



SHIPPENSBURG  
UNIVERSITY

School of Graduate Studies



MASTER OF SCIENCE IN  
**Psychological  
Science**



SHIPEDU/  
GRADUATE

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Master of Science in Psychological Science offers three tracks.

The **Research Track** is appropriate for those seeking degrees beyond the master's level. This track allows students to specialize in a subarea of psychology via elective selection and completion of a thesis (Thesis I and II). The thesis requirement will increase students' potentials for acceptance into doctoral level programs and is required for the degree. Some recent students have been accepted into doctoral programs at Hofstra University, Ohio University, Southern Illinois University, SUNY-Albany, SUNY Binghamton, SUNY Stony Brook, University of Florida, and Western Michigan University.

The **Applied Track** is appropriate for graduates who are trying to secure

employment in industry, government, or non-profits. Students have opportunities to take courses with more applied emphases (e.g., human factors, cognitive science, applied behavior analysis). Students are required to successfully complete two semesters of real-world experience (Field Experience I and II) in industry settings. To date, 100 percent of all Applied Track students have secured employment aligned with their studies.

The **General/Reading Track** is designed to meet the needs of those seeking credentials or advancement in their current place of employment. Students will take basic required scientific courses, fulfill cluster requirements, and take additional coursework to broaden their scope. Their competence will be demonstrated by passing a comprehensive exam.



It should be clearly understood that this program does not provide training or accreditation for those interested in employment in counseling or clinical psychology upon completion of a master's degree. If that is your area of interest, please contact Shippensburg University's Department of Counseling and College Student Personnel.

Students are initially accepted into the General Track. At the end of the first year, students may move into the Research Track by finding a faculty member willing to support their thesis work.

There is a formal application process into the Applied Track at the end of the first year, as well. The selection process for the Applied Track is competitive and space is limited. Students not accepted into the Applied or Research Tracks at the end of their first year will complete the General Track program.

A full-time credit load is 9 credits each semester; more than 9 credits per semester is strongly discouraged. The ideal entrance for completion within two years is fall semester. Students cannot enter in the spring semester.



## Admission Requirements

To be considered for admission to the Master of Science in Psychological Science, you must:

- ▶ Have a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university.
- ▶ Present an official transcript showing at least a 2.75 cumulative grade point average for your undergraduate studies.
- ▶ Have completed at least 9 semester hours of undergraduate work in psychology.
- ▶ Have completed an undergraduate statistics course.
- ▶ Submit a completed application, including the Supplemental Form and a personal goals statement.

## Degree Requirements

The graduate program in psychological science emphasizes the development of psychological knowledge and research skills. It combines a sequence of required courses in psychology, selected courses in psychology relevant to your interest area, and depending on the track, a thesis, field research, or a comprehensive examination.

A total of 30 semester hour credits of graduate work is required for the master of science degree.

## Courses

### REQUIRED (6 CREDITS)

- PSY500 Advanced Research Design & Statistics I
- PSY501 Advanced Research Design & Statistics II

### CORE COURSES (12 CREDITS)

*(Choose 1 from each of the following 4 cluster areas)*

#### **CLUSTER 1: Learning and Motivation**

- PSY512 Theories of Learning
- PSY516 Motivation
- PSY536 Behavior Research and Ethics
- PSY540 History of Psychology

#### **CLUSTER 2: Developmental and Social**

- PSY519 Life Span Psychology
- PSY527 Studies in the Psychology of Adolescence
- PSY529 Psychology of Successful Aging
- PSY533 Advanced Social Psychology
- PSY590 Introduction to Group Dynamics

#### **CLUSTER 3: Personality and Abnormal**

- PSY515 Theories of Personality
- PSY518 Introduction to Behavior Analysis
- PSY530 Studies in the Psychology of the Exceptional Child
- PSY534 Survey of Research in Abnormal Behavior
- PSY535 Behavioral Assessment
- PSY543 Behavioral Treatment and Systems Support

#### **CLUSTER 4: Cognitive**

- PSY531 Advanced Cognitive Psychology
- PSY565 Human Factors
- PSY570 Seminar in Cognitive Science

### ELECTIVES (3-12 CREDITS)

- PSY594, PSY595, PSY596 Selected Topics
- Additional Cluster Courses (up to 4)

## SPECIAL RESOURCES

The psychology laboratories are housed in Franklin Science Center. The facilities include a computer room for statistical analysis, observation rooms, individual laboratory testing rooms, and animal colony facilities. Other equipment includes video taping facilities, operant conditioning chambers, and psychophysiological research equipment. The Ezra Lehman Memorial Library has a carefully selected collection of psychology books, journals, and periodicals.

This program offers a diversity of courses, flexibility of program formulation, and strong advisement support. A large number of classes are discussion classes

or seminars that encourage debate, while others emphasize the development and implementation of analytical and expository skills.

Cluster 1 and Cluster 2 courses are offered in the fall semester and Cluster 3 and Cluster 4 courses are offered in the spring semester. Students can customize their program by choosing the courses and emphasizing areas that best support their goals.

Faculty advisors will gladly work with students to help them determine the best choices for their individual objectives.

“Along with the great faculty and classes, the various tracks allow you to tailor your graduate program to your future goals. I’ve gained valuable research experience, which will help me in my goal of being admitted to a doctoral program.” BRANDON BALOTTI

## Additional Track Requirements

### ***Research Track (9 credits)***

#### *Area Elective*

PSY612 Thesis I

PSY613 Thesis II

### ***Applied Track (9 credits)***

#### *Applied Elective*

PSY621 Field Experience I

PSY622 Field Experience II

### ***General/Reading Track (9 credits)***

9 credits of electives

Comprehensive Exam





## FACULTY

Every member of the psychology graduate faculty holds an earned doctorate.

Lea T. Adams, Ph.D., Chair, Vanderbilt University; cognitive sciences and statistics.

Angela M. Bartoli, Ph.D., The Pennsylvania State University; memory and learning (cognition), measurement and evaluation, and social psychology.

Corinne C. Bertram, Ph.D., City University of New York; social/personality psychology, and women's studies concentration.

Jamonn Campbell, Ph.D., Miami University; social psychology and psychology of computer use.

James D. Griffith, Ph.D., Texas Christian University; applied experimental, legal, industrial/organizational, and statistics.

Steven J. Haase, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison; experimental psychology, perception, memory, and cognition.

Robert L. Hale, Ph.D., University of Oklahoma; psychopharmacology, psychophysiology, and behavioral neuroscience.

Scott F. Madey, Ph.D., Cornell University; social psychology and health psychology.

Suzanne M. Morin, Ph.D., University of Connecticut; educational psychology, human development, and cognition.

Virginia "Jenny" Pitts, Ph.D., Colorado State University; industrial/organizational personality psychology.

Kathryn Potoczak, Ph.D., Western Michigan University; conditioning and learning, and behavioral analysis.

Toru Sato, Ph.D., York University, Canada; personality psychology and social psychology.

Ashley C. Seibert, Ph.D., Kent State University; experimental and developmental psychology.

Adrian Tomer, Ph.D., University of Florida; developmental psychology (aging) and multivariate analysis.

Kim Weikel, Ph.D., Kent State University; clinical psychology.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:** Graduate assistantships provide a tuition waiver plus a stipend and often complement your studies by providing valuable experience that extends to the job market after graduation. Student payroll positions (SPP) do not include tuition waivers but do provide compensation.

Loans and other forms of financial aid, including scholarships, are available to qualified graduate students. Students scheduled to take at least six credit hours per semester are eligible to apply for a Federal Direct Student Loan at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov). Please contact the Graduate Office:

**717-477-1148 | [GradSchool@ship.edu](mailto:GradSchool@ship.edu)  
[ship.edu/graduate/assistantship](http://ship.edu/graduate/assistantship)**

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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**SHIP.EDU/GRADUATE**

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Shippensburg University is an equal opportunity educational institution. Direct requests for disability accommodations and other inquiries to the Office of Disability Services, Horton Hall 120, Shippensburg University, 1871 Old Main Drive, Shippensburg, PA 17257-2299, 717-477-1329, [ods@ship.edu](mailto:ods@ship.edu).

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## About the University

Shippensburg University has a long and rich tradition of meeting the educational, cultural, social, and economic needs of south-central Pennsylvania and beyond. With “Learn and Serve” as its guide, the university has provided graduate education for the Commonwealth since the 1950s. Today, 1,000 graduate students are enrolled in master’s degree, supervisory certification, and post-baccalaurate programs within three colleges: Arts and Sciences, Business, and Education and Human Services.

Located on 200 acres in Cumberland County, Shippensburg University offers excellent, widely respected, and accredited undergraduate and graduate programs taught by faculty dedicated to student success. More than 7,800 students attend Shippensburg including those enrolled in professional, continuing, and distance education programs.

Shippensburg’s programs are accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, AACSB International, ABET Inc., American Chemical Society, Council on Social Work Education, Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs, International Association of Counseling Services, Council for Exceptional Children and by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.



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A member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education