



College of Arts and Sciences

Master of Science in Applied Psychology

The Master of Science in Applied Psychology will teach you how to apply the science of human behavior to solve practical real-world problems through a unique delivery system of **8-week courses**.

You will **complete the entire degree** in as little as one calendar year by taking two classes per session in our daytime on-campus program.

You may decide to start with a **12-credit certificate** in one of two specialty areas that can later be applied to the master's degree as a concentration.

The program is built on a **scientist-practitioner model** in which students gain a solid foundation in the science of psychology and learn to apply this knowledge and skill set to real world, practical problems. Consistent with the overall mission of the University, consideration of ethical issues, human dignity, and social justice are infused throughout the entire program.

With its **strong foundation** in research methods and quantitative reasoning, and its **numerous connections** with community agencies, schools, and corporations, the program provides excellent preparation for a wide variety of careers in today's **data-driven economy**. Students are particularly well-prepared for a variety of **leadership positions** in governmental, community, corporate settings and **doctoral work**.

Program Options: In addition to the required core courses, all students take a four-course sequence in a particular area of specialization. There are specific concentrations in the following areas:

- **Industrial/Organizational Psychology**
- **Community Psychology**

Alternatively, a student may choose (with the help of his or her advisor) a customized set of electives that focus on **General Applied Psychology**.

These specialization areas can prepare you for an immediate future career or for doctoral work.

- **Propel your career in virtually any industry**
- **Enjoy a unique delivery system of 8-week courses**
- **Complete your master's degree in one calendar year**
- **Take advantage of a research-driven core curriculum**
- **Choose between two career-oriented concentrations:**
- **Industrial-Organizational or Community Psychology**
- **Take concentrations as a stand-alone, 12-credit certificate**



Master of Science in Applied Psychology

Unique Program Attributes

ACCELERATED FORMAT:

MSAP courses are offered in a series of eight-week sessions; entering students who begin in September can complete the degree in just one calendar year just taking courses two full days per week!

COHORT MODEL:

The students will take the required courses in a lock-step format as part of an academic cohort. Students work together comprehensively and utilize each other for a richer academic experience.

FACULTY:

SHU Faculty come from a wide range of academic, clinical, and corporate backgrounds. Virtually all faculty teaching in the program are full-time and all are considered experts in their fields of study. Our faculty has **extensive clinical and/or consulting experience as well as organizational settings**, which is extremely valuable in an Applied Psychology program. Faculty will treat you not as students, but as future colleagues. Go here to learn more about individual faculty members in the program:

<http://www.sacredheart.edu/PsychFaculty.cfm>

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS:

The concentrations in Industrial/Organizational Psychology and Community Psychology may also be taken as stand-alone, 12-credit certificate programs. There are no prerequisites for these courses in the core of the master's program, so a student may start by taking a certificate program, then later decide to apply these courses to the full master's program.

PREPARATION FLEXIBILITY:

Students do not need to have received a bachelor's degree of psychology to apply to this program as long as they have completed the following prerequisites successfully:

- (4) undergraduate psychology courses, (1) from a natural-science-related psychology course preferred. (e.g., Sensation, Perception, Neuroscience, Cognition, Behaviorism, etc.)
- A statistics course at the undergraduate level (preferably in psychology, but could also be a math or another social science research course)
- A research methods course (preferably in psychology, but could also be a math or another social science research course) is preferred but not required.

Students who do not have the required prerequisite courses are encouraged to contact the Office of Graduate admissions to discuss enrollment in these courses at Sacred Heart University or another accredited institution.

EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment in the psychology professions is expected to grow 12% by the year 2018 and 26% for Industrial/Organizational Psychology.

Employment will grow because of increased demand for psychological services in schools, hospitals, social service agencies, mental health centers, substance abuse treatment clinics, consulting firms, and private companies.

Programs of Study

The Master of Science in Applied Psychology is a **38-credit program** consisting of 12 courses (Core, Capstone/Thesis and Concentration courses):

Required Core Courses For All Tracks	
PS 500 Foundations of Applied Psychology	4
PS 520 Developmental Issues Across the Life Span	3
PS 525 Identifying and Managing Psychopathology in Community Settings	3
PS 550 Applied Research Methods and Statistics	4
PS 551 Individual Psychological Assessment and Appraisal	3
PS 552 Program Development and Evaluation	3
PS 595 Capstone Project I (or) PS 600 Thesis I	3
PS 596 Capstone Project II (or) PS 601 Thesis II	3
* Optional PS 590 Comprehensive Exam if you do not wish to do Project II or both Thesis classes.	*3

Industrial/Organizational Psychology

applies psychological theories and principals to organizations and the workplace. Rigor and methods of psychology are applied to issues of critical relevance to the workplace, including personnel selection, workplace productivity, talent management, coaching, assessment, training, organizational development, performance, and work-life balance.

A concentration or certificate in

Industrial/Organizational Psychology will prepare you for careers in the areas of human resource management, performance appraisal, organizational development, assessment, leadership, training and development as well as furthering your current career or preparing you for doctoral work.

Industrial-Organizational Track	
PS 530 Personnel Psychology	3
PS 531 Organizational Behavior	3
PS 532 Job Analysis, Competency Modeling and Criterion Development	3
PS 533 Employee Training and Development OR appropriate Business course	3



Community Psychologists focus on the interactions between individuals, communities and the wider society. All individuals are part of a larger system. Community psychologists seek to understand the quality of life of individuals, communities and society.

Community psychology makes use of various perspectives within and outside of psychology to address issues of communities, the relationships within them, and people's attitudes about them. Through collaborative research and action, community psychologists (practitioners and researchers) seek to understand and to enhance quality of life for individuals, communities, and society.

A concentration or certificate in **Community Psychology** will prepare you for careers in addiction rehabilitation facilities, career placement and counseling centers, employee assistance centers, hospitals and community health clinics, family and youth resource centers, federal agencies as well as further your current career or preparing you for doctoral work.

Community Psychology Track	
PS 540 Foundations of Community Psychology	3
PS 541 Theories of Counseling and Personality	3
PS 542 Counseling Methods and Techniques	3
PS 543 Community Health Psychology	3



PROGRAM ADMISSION

Admission to the **Master of Science in Applied Psychology** is competitive. Priority Application Deadline is March 1 for the September cohort.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Online graduate application for admission
- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university
- Transcripts from all colleges and universities attended
- Statement of Professional Goals: *Why you wish to pursue the Master of Science in Applied Psychology at Sacred Heart University* (500 Word Max)
- Minimum overall GPA of 3.0
- Two letters of recommendation
- GRE scores are not required but are recommended as additional evidence of eligibility
- Resume
- Prerequisite courses listed on page two successfully completed.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Student loans, deferred payment plans and a variety of other programs are available through the Office of Financial Assistance.

For links to the FAFSA and Graduate Confidential forms please go to:

<http://www.sacredheart.edu/GradFAForms.cfm>

HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

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Please also visit our website for the most up-to-date information on our graduate programs, news and events:

www.sacredheart.edu/graduate.cfm



Sacred Heart University

- *SHU is the second-largest Catholic university in New England with over 6,000 in attendance.*
- *The Princeton Review includes SHU among the Best 376 Colleges, while U.S. News & World Report's America's Best Colleges ranks SHU in the top tier of Master's Universities in the North in its annual college rankings.*
- *Sacred Heart University is set on 71 acres in suburban Fairfield, Connecticut, ranked in the top places to live in the Northeast and #9 in the country in Money magazine's list of "Best Places to Live." Fairfield is 90 minutes from Manhattan and 150 minutes from Boston.*