

Graduate Admissions Information

For more information about the Masters Degree Program in Psychology, please complete this card and return it to us.

Name			
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City	State	Zip	
Telephone (home)	Telephone (work)		
E-mail			
Bachelor's Degree (College, Year Awarded)			
Undergraduate Major			

Check as many as apply.
Please send:

Application materials for the Masters Degree Program in Psychology

The SCSU Graduate Catalog

The schedule of courses for the up-coming semester

Other _____



Masters Degree Program in Psychology



Advancing our agenda for excellence.



Understanding how people think, act, react and interact can be a tremendous asset, both personally and professionally. Through Southern Connecticut State University's Master of Arts degree in psychology, students learn to observe, analyze, and resolve problems without judgment. The well-rounded and flexible program of study includes exploration of past and present practices, hands-on experimentation and research, interpretation of data, and communication of results. The Department of Psychology at Southern boasts an active and engaged faculty, a dedicated behavioral psychology laboratory, a computer lab, and a thriving chapter of Psi Chi, the national honor society of psychology students.

Program Description

The Master of Arts in psychology is a 30-credit program consisting of some required courses, electives, and either a thesis or a comprehensive exam. The program has immense flexibility, can be tailored to meet the needs of each student, and can be completed on a full- or part-time schedule. Rather than focusing on specializations, the coursework provides a comprehensive exploration of all aspects of psychology. Students are required to take two specific courses, Design and Analysis in Psychology and Problems in Psychology, preferably in their first two semesters. In addition, students must choose one course from each of two groups of related subjects. The remaining credits—more than half of the total required—can be elected to fit the student's interests and needs. Up to six credits can be selected from related disciplines, with approval of the graduate coordinator.

To complete the program, students may choose a thesis or a comprehensive exam. The six-credit thesis option is recommended for students continuing to a doctoral program. Students must have at least 15 credits and a 3.3 grade point average to begin the process of preparing a thesis. The comprehensive exam is an option for stu-

dents who have completed 30 credits. Ideally, courses have been chosen to ensure preparedness for the exam. The exam is offered twice a year and should be applied for at the start of the semester.

Admissions Requirements

Admission to the graduate psychology program is a two-tiered process. Students must be accepted into the School of Graduate Studies, and the Department of Psychology. Although the School of Graduate Studies requires a 2.5 GPA (on a scale of A=4.0), the department requires a 2.7 GPA, with a 3.0 in undergraduate psychology coursework. (Beginning with the fall 2009 semester, the Graduate School will require a minimum undergraduate grade point average of 3.0.) In addition, 18 credits of psychology (graduate or undergraduate) are required, including coursework in both statistics and experimental psychology. A 300- to 500-word essay describing the candidate's interest in psychology and career aspirations, as well as two letters of recommendation, are required by the department. Applicants must also submit scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) general test to the graduate coordinator. The GRE subject test in psychology need not be taken. The graduate committee will consider applicants with outstanding qualifications who do not meet the requirements. In some cases, an applicant may be required to strengthen his or her psychology background by taking certain undergraduate credits before matriculating.

How to Apply

It is best to contact the graduate program coordinator to begin the process of application. The Department of Psychology has a rolling admissions policy, but applicants are encouraged to have their paperwork completed by June 1 for the fall semester and November 1 for the spring semester.

The School of Graduate Studies application is available on the Web site (www.SouthernCT.edu/grad) or a hard copy can be forwarded upon request. Please ask that official transcripts from all previously attended undergraduate and graduate programs be sent to the Graduate School. Complete the application and mail, with a check for the application fee, to:



Dean, School of Graduate Studies
Southern Connecticut State University
501 Crescent Street, EN B110
New Haven, CT 06515-1355

All other materials should be submitted directly to the Department of Psychology via the graduate coordinator. The sealed letters of recommendation should include the cover form, available on the department's Web page.

Faculty

The faculty members in the Department of Psychology all hold doctorates in their fields and have a variety of professional and academic backgrounds. Among them are experts in clinical psychology, social psychology, developmental psychology, and cognitive psychology. They are actively engaged in research and publication, often allowing and encouraging student involvement in their research. Their research topics range from socio-emotional health to stress and mental health, and from music, art, and relationships to cognitive processing and statistics.

Careers

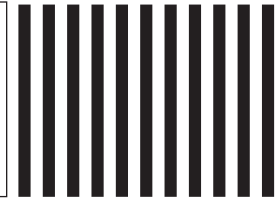
The graduate program in psychology attracts a variety of students with career goals that are equally diverse. Some apply directly from an undergraduate program in psychology and some are moving toward a doctorate, with plans to teach psychology at the high school or college level. Others need a master's degree to advance in their current jobs and choose psychology to augment the skills they already have. These include teachers, law enforcement professionals, and those in human service fields. Still others have backgrounds in areas seemingly unrelated to psychology and use the master's degree in psychology as a starting point to explore a personal interest or a potential career change. Because Southern's program is extremely flexible, it can be tailored to meet all of these needs. Graduates come away with skills and insights that are valued in a wide range of career settings.



Contact Info

W. Jerome Hauselt, Ph.D.
Professor, Graduate Coordinator
(203) 392-6874
E-mail: HauseltW1@SouthernCT.edu
www.SouthernCT.edu/grad

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