

M.A. PROGRAM IN PSYCHOLOGY



SDSU

Department of Psychology

Research Areas - Behavioral/Cognitive Neuroscience, Developmental Learning/Cognition, Social/Personality, or Physical/Mental Health

KEY APPLICATION INFORMATION

December 1

Cal State application due

December 15

All application materials due for the Fall 2024 cohort

March/April

Initial and final decisions are made for Fall cohort

Admissions Rate

~15% – typically 24-25 admitted from over 175 applications

Competitive Applications

Emphasize coursework and research experiences that match M.A. program faculty research.

Click here for [admission requirements](#) and [FAQs](#)

Application Materials

Cal State Apply and Psychology Department Application

Click here for [full instructions](#)

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Our program prepares students for Ph.D. programs in a variety of areas of psychology. It is a good match for students who wish to strengthen their profiles in preparation for application to Ph.D. programs or explore research and graduate level work before making a commitment to additional training.

OUR TRAINING MODEL

[Our program](#) is research oriented and uses a faculty mentorship model. There are many opportunities to gain valuable laboratory experience in conducting research, including experimental studies with human subjects. Students work directly with an M.A. [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 and past research publications. Mention how your research interests match their lab activities when writing your statement of purpose.

We do not offer training in technical, clinical, or counseling skills. Alternative options for these skills include [clinical psychology](#), [counseling](#), or [social work](#).

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

This program takes 2-3 years to complete. It requires [30 units of coursework](#) 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). For more information, check out the [Student Handbook](#) and [alumni success stories](#).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Core Courses

PSY 600 – Research Orientation & PSY 797 Research
PSY 610 – Advanced Research Methods
PSY 670A & 670B – Advanced Statistics in Psychology
PSY 799A – Thesis

Choose One Below

PSY 561 – Advanced Neuropsychology
PSY 760 – Physiological Correlates of Behavior

**One additional graduate elective also required*

Choose Two Below

PSY 632 – Theories & Methods in Developmental Science
PSY 740 – Seminar in Social Psychology
PSY 751 – Clinical Psychology Theory & Practice
PSY 787 – Cognitive Psychology

Choose One Below

PSY 675 – Seminar in Psychological Measurement
PSY 767 – Cognitive & Behavioral Neuroscience or PSY 768 – Systems Neuroscience or PSY 769 – Neuroimaging