PSYCHOLOGY

The Psychology Department offers courses leading to the Master of Science degree in psychology with an emphasis in applied behavior analysis. 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 verified 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, PSY 530, and PSY 538. Applicants will have to meet additional experience requirements to qualify for national certification and state licensure.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Students are accepted in fall semesters only. For priority consideration, submit all of the following application materials before April 1; the final deadline is July 1. Applications completed after July 1 will be considered for admission in the fall semester of the following year.

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

1. Completed JSU Graduate Application for Admission (available online at https://gr-recruiter.jsu.edu/Pages/Login.aspx).
2. Non-refundable $35.00 application processing fee.
3. Official transcripts from all colleges/universities with degrees posted. (Students who have previously attended JSU do not need to request a transcript from the university.)
4. Official scores on the General Test of the GRE taken within five (5) 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 coursework. Reference forms will be submitted electronically. Instructions for submission will be sent through email to the applicant upon submission of the online graduate application.
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.
8. International student applicants must see the International Student Applicants section of this catalog for other application and enrollment requirements.

See the Graduate Studies website for forms and fee information. All items must be sent to Graduate Admissions, Jacksonville State University, 700 Pelham Road North, Jacksonville, Alabama 36265-1602.
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission to the M.S. in Psychology program is determined on a selective basis after careful review of all application materials. Applicants may be required to interview with the Psychology Graduate Committee so that additional information can be gathered before a final admission decision is made. Meeting the minimum standards for consideration for admission does not guarantee admission to the program, and the Psychology Graduate Committee reserves the right to make exceptions to admission requirements.

Unconditional Admission

Unconditional admission is determined by the Psychology Graduate Committee. Applicants with at least a 3.5 undergraduate GPA, GRE score of 300, and undergraduate coursework in applied behavior analysis or experience working under a Board Certified Behavior Analyst will be given priority.

Conditional Admission

Any applicant failing to meet the requirements for unconditional admission may be conditionally admitted with the recommendation of the Psychology Graduate Committee. Applicants are only admitted by this option if there are spaces available in the program. Applicants who are granted conditional admission must achieve a GPA of at least 3.5 in the first semester of graduate hours attempted or obtain approval from the Psychology Graduate Committee to continue in the program.

DEGREE PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS

The following degree progression requirements apply to all students accepted into the M.S. in Psychology program:

- Adhere to the standards of conduct specified in the Behavior Analyst Certification Board’s Professional and Ethical Compliance Code for Behavior Analysts
- Maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5 or obtain approval from the Psychology Graduate Committee
- Successfully complete a mid-program review with members of the Psychology Curriculum Committee, including an academic assessment, following completion of the program’s core courses.
- Enroll continuously until the degree is complete (may be exceptions in special circumstances).

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

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.

Undergraduate Foundation Courses:

- PSY 201 Principles of Psychology
- PSY 301 Research Methods and Statistics
- Course in behavior analysis or learning
Non-Thesis Option:
A minimum of 39 graduate semester hours of psychology courses, plus additional foundation courses for students without adequate undergraduate preparation; successful completion of a comprehensive examination; and a minimum grade point average of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale in all graduate coursework are required. The 39 graduate semester hours of psychology courses for the non-thesis option must include the following courses:

A. Seven Core Courses (21 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 534 Experimental Analysis of Behavior (3)
PSY 538 Ethics and Professional Development (3)

B. Four Electives Courses (12 hours):
Twelve hours are electives in psychology chosen from psychology graduate courses listed on the following pages and must meet the following requirements:
- Students must complete PSY 504 as an additional one credit elective and earn a grade of B or better if they have not taken PSY 221, Behavior Analysis Lab, or an equivalent laboratory course at the undergraduate level. If students have already received credit for this course at the undergraduate level, they may not enroll and receive graduate credit in it.
- 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 this course at the undergraduate level, they may not enroll and receive graduate credit in it.
- Completion of PSY 570-595 will not count towards the elective degree requirement for students completing the non-thesis option.
- Only six hours in PSY 570-595 may count toward degree requirements.

C. Two Practicum Courses (6 hours):
PSY 570 Instructional Practicum (3)
PSY 571 Instructional Practicum (3)
PSY 579 Applied Behavior Analysis Practicum (3)
PSY 580 Applied Behavior Analysis Practicum (3)
PSY 581 Applied Behavior Analysis Practicum (3)
PSY 592 Independent Research (3)
PSY 593 Independent Research (3)
PSY 594 Independent Research (3)
PSY 595 Independent Research (3)

TOTAL: 39 Graduate Semester Hours Required for the Non-Thesis Option

Thesis Option:
A minimum of 39 graduate semester hours of psychology courses, plus additional foundation courses for student without adequate undergraduate preparation; successful completion of a thesis and oral defense (see thesis guide for details: http://www.jsu.edu/graduate/docs/ThesisGuide.pdf); and a minimum grade point average of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale in all graduate coursework is required. The 39 graduate semester hours of psychology courses for the thesis option must include the following courses:
A. Seven Core Courses (21 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 534 Experimental Analysis of Behavior (3)
PSY 538 Ethics and Professional Development (3)

B. Four Elective Courses (12 hours):
Twelve hours are electives in psychology chosen from psychology graduate courses listed on the following pages and must meet the following requirements:

- Students must complete PSY 504 as an additional one credit elective and earn a grade of B or better if they have not taken PSY 221, Behavior Analysis Lab, or an equivalent laboratory course at the undergraduate level. If students have already received credit for this course at the undergraduate level, they may not enroll and receive graduate credit in it.
- 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 this course at the undergraduate level, they may not enroll and receive graduate credit in it.
- Completion of PSY 570-595 will not count towards degree requirements for student completing the thesis option.

C. PSY 599 Thesis I and II (6 hours)

Thesis students should contact Graduate Studies to receive an orientation to the thesis process prior to enrolling in the first three semester hours of thesis, 599. This orientation can be completed either in person or via email. The purpose of the orientation is to provide the thesis student with information concerning required forms, due dates, and to answer any questions concerning thesis options and/or procedure. For further information concerning this orientation, please contact LaRilda VanSandt, vansandt@jsu.edu, 322 Bibb Graves, 256-782-5345. See Thesis Options and Procedures in this catalog for more information.

TOTAL: 39 Graduate Semester Hours Required for the Thesis Option
## PLAN OF STUDY

### Fall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 511 Conceptual Foundations</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 521 Functional Assessment</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 528 Applied Behavior Analysis I</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>PSY 504 Graduate Behavior Analysis Lab</em>&lt;br&gt;Required if PSY 221 or equivalent not previously completed</td>
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### Spring

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<tr>
<td>PSY 529 Applied Behavior Analysis II</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 530 Single-Subject Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 534 Experimental Analysis of Behavior</td>
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<th>Course</th>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 538 Ethics and Professional Development</td>
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### Fall

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<th>Course</th>
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<tr>
<td>PSY Elective&lt;br&gt;<em>PSY 450G Required if PSY 450 or equivalent not previously completed</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY Practicum (Non-thesis Option) or PSY Thesis (Thesis Option)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY Practicum (Non-thesis Option) or PSY Thesis (Thesis Option)</td>
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**Please Note:** All students must apply for graduation by the given deadline of the semester in which they plan to graduate: [http://www.jsu.edu/graduate/graduation.html](http://www.jsu.edu/graduate/graduation.html).

**TOTAL:** 39 Graduate Semester Hours Required for the Thesis & Non-Thesis Options
PSYCHOLOGY COURSES (PSY)

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

504. Graduate Behavior Analysis Lab (1). Teaches the skills involved in specifying, observing, and changing behavior as well as the standard behavioral laboratory techniques.

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). Prerequisite or corequisite: 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). Prerequisites: “B” or better in PSY 221 or PSY 504 and 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). Prerequisites: “B” or better in PSY 221 or PSY 504 and PSY 528. Examination of the strategies and tactics used in single-subject research to implement socially important behavior change.

534. Experimental Analysis of Behavior (3). Prerequisite: “B” or better in 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.

538. Ethics and Professional Development (3). Prerequisites: “B” or better in PSY 530 and PSY 534. Discussion of ethical guidelines and professional skills pertinent to research and practice in behavior analysis.

540. Analysis of Child Development (3). Prerequisites: Completion of 12 semester hours of core psychology graduate courses including PSY 530 and PSY 534. 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).

541. Verbal Behavior (3). Prerequisites: PSY 530 and PSY 534. The conceptual foundation, empirical basis, and practical application of verbal behavior are surveyed.

544. Behavior Analysis in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (3). Prerequisites: PSY 530 and 534. Discussion of important literature relevant to the use of applied behavior analytic principles and methods for studying and treating problems related to intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

551, 552, 553, 554. Seminar in Contemporary Topics (3) (3) (3) (3). Prerequisites: PSY 530 and PSY 534. Various topics covering real-world applications of contemporary topics in psychology.

555. Behavior Analytic Approaches to Instruction (3). Prerequisites: PSY 530 and PSY 534. Behavior analytic approaches to teaching, including programmed instruction, direct instruction, personalized systems of instruction, precision teaching, and curriculum-based measurement, are examined in addition to a review of general classroom behavior management strategies.
566. Impulsivity and Self-Control (3). Prerequisite: PSY 530 and PSY 534. 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 coursework, organization of class materials, etc. under the supervision of a faculty member.

579, 580, 581. Applied Behavior Analysis Practicum (3) (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. See Thesis Options and Procedures section of this catalog.