PSYCHOLOGY

The Psychology Department offers courses leading to the Master of Science degree in psychology. Included in the curriculum are a broad range of behaviorally focused courses. The purpose of this degree is to prepare students for careers in the application of behavior analytic techniques to the behavioral habilitation of diverse populations. The Behavior Analyst Certification Board® (http://www.bacb.com/) has approved the following course sequence as meeting the coursework requirements for eligibility to take the Board Certified Behavior Analyst Examination®: PSY 511, PSY 521, PSY 528, PSY 529, and PSY 530. Applicants will have to meet additional experience requirements to qualify.

APPLICATION MATERIALS REQUIRED FOR THE MASTER OF SCIENCE WITH A MAJOR IN PSYCHOLOGY

Applicants for the MS with a major in psychology must submit all of the following documentation to the College of Graduate Studies to be considered for admission:

1. Completed JSU Graduate Application for Admission (application is available online at http://www.jsu.edu/graduate/grad_app.html)
2. Non-refundable $30.00 application processing fee
3. Official transcript(s) from all postsecondary institutions attended (students who have previously attended only JSU need not request a transcript from the university)
4. Official scores on the General Test of the GRE taken within five years immediately preceding enrollment (www.gre.org)
5. Three (3) “Graduate Reference Forms” completed by individuals who can provide qualitative assessment of the applicant’s potential for success in graduate course work (http://www.jsu.edu/graduate/forms.html)
6. A curriculum vitae including education, employment, and other applicable psychology-related experience/skills (e.g., practicum/research experience, presentations, publications)
7. Letter of intent describing reasons for pursuing a master’s degree with a major in psychology at JSU

See the College of Graduate Studies website for forms and fee information. All items must be sent to the College of Graduate Studies, Jacksonville State University, 700 Pelham Road North, Jacksonville, Alabama 36265-1602. Applications are considered for admission for the fall semester only and all materials must be received in the College of Graduate Studies by August 15. Applications completed after August 15 will be considered for admission in the fall semester of the following year.
MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

A minimum of 36 semester hours of graduate psychology courses, plus additional foundation courses for students without adequate undergraduate preparation; successful completion of a comprehensive examination or thesis defense; and a minimum grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in all graduate coursework is required.

The Psychology Graduate Committee will evaluate each student’s undergraduate coursework and experience to determine which foundation courses are required in addition to graduate coursework. Although grades achieved in undergraduate foundation courses will not be included in the computation of the graduate GPA, students must earn a grade of B or better in each foundation course if taken after completion of their bachelor’s degree. Foundation courses must be completed during the first year of graduate study.

Undergraduate Foundation Courses:

PSY 201 Principles of Psychology  
PSY 300 Statistics for Life Sciences  
PSY 310 Research Methods

The 36 semester hours of graduate psychology courses must include the following courses:

a. Core Requirements (18 hours):

PSY 511 Conceptual Foundations of Behavior Analysis (3)  
PSY 521 Functional Assessment (3)  
PSY 528 Applied Behavior Analysis I (3)  
PSY 529 Applied Behavior Analysis II (3)  
PSY 530 Single-Subject Research Methods (3)  
PSY 565 Experimental Analysis of Behavior (3)

b. Electives (18 hours):

The remaining 18 hours are electives in psychology chosen from psychology graduate courses listed on the following pages. Students must complete PSY 504 as an additional one credit elective if they have not taken PSY 221, Behavior Analysis Lab, or an equivalent laboratory course at the undergraduate level. Students must complete PSY 450G as an elective if they have not taken PSY 450, History and Systems of Psychology, or an equivalent course at the undergraduate level. If students have already received credit for these courses at the undergraduate level, they may not enroll and receive graduate credit in them. Only 6 hours in PSY 570-595 may count towards degree requirements.
## PLAN OF STUDY

### FIRST YEAR

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<th>Course</th>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 511</td>
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<td>PSY 529</td>
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### SECOND YEAR

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**36 Graduate Semester Hours for this Degree**

## PSYCHOLOGY COURSES

### Prefix PSY

450G. **History and Systems of Psychology (3)**. Examines the historical evolution of modern psychology and the conceptual systems which have been developed.

500. **Behavioral Psychopharmacology (3)**. Behavioral effects of psychoactive drugs and neurochemical and behavioral mechanisms of drug dependency.

504. **Graduate Behavior Analysis Lab (1)**. Stresses the skills involved in specifying, observing, and consequenting behavior and teaches the standard techniques of behavioral laboratories.

511. **Conceptual Foundations of Behavior Analysis (3)**. Issues underlying the acquisition, conceptualization, and understanding of valid knowledge in psychology, including the design, implementation, and interpretation of research.

521. **Functional Assessment (3)**. The strategies and ethics of functional assessment are presented in the larger context of behavioral assessment. Research articles relevant to indirect, descriptive, and experimental functional assessment approaches and assessment-based interventions are reviewed.

528. **Applied Behavior Analysis I (3)**. Pre- or Co-requisite: PSY 221 or PSY 504. An introduction to and examination of the theory, principles, and methods of modern applied behavior analysis.

529. **Applied Behavior Analysis II (3)**. Prerequisite: PSY 528. Diverse populations commonly served by applied behavior analysts (e.g., substance abuse, autism, traumatic brain injury) are examined with respect to their prevalence, defining characteristics, etiology, and current research trends. The potential for the use of applied behavior analysis in underserved populations is also discussed.

530. **Single-Subject Research Methods (3)**. Prerequisite: PSY 528. Examination of the strategies and tactics used in single-subject research to implement socially important behavior change.

540. **Analysis of Child Development (3)**. Prerequisites: PSY 511. The behavior-analytic view of child development is compared and contrasted with other systems for understanding development (e.g., Piagetian theory). Students review and critically evaluate current and seminal literature related to several developmental domains (e.g., motor, language, social).
545. **Social Behavior (3).** Prerequisites PSY 310 or equivalent. Introduction to behavior within a social context with a focus on classic and contemporary studies of social influence, group processes, persuasion, and prosocial behavior, as well as their real-world applications.

551, 552, 553, 554. **Seminar in Contemporary Topics (3)(3)(3)(3).** Various topics covering research and real-world applications of contemporary topics in psychology.

562. **Associative Learning (3).** Prerequisite: 511. Analysis of classical conditioning, human causal and contingency learning, and memory paradigms, with a special emphasis on historical and contemporary theoretical accounts of these phenomena.

565. **Experimental Analysis of Behavior (3).** Prerequisite: PSY 511. A development of the paradigmatic framework of the experimental analysis of behavior, and an examination of the research and resulting body of knowledge provided by that analytical approach.

566. **Impulsivity and Self-Control (3).** Prerequisite: PSY 565. The conceptual, experimental, and economic analysis of impulsivity and self-control in both human and non-human animals.

570, 571. **Instructional Practicum (3)(3).** Prerequisites: Approval of the instructor. Application of psychological principles in educational settings such as undergraduate courses. Responsibilities could include lab assistantship tasks including mentoring of students, presentation of course work, organization of class materials, etc. under the supervision of a faculty member.

580, 581. **Applied Behavior Analysis Practicum (3)(3).** Prerequisites: Approval of the instructor. Practice of behavior analysis in applied settings such as habilitation of individuals with developmental disabilities, modification of behavior in schools, and improvement of organization performance.

592, 593. **Independent Research (3)(3).** Prerequisites: Approval of the instructor. Students will conduct supervised research projects chosen in coordination with their supervisor.

594, 595. **Independent Readings (3)(3).** Prerequisites: Approval of the instructor. Independent readings will normally include content not offered in regularly scheduled classes.

599. **Thesis (3)(3).** (Grade of Pass or Fail only) Prerequisites: Approval of the instructor. Design and conduct an empirical research study, topic to be chosen in coordination with thesis committee chair, resulting in a written thesis to be defended before the student’s thesis committee.