M.S. PROGRAM IN APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY

SDSU

Department of Psychology

Industrial-Organizational Psychology Specialization

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Our program prepares students for industry jobs (as well as Ph.D. programs) that require the application of psychological knowledge to the workplace. The **Industrial-Organizational Psychology specialization** covers core topics such as job analysis, performance appraisal, selection, training, motivation, leadership, stress, job attitudes, and occupational health.

OUR TRAINING MODEL

Our program is based in the scientist-practitioner model that emphasizes both research and practice. Students engage in rigorous quantitative research for the thesis requirement and apply scientific knowledge to problems in organizational settings for the internship requirement.

Students work directly with an M.S. faculty mentor to complete a thesis project and assist with other research projects. Review each faculty's focus of research and typical projects by visiting their websites, past research publications, and our program newsletters. Mention how your research interests match their lab activities when writing your statement of purpose.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

This program takes 2-3 years. It requires 38 units of coursework, a 300-hour internship, and an independent research thesis. This is a full-time program requiring high research commitment. Admitted students are usually provided assistantships (e.g., being a Teaching Assistant) to build training skills. Review our Student Handbook and Internship Guides for more information.

EXAMPLE COURSE SCHEDULE

First Year – Fall	First Year - Spring
PSY 600 - Research Orientation & PSY 797 Research	PSY 600 - Research Orientation & PSY 797 Research
PSY 670A - Advanced Statistics in Psychology	PSY 670B - Advanced Statistics in Psychology
PSY 621 - Seminar in Personnel Psychology	PSY 721 - Advanced Seminar in Personnel Psychology
PSY 630 - Seminar in Organizational Research & Ethics	PSY 675 - Seminar in Psychological Measurement

Second Year – Fall	Second Year - Spring
PSY 622 - Seminar in Organizational Psychology	PSY 722 - Advanced Seminar in Organizational Psychology
Elective - Multivariate Statistics or Multilevel Modeling	PSY 792 - Internship in Applied Psychology
PSY 797 - Research	PSY 799A - Thesis Research

M.S. PROGRAM IN APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY

SDSU
Department of Psychology

Quantitative Methods Specialization

KEY APPLICATION INFORMATION

December 15, 2022
All application materials due for the Fall 2023 cohort

March/April 2023
Initial and final decisions are made for Fall 2023 cohort

Admissions Rate
~7% – typically 4-6 admitted from over 100 applications

Competitive Applications
Emphasize research, data analysis, and quantitative test/measurement experiences that match M.S. program faculty research lab activities.

Application Materials
Cal State Apply, Department Application (multiple components), GRE General Test

Click here for full instructions

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Our program prepares students for industry jobs (as well as Ph.D. programs) that require the application of psychological knowledge to the workplace. The **Quantitative Methods specialization** covers core topics such as univariate and multivariate statistics in psychological research, including multilevel modeling. Students to choose electives to further tailor their education to match their specific career interests/goals. Electives outside of psychology often include linguistics (programming), big data analytics, or statistics.

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EXAMPLE COURSE SCHEDULE

First Year – Fall	First Year - Spring
PSY 600 - Research Orientation & PSY 797 Research	PSY 600 - Research Orientation & PSY 797 Research
PSY 670A - Advanced Statistics in Psychology	PSY 670B - Advanced Statistics in Psychology
PSY 630 - Seminar in Organizational Research & Ethics	PSY 675 - Seminar in Psychological Measurement
Elective - (e.g., Social or Organizational Psychology)	Elective - (e.g., Programming, Data Analytics, Statistics)

Second Year – Fall	Second Year - Spring
PSY 775 - Multivariate Statistics	PSY 792 - Internship in Applied Psychology
PSY 776 - Multilevel Modeling	Elective - (Research or Other Psychology Course)
PSY 797 - Research	PSY 799A - Thesis Research

CHOOSING A FACULTY MENTOR IN THE QUANTITATIVE METHODS SPECIALIZATION

Faculty mentors for students completing the Quantitative Methods specialization differ regarding whether they expect students to work on projects focused on statistical development and testing versus statistical application. See more information about the distinction below. Contact a potential faculty mentor with expertise in quantitative methods before applying to the program to determine whether they will be accepting students and thesis project expectations.

Statistical Development and Testing

Some Quantitative Methods specialization students work with faculty mentors who identify primarily as quantitative psychologists or methodologists. They complete research projects that develop and test a new statistical tool to test a hypothesis and will also examine whether a new statistic outperforms another one. For example, one student in this track developed and tested different forms of a t-test. She identified the conditions (e.g., sample size, effect size) wherein one method would outperform another, and then provided general recommendations to psychology researchers based on the conditions they would face in their own research. The project mainly required computer coding and data simulation.

Statistical Application

Some Quantitative Methods specialization students work with faculty mentors who identify primarily as industrial-organizational psychologists or social psychologists but use advanced statistical methods in their research programs. They complete research projects that apply advanced statistical methods to answer research questions in their content area. For example, students may use factor analysis techniques to validate a new measure of social stigma or seek to understand work-family conflict differences across cultures using multi-level modeling and measurement invariance techniques. These projects required data collection using surveys or use archival data from large organizational databases.

THE M.A. PROGRAM IN PSYCHOLOGY AT SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

The M.S. Program in Applied Psychology is best for students who wish to work in research labs with faculty who have expertise in industrial-organizational psychology or quantitative psychology. The **M.A. Program in Psychology** is a better fit for students who are interested in research labs with other faculty mentors in the Department of Psychology at San Diego State University with expertise related to behavioral and cognitive neuroscience, cognitive psychology, developmental psychology, physical and/or mental health, and social psychology. You may only apply to one program, so please submit your application to the appropriate program to ensure your materials get full consideration. Visit the M.A. Program information website for more information on training goals and requirements.