

# M.S. PROGRAM IN APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY

**SDSU**

Department of Psychology

## Industrial-Organizational Psychology Specialization

### KEY APPLICATION INFORMATION

#### December 15

All application materials due for the Fall cohort

#### March/April

Initial and final decisions are made for Fall cohort

#### Admissions Rate

~15% – typically 4-6 admitted from over 50 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 **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 & UNITS (38 TOTAL)

### First Year – Fall

PSY 600 - Research Orientation & PSY 797 Research (2)  
PSY 670A - Advanced Statistics in Psychology (3)  
PSY 621 - Seminar in Personnel Psychology (3)  
PSY 630 - Seminar in Organizational Research & Ethics (3)

### Second Year – Fall

PSY 622 - Seminar in Organizational Psychology (3)  
Elective - Multivariate Statistics or Multilevel Modeling (3)  
PSY 797 – Research (1)

### First Year - Spring

PSY 600 - Research Orientation & PSY 797 Research (2)  
PSY 670B - Advanced Statistics in Psychology (3)  
PSY 721 - Advanced Seminar in Personnel Psychology (3)  
PSY 675 - Seminar in Psychological Measurement (3)

### Second Year - Spring

PSY 722 - Advanced Seminar in Organizational Psychology (3)  
PSY 792 - Internship in Applied Psychology (3)  
PSY 799A - Thesis Research (3)

# M.S. PROGRAM IN APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY



Department of Psychology

## Quantitative Methods Specialization

### KEY APPLICATION INFORMATION

#### December 15

All application materials due for the Fall cohort

#### March/April

Initial and final decisions are made for Fall cohort

#### Admissions Rate

~15% – typically 4-6 admitted from over 50 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.

### 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 & UNITS (38 TOTAL)

### First Year – Fall

PSY 600 - Research Orientation & PSY 797 Research (2)  
PSY 670A - Advanced Statistics in Psychology (3)  
PSY 630 - Seminar in Organizational Research & Ethics (3)  
Elective - (e.g., Social or Organizational Psychology) (3)

### Second Year – Fall

PSY 775 - Multivariate Statistics (3)  
PSY 776 - Multilevel Modeling (3)  
PSY 797 – Research (1)

### First Year - Spring

PSY 600 - Research Orientation & PSY 797 Research (2)  
PSY 670B - Advanced Statistics in Psychology (3)  
PSY 675 - Seminar in Psychological Measurement (3)  
Elective - (e.g., Programming, Data Analytics, Statistics) (3)

### Second Year - Spring

PSY 792 - Internship in Applied Psychology (3)  
Elective - (Research or Other Psychology Course) (3)  
PSY 799A - Thesis Research (3)

## HOW WE USE THE GRE IN ADMISSIONS

We carefully use [GRE General Test scores](#) as part of a holistic admissions process consistent with our training values related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. There are no minimum cutoffs required for admission, and GRE scores are not valued more than other aspects of the application given your entire record is considered. Therefore, lower GRE scores can be fully offset by other evidence in application materials related to quantitative and writing skills needed for thesis requirements. Examples include completing an honors thesis project, research presentations, prerequisite coursework, advanced statistics/research coursework (beyond minimum requirements for a psychology degree), and courses with intensive writing requirements. Alternatively, applicants with high GRE scores can compensate for missing some prerequisite coursework and independent study research requirements. We are particularly committed to using GRE scores equitably for students who do not have access to extracurricular activities (specific coursework, research, internships), as taking the GRE can be a cost-efficient strategy to demonstrate skill development from work experience. Prospective students can visit the ETS website to locate [free or low-cost study materials](#) and see if they qualify for the [fee reduction program](#). We also accept late GRE scores after the December deadline (until the end of February). We are committed to equitable and fair admission processes and welcome students from all backgrounds. If our research-oriented program and faculty mentor lab interests fit your goals, we sincerely encourage you to apply.

## 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 archival data from large organizational databases.

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

The [M.A. Program in Psychology](#) is a good fit for students who are interested in working with [faculty mentors](#) 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.