

# PSYCHOLOGY MA

The Master of Arts in Psychology has two options.

**The option in psychological science.** This program prepares students for doctoral work in psychology and/or for teaching at the community college level. Content coursework is broad and encompasses major areas of academic psychology. Graduate content courses and seminars include human development, human learning, advanced general psychology, and contemporary issues. Methodology courses are required in psychometrics, research methods, and advanced statistics.

A broad psychology background is the preparation most desired by doctoral programs. A broad psychology background is also the best preparation for teaching a variety of academic courses at the community college level. Research experience is emphasized in the research assistantship and in the required thesis or empirical research manuscript. Students acquire research experience with a selected faculty member, becoming part of their ongoing research activities. Teaching experience, including supervised teaching in the classroom, is invaluable for a teaching career, and most doctoral programs expect students to serve as teaching assistants.

The research emphases and teaching interests of the faculty are diverse, encompassing both experimental and nonexperimental orientations, and representing areas such as biopsychology, cognition and learning, developmental, cross-cultural, perception, and social and personality psychology.

**The option in applied psychology.** School psychologists work with parents, teachers, and other professionals to promote the healthy development of children by enhancing the quality of their educational experiences. They also, on occasion, provide direct services to children. School psychologists participate in professional training across 10 domains of practice identified in the National Association of School Psychologist Practice Model (NASP; 2020). They also complete a year-long practicum experience as well as an internship year.

The NASP domains of practice are:

1. Data based decision making
2. Consultation and collaboration
3. Academic interventions and instructional supports
4. Mental and behavioral health services and interventions
5. School-wide practices to promote learning
6. Services to promote safe and supportive schools
7. Family, school, and community collaboration
8. Equitable practices for diverse student populations
9. Research and evidence-based practice
10. Legal, ethical, and professional practice

In a typical day, a school psychologist might consult with teachers or parents about students, plan academic or behavioral interventions for students, make a presentation in a classroom about social or study skills, meet with children for small group counseling, or meet with children individually for counseling or psychoeducational assessment.

Graduate-level work in school psychology has a long and distinguished history at California State University, Chico. The program was founded by Dr. Hugh M. Bell, and it was the first graduate program offered by the Department of Psychology. Our program is accredited by both the

state of California and the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). Currently, the Psychology Department's faculty consists of full-time professors, including two who are school psychologists, as well as part-time instructors who also work in local schools.

Students who graduate from our program complete three years of study to earn the Master of Arts in Psychology, Option in Applied Psychology/School Psychology as well as eligibility for the Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) School Psychology Credential from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Both the master's degree and the PPS credential are required to practice as a school psychologist in California.

In addition, students who graduate from our program meet NASP coursework requirements to become Nationally Certified School Psychologists (NCSP). PRAXIS score passing rate is 100% for first-time test-takers over the past several years, and employment rates are 100%.

## Graduate Advising Requirement

MA psychological science students should consult the Psychological Science Coordinator in planning their program.

MA school psychology students should consult the School Psychology Credential/Pupil Personnel Services Coordinator in planning their program.

## Licensure and Credentialing

Admission into programs leading to licensure and credentialing does not guarantee that students will obtain a license or credential. Licensure and credentialing requirements are set by agencies that are not controlled by or affiliated with the CSU and requirements can change at any time. For example, licensure or credentialing requirements can include evidence of the right to work in the United States (e.g., Social Security number or taxpayer identification number) or successfully passing a criminal background check. Students are responsible for determining whether they can meet licensure or credentialing requirements.

The California State University has not determined whether its programs meet other states' educational or professional requirements for licensure and certification. Students enrolled in a California State University program who are planning to pursue licensure or certification in other states are responsible for determining whether they will meet their state's requirements for licensure or certification. This disclosure is made pursuant to 34 SCCR 668.43(a)(5)(v)(C).

## Research with Human Participants or Animals

All research projects that involve human participants must be reviewed for adherence to ethical guidelines as outlined in departmental and University policies (EM 23-030 (<https://www.csuchico.edu/pres/em/2023/23-030.shtml>)). No research involving human subjects will be conducted until a review of the project has been carried out and written approval given. All activity with animals must adhere to the guidelines outlined in the University Animal Welfare Policy (EM 23-031 (<https://www.csuchico.edu/pres/em/2023/23-031.shtml>))). Guidelines on the use of human or animal subjects are available from Chico State Enterprises (<https://www.csuchico.edu/cse/>).

## Requirements for the MA in Psychology: Option in Psychological Science

Completion of all requirements as established by the department graduate committee, the graduate advisory committee, and Graduate Studies, to include:

1. Completion of an approved program consisting of 30 units of 500/600 level courses as follows.
  - a. At least one three-unit elective course (e.g., PSYC 603, PSYC 615).
  - b. At least 24 of the units required for the degree must be in 600-level courses. The student's graduate advisory committee and the graduate committee may grant exceptions to this.
  - c. At the discretion of the academic program, a maximum of 30 percent of the units counted toward the degree requirements may be special session credit earned in non-matriculated status combined with all transfer coursework. This applies to special session credit earned through Open University, or in courses offered for academic credit through Professional & Continuing Education. Correspondence courses and UC Extension coursework are not acceptable for transfer.
  - d. Not more than 15 units taken before admission to classified status.
  - e. Not more than a total of 10 units of PSYC 697 and PSYC 699T or PSYC 697P; not more than six units of PSYC 699T or PSYC 697P. Enrollment in PSYC 699T or PSYC 697P is restricted to students who have been advanced to candidacy; students may not enroll in PSYC 699T or PSYC 697P for more than three semesters. At least three units but not more than six units of PSYC 620. Not more than four units of PSYC 694. Not more than one unit of PSYC 695.
  - f. With the exceptions of PSYC 620, PSYC 694, PSYC 695, PSYC 697P, and PSYC 699T, all coursework included in the approved program must be taken for a letter grade.
2. Completion and final approval of a Master's Thesis or Empirical Research Manuscript as specified by the student's graduate advisory committee.
3. Satisfactory completion of an oral examination in the field of study.
4. Approval by the departmental graduate committee and the Graduate Council on behalf of the faculty of the University.

Course	Title	Units
PSYC 600	Research and Evaluation Methods	3
PSYC 605	Advanced Human Learning	3
PSYC 610	Advanced General Psychology	3
PSYC 611	Advanced Statistical Methods in Psychology	3
PSYC 615	Seminar in Contemporary Issues of General Psychology	3
PSYC 620	Professional Seminar <sup>1</sup>	3
PSYC 628B	Issues in Teaching College Psychology	1
PSYC 629B	Supervised Teaching of College Psychology	1
PSYC 694	Research Assistantship	1
PSYC 695	Seminar in Research Problems	1
PSYC 697P	Professional Paper: Empirical Research Manuscript	1-6
or PSYC 699T	Master's Thesis	
Electives <sup>2</sup>		3

<sup>1</sup> PSYC 620 must be taken at least three times.

<sup>2</sup> Elective units will vary depending on the number of PSYC 697P or PSYC 699T units taken. Select sufficient elective units to ensure 30 in the program.

## Requirements for the MA in Psychology: Option in Applied Psychology

Completion of all requirements as established by the department graduate committee, the graduate advisory committee, and Graduate Studies, to include:

1. Completion of an approved program consisting of 30 units of 500/600-level courses as follows.
  - a. Two or three elective courses.
  - b. At least 24 of the units required for the degree must be in 600-level courses. The student's graduate advisory committee and the graduate committee may grant exceptions to this.
  - c. At the discretion of the academic program, a maximum of 30 percent of the units counted toward the degree requirements may be special session credit earned in non-matriculated status combined with all transfer coursework. This applies to special session credit earned through Open University, or in courses offered for academic credit through Professional & Continuing Education. Correspondence courses and UC Extension coursework are not acceptable for transfer.
  - d. Not more than 15 units taken before admission to classified status.
  - e. Not more than a total of 10 units of School Psychology: Comprehensive Exam II (PSYC 696B), Independent Study (PSYC 697), and Master's Thesis (PSYC 699T) combined; not more than three units of School Psychology: Comprehensive Exam II (PSYC 696B) or six units of Master's Thesis (PSYC 699T). (Enrollment in PSYC 696B, PSYC 697R, or PSYC 699T is restricted to students who have been advanced to candidacy; students may not enroll in 699T for more than three semesters.) Not more than four units of supervised college teaching (PSYC 628B, PSYC 629B).
  - f. With the exception of School Psychology: Comprehensive Exam II (PSYC 696B) and Master's Thesis (PSYC 699T), all coursework included in the approved program must be taken for a letter grade.
2. Completion and final approval of a thesis, comprehensive examination, or analytical review as specified by the student's graduate advisory committee.
3. Satisfactory completion of an oral examination for the thesis option or a written examination for the analytical review.
4. Approval by the departmental graduate committee and the Graduate Council on behalf of the faculty of the University.

Course	Title	Units
PSYC 600	Research and Evaluation Methods	3
PSYC 603	Advanced Developmental Psychology	3
PSYC 605	Advanced Human Learning	3
PSYC 696B	School Psy: Comprehensive Exam II <sup>1</sup>	3
or PSYC 697R	Analytical Review	
or PSYC 699T	Master's Thesis	
Select three of the following:		9
PSYC 573	Introduction to Counseling Psychology	

PSYC 660	Instructionally Focused Assessment in the Schools	
PSYC 670	Introduction to Group Counseling	
PSYC 672	Multicultural Issues in Therapy	
Electives		9
<b>Total Units</b>		<b>30</b>

<sup>1</sup> Students pursuing the School Psychology Credential must complete PSYC 699T Master's Thesis or PSYC 696B School Psy: Comprehensive Exam II.

## School Psychology Credential/Pupil Personnel Services: 67 units

Work leading to the School Psychology Credential is offered in conjunction with the MA in Psychology with an Option in Applied Psychology. This is a 67-unit program (including the 30 units for the MA). This program meets the State of California's requirements for the School Psychology Credential and is accredited by the National Association of School Psychologists. Application for this program is made one year after the student has been admitted to the MA program and taken the required first-year coursework to prepare for the program. Further information on recommended course sequences and application procedures for this program are available from the School Psychology/PPS Program Coordinator.

### Foundation Courses (First Year)

Fall		Units
PSYC 573	Introduction to Counseling Psychology	3
PSYC 600	Research and Evaluation Methods	3
PSYC 605	Advanced Human Learning	3
PSYC 680	School Psychology: Introduction to the Profession, the Education System, and Prevention	3
<b>Units</b>		<b>12</b>

Spring		Units
PSYC 632	School Psychologist as Counselor	3
PSYC 650	Introduction to School Consultation	3
PSYC 655	School Psychology: Cultural Considerations in Service Delivery	3
PSYC 660	Instructionally Focused Assessment in the Schools	3
<b>Units</b>		<b>12</b>

### Practicum Courses (Second Year)

Fall		Units
PSYC 634	Practicum in School Counseling Interventions	3
PSYC 636	Practicum in Behavioral Consultation in Schools	3
PSYC 639	Practicum in Academic Intervention	3
PSYC 661	Assessment of Intelligence and Cognition	2
PSYC 661P	Practicum in Assessment of Intelligence and Cognition	1
PSYC 688A	School Psychology: Practicum in School Psychology I	3
<b>Units</b>		<b>15</b>

Spring		Units
PSYC 603	Advanced Developmental Psychology	3
PSYC 662	Social and Emotional Assessment	2
PSYC 662P	Practicum in Social and Emotional Assessment	1
PSYC 682	School Psychology: Legal and Ethical Principles and Preventive Service Delivery	3
PSYC 688B	Practicum in School Psychology II	3
<b>Units</b>		<b>12</b>

### Internship Courses (Third Year)

Fall		Units
PSYC 689A	Internship in School Psychology I	5

PSYC 696A or PSYC 699T	School Psychology: Comprehensive Exam I <sup>1</sup> or Master's Thesis	3
<b>Units</b>		<b>8</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
PSYC 689B	Internship in School Psychology II	5
PSYC 696B or PSYC 699T	School Psy: Comprehensive Exam II <sup>1</sup> or Master's Thesis	3
<b>Units</b>		<b>8</b>
<b>Total Units</b>		<b>67</b>

<sup>1</sup> Note: PSYC 699T Master's Thesis should be taken for three units twice for a total of six units.

## School Psychology Credentialing Exam

The School Psychology Program requires satisfactory completion of the national school psychology credentialing exam.

## Graduate Grading Requirements

All courses in the major (with the exceptions of PSYC 694, PSYC 695, PSYC 696B, PSYC 697P, and PSYC 699T) must be taken for a letter grade, except those courses specified by the department as ABC/No Credit (400/500-level courses), AB/No Credit (600-level courses), or Credit/No Credit grading only. A maximum of 10 units combined of ABC/No Credit, AB/No Credit, and Credit/No Credit grades may be used on the approved program (including 694, 695, 696B, 697P, 699T, and courses outside the major).

All courses on the student's program, with the exception of PSYC 694, PSYC 695, PSYC 696B, PSYC 697P, and PSYC 699T must be taken for a letter grade.

Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 grade point average in each of the following three categories: all coursework taken at any accredited institution subsequent to admission to the master's program; all coursework taken at California State University, Chico subsequent to admission to the program; and all courses on the approved master's degree program. Students admitted to the School Psychology Credential Program must maintain a 3.4 grade point average in required courses.

Continuous enrollment is required. At the discretion of the academic program, a maximum of 30 percent of the units counted toward the degree requirements may be special session credit earned in non-matriculated status combined with all transfer coursework. This applies to special session credit earned through Open University, or in courses offered for academic credit through Professional & Continuing Education.

## Graduate Time Limit

All requirements for the degree are to be completed within five years of the end of the semester of enrollment in the oldest course applied toward the degree. See Master's Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/graduate-requirements/masters-degree-requirements/>) for complete details on general degree requirements.

## Graduate Requirement in Writing Proficiency

All students must demonstrate competency in writing skills as a requirement for graduation. Psychology MA students will demonstrate their writing competence through an essay examination offered once a semester by the Department of Psychology's graduate committee. This requirement must be completed prior to advancement to candidacy.

## Application Procedures

The Department of Psychology admits applicants to its MA program only in the fall semester each year. In addition to Graduate Studies' admission prerequisites and application procedures (please see the Graduate and Postbaccalaureate Admission Requirements (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/graduate-requirements/graduate-postbaccalaureate-admission-requirements/>)), the Department of Psychology requires the completion of its own admissions application (<https://www.csuchico.edu/psy/academics/graduate/>). Application materials can be uploaded through CalState Apply, along with unofficial transcripts and test scores, by January 15 (Psychological Science Option) or February 15 (Applied Psychology Option) for consideration for fall admission.

## Prerequisites for Admission to Conditionally Classified Status

1. Satisfactory grade point average as specified in Graduate and Postbaccalaureate Admission Requirements (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/graduate-requirements/graduate-postbaccalaureate-admission-requirements/>).
2. Approval by the department and Graduate Studies.
3. An acceptable baccalaureate from an accredited institution.
4. Psychological Science Option: completion of a psychological research methods course within the last 10 years.

## Prerequisites for Admission to Classified Status

In addition to any requirements listed above:

Students pursuing the Psychology Science Option must have completed the following five course prerequisites within the last 10 years:

- one course in statistics for psychology;
- one course in psychological measurement; and
- three upper-division psychology content courses which cover at least three of the following nine areas:
  - learning/behavior analysis,
  - cognition/perception/educational psychology,
  - developmental/life-span psychology,
  - personality/social/cross-cultural psychology,
  - abnormal/clinical psychology,
  - biopsychology/neuroscience,
  - community/health psychology,
  - evolutionary/comparative psychology, and/or
  - industrial/organizational behavior.

Students pursuing the Applied Option (School Psychology Credential/Pupil Personnel Services) must have completed the following five course prerequisites within the last 10 years:

- one course in psychology of learning;
- one course in developmental or child/adolescent psychology;
- one course in statistics;
- one course in cognition; and
- one course in psychological measurement.

## Advancement to Candidacy

In addition to any requirements listed above:

1. Classified graduate standing and completion of at least 12-13 units of the proposed program:
  - a. Psychological Science Option: PSYC 600, PSYC 610, PSYC 611, two units of PSYC 620, and PSYC 695 with at least a B average in these courses;
  - b. Applied Psychology Option: PSYC 600, PSYC 660, either PSYC 603 or PSYC 605, and one elective with at least a B average in these courses.
2. Students must pass the writing proficiency requirement in order to be advanced to candidacy.
3. All "Incomplete" grades in courses included in the approved program must be completed before a student will be advanced to candidacy.
4. Formation of the graduate advisory committee.
5. Development of an approved program in consultation with the graduate advisory committee and approval by the Graduate Coordinator.
6. Approval of the graduate committee in the Department of Psychology.