Psychological Research, M.S.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Learn more about the Master of Science in Psychological Research.

About the Program

The M.S. in Psychological Research is designed to provide a research-intensive experience, advanced coursework, and professional development to Temple University students completing their undergraduate degree in Psychology who intend to pursue doctoral studies in any of the academic psychology disciplines. Students in the 32-credit program work with a faculty sponsor to develop and carry out a master’s project; complete graduate-level coursework in methodology, statistics, ethics, and topical seminars; and engage in professional development activities that prepare them for doctoral-level studies and enhance their applications to Ph.D. programs.

The M.S. in Psychological Research is separate and distinct from the Department of Psychology’s Ph.D. program and does not lead to entrance into the Psychology Ph.D. program. Prospective doctoral students must apply directly to the Ph.D. program.

Time Limit for Degree Completion: 2 years

Campus Location: Main

Full-Time/Part-Time Status: Full-time study is required.

Interdisciplinary Study: The program encourages interdisciplinary coursework.

Job Prospects: Graduates of the M.S. program in Psychological Research gain skills that enhance their applications to doctoral programs in academic psychology. Positions for individuals with an M.S. in Psychological Research are also available in a number of settings, including universities, private research and consulting organizations, non-profits, and marketing.

Non-Matriculated Student Policy: Master’s Directed Research courses, including PSY 5791 and PSY 5891, and 8000-level courses are not open to non-matriculated students. Permission of the instructor is required for non-matriculated students to take PSY 5003 Advanced Statistics and PSY 5104 Ethics and Ethical Conflicts in Psychological Science.

Financing Opportunities: Assistantships are not available for the M.S. program.

Application Deadline:

Fall: March 1

Applications are not evaluated until after the deadline has passed.

If you are currently an undergraduate student in Psychology at Temple University, APPLY ONLINE to this graduate program. The M.S. program in Psychological Research is open only as an accelerated +1 program for Psychology undergraduate students at Temple University. It is expected that the program will open to non-Temple students in the future, but that time frame has not yet been determined.

Letters of Reference:

Number Required: 3

From Whom: Letters of recommendation should be obtained from college/university faculty members familiar with the applicant’s academic competence.

Bachelor’s Degree in Discipline/Related Discipline: A baccalaureate degree (B.A., A.B., or B.S.) in Psychology is required. Additionally, a minimum GPA of 3.5 is required in both Psychology and overall for admissions consideration. Meeting the minimum does not, however, guarantee admission.

Statement of Goals: In approximately 500 to 1,000 words, state your reasons for pursuing a master’s degree, your current research interests, your research experience, and your future career goals.

Standardized Test Scores:

GRE: Optional. Scores may be submitted if available.

Applicants who earned their baccalaureate degree from an institution where the language of instruction was other than English, with the exception of those who subsequently earned a master’s degree at a U.S. institution, must report scores for a standardized test of English that meet these minimums:
• TOEFL iBT: 105
• IELTS Academic: 7.0
• PTE Academic: 72

Writing Sample: An academic writing sample must be submitted. It is used to assess the applicant's ability to complete graduate-level written work and produce a high-quality master's project paper.

Program Requirements

General Program Requirements:
Number of Credits Required Beyond the Baccalaureate: 32

Required Courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSY 5003</td>
<td>Advanced Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 5791</td>
<td>Master's Directed Research I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term Credit Hours</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>PSY 5104</td>
<td>Ethics and Ethical Conflicts in Psychological Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 5891</td>
<td>Master's Directed Research II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term Credit Hours</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year 2</strong></td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 8015</td>
<td>Teaching of Psychology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 8016</td>
<td>Professional Development Seminar</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 9991</td>
<td>Research</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8000-level Statistics or Methodology course</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term Credit Hours</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>10</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>PSY 9991</td>
<td>Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8000-level Topical Seminar</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term Credit Hours</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>10</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credit Hours:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>32</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 The elective must be a graduate course at the 5000 to 8000 level, but may be taken from any school or college.

Other: M.S. students are exposed to a broad range of current research by attending the department’s Colloquium and TILES lecture series to hear talks by distinguished researchers from other universities. They are also required to participate in lab meetings and journal clubs, and to attend regular advising meetings to select and apply to appropriate doctoral programs. Students who postpone application to doctoral programs receive guidance for a master’s level job search and applications.

Culminating Event:

Master’s Project:
A four-course sequence of directed research immerses the student in carefully planned and executed research, culminating in a publishable paper. Throughout the sequence, students are expected to participate in and contribute to the advisor’s program of research. Activities include data analyses, literature reviews, programming experiments, and/or recruitment. During the first term, students work with their advisors to develop a research proposal and analysis plan for the master’s project; a protocol is submitted to the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for approval. Students become familiar with the methods, measures, and apparatus in the advisor’s lab. During the second term, students begin data collection for the master’s project and start work on a comprehensive literature review. The third term focuses on continued data collection, preliminary analyses, completion of the literature review, and a possible poster submission. During the fourth term, data collection, cleaning, and analyses are completed, and the results are written up in an APA manuscript.

All students complete the master’s project and submit their research for publication and/or presentation at a conference. Students who do not complete the final project requirement by the end of the Spring term of Year 2 may register for additional research credits in the Summer term and submit their master’s project no later than July 15 to be eligible for August graduation.
Contacts

Program Web Address:
https://www.temple.edu/academics/degree-programs/psychological-research-ms-la-psyr-ms

Department Information:
Dept. of Psychology
653 Weiss Hall
1701 N. 13th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19122-6085
pshapiro@temple.edu
215-204-7321

Submission Address for Application Materials:
https://apply.temple.edu/CLA/Pages/Welcome.aspx

Department Contacts:
Admissions:
Pamela Shapiro
pshapiro@temple.edu
215-204-7310

Director of Graduate Studies:
Dr. Deborah Drabick
deborah.drabick@temple.edu
215-204-0957

Chairperson:
Dr. Peter Marshall
peter.marshall@temple.edu
215-204-7630