych 166	Abnormal Psychology
Psych 168 or 169	Exceptional Children (recommended)
Psych 172 (formerly Psych 170T)	Applied Behavior Analysis (recommended)

C. Courses Completed at Other Institutions

The Graduate Committee of the Department of Psychology carefully evaluates all transcripts submitted from other institutions. The Graduate committee reserves the right to request documentation of coursework from applicants to determine that course's equivalency to CSU, Fresno Psychology courses. The following materials may be requested by the graduate committee:

1. A catalog description of the course containing the course content.
2. A course syllabus or outline.
3. A copy of the textbook(s) used in the course, or a complete bibliographic citation of the text(s).
4. Copies of work completed in the course including examinations, papers, and any other work completed.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

In addition to fulfilling the above requirements, International Students:

1. Must possess the equivalent of a four year U.S. degree.
2. Must present TOEFL scores of at least 550.
3. Must have adequate financial support. The University does not have funds to assist international students. CSU, Fresno cannot offer scholarships, loans, or any kind of financial aid to entering international students.

ADMISSION PROCEDURES

DEADLINES

All application materials must be received by the following dates (please note that these are the department application deadlines; University application deadlines vary; please contact the Graduate Admissions office for more information at 278-4073):

- For Fall entry into the School Psychology Program -- February 1st
- For Fall entry in the M.A. Program, ABA Emphasis – February 1st
- For Fall entry into the M.A. program -- March 1st
- For Spring entry into the M.A. program -- October 31st

Note: The School Psychology program **only** accepts applications for entry in the fall semester. There also is no Spring entry for the ABA Emphasis of the M.A. Program.

DEPARTMENT & UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS

All applicants are required to complete separate applications for the Department of Psychology **and** the Graduate Admissions Office. These are two separate application processes and an application fee must accompany the application for the Graduate Admissions Office. If you were an undergraduate student at CSU, Fresno you must still apply for postbaccalaureate admission to CSU, Fresno.

To request application packets please contact the following offices on campus. The addresses are:

Graduate Programs
Department of Psychology
CSU, Fresno
2576 E. San Ramon ST 11
Fresno, CA 93740-8039
(559) 278-2691
www.psych.csufresno.edu

Graduate Admissions Office
CSU, Fresno
5150 N. Maple Ave JA 57
Fresno, CA 93740-8026
(559) 278-4073
www.csufresno.edu
*application available on-line at
www.csumentor.edu

In addition to the university and department applications you will need to obtain the following information and mail it to the Psychology Department by the appropriate deadline:

1. Two official copies of transcripts of all previous undergraduate and graduate work are required. One copy of all transcripts must be sent to the Department of Psychology and a second must be sent to the graduate admission office. Failure to send two copies could delay your application and may be grounds for disqualification.
2. At least three Letters of Recommendation are required from people who are familiar with your previous academic work. Letters of recommendation for applicants to the School Psychology program should also include comments related to their ability to work closely with people in the human services area. Letters should be on letterhead stationery and should be mailed directly from the recommender to the Department of Psychology at the above address.
3. All students must submit their scores on the Graduate Record Examination for **both** the general test and the advanced subject test in Psychology (See page 4).
4. Students applying to the School Psychology Program must also take the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST). Scores are to be sent directly to the Department of Psychology. This examination must be taken no later than December for the February 1st deadline. Passing scores must accompany application materials in order for a student to be considered for the School Psychology Program. Information on the CBEST test can be obtained by writing:

CBEST Program
National Evaluation Systems, Inc
P.O. Box 340880
Sacramento, CA 95834-0880

You may also contact the Testing Office at (559)278-2457 or in the Family and Food Sciences Building Room 110 for test dates and deadlines.

Personal Interviews

Applicants may be asked to participate in a personal or telephone interview at the discretion of the Graduate Committee. Applicants will be contacted by phone to arrange these interviews if needed.

CORE COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE M.A. DEGREE

The following basic core courses **must** be included in all psychology Master's degree programs.

<u>COURSES</u>	<u>UNITS</u>
Psych 244 Seminar in Research Methods	4
Psych 231 Ethics in Psychology	3
One graduate seminar from the following areas:	3-4
<u>Group I</u>	
Personality, Social, Developmental or Environmental Psychology (Psych 200T, Psych 250T or Psych 255T)	
One graduate seminar from the following areas:	3-4
<u>Group II</u>	
Learning, Motivation, Cognition, Psycholinguistic, Psychopharmacology, Perception, Behavioral Genetics or Physiological Psychology (Psych 220T or Psych 225T)	
Psych 299 Thesis	3-6
TOTAL CORE REQUIREMENTS	16-21
Electives (Must include two additional courses in psychology or a related field; maximum of 6 units independent study. Program must be approved by graduate advisor.)	9-14
TOTAL NUMBER OF UNITS	30

The Master of Arts degree in Psychology is a 30 unit program. In addition to the above core requirements, students in the M.A. program take a number of electives which are pre-approved by their advisor. Included in these electives are, for example, graduate seminars in social psychology (Psych 255T) for those with a special interest in Social Psychology and graduate seminars with a developmental emphasis (Psych 200T) for those with a special interest in Developmental Psychology. Students also have the option of signing up for Psychology 290-Independent Study (see the university catalog for further details) if they are involved in a faculty research project. As a culminating experience, students are required to complete a three to six unit thesis (see page 20 for further details).

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE M.A. DEGREE,
INCLUDING COURSES NEEDED TO QUALIFY FOR ABA CERTIFICATION**

<u>RECOMMENDED CORE COURSES</u>		<u>UNITS</u>
Psychology 231	Ethics in Psychology	3
Psychology 244	Research Methods	4
Psychology 220T	Seminar in Learning	3
Psychology 205	Developmental Psychology	4
Psychology 288	Advanced Applied Behavior Analysis	4
<u>RECOMMENDED ELECTIVES (2 required for certification)</u>		<u>UNITS</u>
Psychology 270T	Seminar in Applied Behavioral Science	3
Psychology 278	Intervention and Prevention	4
Psychology 282	Cognitive and Behavior Therapy	4
Psychology 286	Instructional Consultation and Intervention	4
<u>ADDITIONAL COURSES REQUIRED FOR CERTIFICATION</u>		<u>UNITS</u>
Psychology 245	Research Methods in ABA	4
Psychology 289	Functional Assessment and Intervention	4
Psychology 268*	Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis 4	
Special Ed 120	Teaching Students with Special Needs	3
<u>THESIS</u>		<u>UNITS</u>
Psychology 299	Thesis	3-6
TOTAL UNITS	43-49	

Contact Dr. Jennifer Austin (jaustin@csufresno.edu; 278-3043) for additional information regarding the M.A. Program ABA Emphasis.

Suggested Program of Study for M.A. with ABA Emphasis

Year	Fall	Spring
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psych 231 Ethics (3) • Psych 288 Advanced ABA (4) • Elective (3-4) • Psych 268 Practicum (1) <p align="right">11-12 units</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psych 244 Research Methods (4) • Psych 245 Research Methods in ABA (4) • Psych 289 Functional Assessment (4) • Psych 268 Practicum (1) <p align="right">13 units</p>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psych 220T Seminar in Learning (3) • SpEd 120 Teaching Students with Special Needs (3) • Elective (3-4) (<i>optional</i>) • Psych 268 Practicum (1) <p align="right">10-12 units</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psych 205 Developmental (4) • Elective (3-4) (<i>if not taken in fall</i>) • Psych 299 Thesis (3-6) • Psych 268 Practicum (1) <p align="right">8-15 units</p>

**PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES CREDENTIAL WITH
ADVANCED SPECIALIZATION IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY
AND MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE**

The following courses must be completed to obtain a Master of Science degree in Psychology as well as apply for the Pupil Personnel Services Credential with Advanced Specialization in School Psychology. Students must be formally accepted into the program prior to taking the School Psychology sequence. These courses are denoted with a *.

FIRST YEAR: FALL SEMESTER

PSYCH 225T	Seminar in Psychobiological Bases of Behavior (Any Psych 225T course may be used to satisfy this requirement)	3
PSYCH 231	Ethics in Psychology	3
PSYCH 277*	Role and Function of the School Psychologist	3
PSYCH 270T	Multicultural School Psychology	1
PSYCH 288	Advanced Applied Behavior Analysis	4
PSYCH 287*	Practicum	<u>1</u>
	1 DAY PER WEEK PRACTICUM	15

FIRST YEAR: SPRING SEMESTER

PSYCH 244	Research Methods & Theoretical Issues	4
PSYCH 270T	Multicultural School Psychology	1
PSYCH 279*	Consultation & Supervision in School Psychology	4
PSYCH 284*	Assessment of Intellectual Abilities	4
PSYCH 287*	Practicum	<u>1</u>
	1 DAY PER WEEK PRACTICUM	14

To be taken during regular semesters (might no longer be an option during summer session as the courses used to be)

COUN 200	Seminar in Counseling Techniques	3
COUN 201	Seminar in Multicultural Counseling	3
COUN 240	Seminar in Counseling Exceptional Children and Their Families	<u>3</u>
		9

SECOND YEAR: FALL SEMESTER

PSYCH 255T	Seminar in Social Psychology (Any Psych 255T course may be used to satisfy this requirement)	4
PSYCH 270T	Multicultural School Psychology	1
PSYCH 278	Intervention & Prevention in School Psychology	4
PSYCH 285*	Assessment of Learning and Developmental Problems	4
PSYCH 287*	Practicum	<u>1</u>
	1½ DAYS PER WEEK PRACTICUM	14

Apply for Advancement to Candidacy by the end of the Fall Semester.
Have Thesis Proposal Meeting by the end of the Fall Semester (recommended).

May Advance to Candidacy if all requirements are met.

SECOND YEAR: SPRING SEMESTER

PSYCH 200T	Seminar in Developmental Psychology	4
PSYCH 270T	Multicultural School Psychology	1
PSYCH 282	Cognitive and Behavior Therapy	4
PSYCH 286	Instructional Consultation	4
PSYCH 287*	Practicum	<u>1</u>
	1½ DAYS PER WEEK PRACTICUM	14

Must take and PASS NCSP PRAXIS II Exam and Apply for Internship Credential
January PRAXIS II Test Recommended for Timely Application for Internship
MUST HAVE Thesis Proposal Meeting Prior to Internship

THIRD YEAR: FALL SEMESTER

PSYCH 267*	Internship in School Psychology	6
PSYCH 270T	Seminar in School Psychology	1
PSYCH 299	Thesis	<u>3</u>
		10

THIRD YEAR: SPRING SEMESTER

PSYCH 267*	Internship in School Psychology	6
PSYCH 270T	Seminar in School Psychology	1
PSYCH 299	Thesis	<u>3</u>
		10

Complete the Thesis, Including Final Oral Defense, by March 1st for Spring Graduation
Complete the Thesis, Including Final Oral Defense, by May 1st for Summer Graduation

TOTAL UNITS: **86**

See advising notes on the following page.

Note: The above schedule is a typical program. Some flexibility in sequence of non-School Psychology courses (e.g., Psy 225T, 220T, 200T, 255T and counseling courses) is possible.

PLEASE SEE THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR TO ASSIST IN PLANNING YOUR SCHEDULE.**

**Please be advised that any deviation from this schedule of required school psychology courses may result in additional time being required to complete the School Psychology Master's Degree Program.