Master of Science in Applied Psychology

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
The Master of Science in Applied Psychology program provides students with the knowledge and skill of how to apply the science of human behavior to solve practical real-world problems. 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. 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, and corporate settings. The program offers a unique delivery system of 8-week courses that allows one to complete his/her degree in one calendar year by taking courses in our on-campus program. One may also choose to take a more moderate pace by participating in the online aspect of the program. A minimum of 38 credits are required to graduate from the program. Students must complete 26 credits of the core curriculum and may be required to complete an additional four credits of prerequisite coursework. The remaining 12 credits are fulfilled with the completion of four elective courses. Students may choose to complete those 12 credits by participating in one of two concentrations (industrial-organizational psychology or community psychology). Students may also choose to take a combination of the two concentrations to graduate with a general degree. In addition, students may choose to begin by completing a certificate in either industrial-organizational psychology or community psychology.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

• Bachelor of Arts or Science degree from an accredited four-year college or university (official transcripts required)
• Undergraduate degree in psychology or completion of required prerequisite psychology courses
• Minimum GPA of 3.0
• Statement of professional goals
• Two letters of recommendation
• GRE Scores preferred

ADMISSION DEADLINE
Applications are reviewed by the Admissions Committee on a rolling basis.

PREREQUISITE REQUIREMENTS
The following prerequisite course will be required for those who wish to pursue the MSAP program. The course must be completed with a grade of B or better. This prerequisite requirement may be waived by the director, if a candidate has completed sufficient past coursework.

PS 450 Foundations of Psychological Science

REQUIRED CORE COURSES (24 CREDITS - 20 IF PS 450 IS WAIVED)

PS 500 Foundations of Applied Psychology
PS 520 Developmental Issues Across the Life Span
PS 525 Identifying and Managing Psychopathology in Community Settings
PS 550 Applied Research Methods and Statistics
CONCENTRATION IN INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY (12 CREDITS)

PS 530 Personnel Psychology
PS 531 Organizational Behavior
PS 532 Job Analysis, Competency Modeling and Criterion Development
PS 533 Employee Training and Development (or appropriate BU course)

CONCENTRATION IN COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGY (12 CREDITS)

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

GENERAL TRACK (12 CREDITS)

Four electives, chosen in consultation with an academic advisor from above concentrations or PS 599 or other graduate courses, as appropriate

Required Capstone Courses (6 Credits)

1. Capstone I (PS 595) – 3 credits
   Comprehensive Exam (PS 590) – 3 credits
   or
   2. Capstone I (PS 595) – 3 credits
   Capstone II (PS 596) – 3 credits
   or
   3. Thesis I (PS 600) – 3 credits
   Thesis II (PS 601) – 3 credits

Course Descriptions

PS 450 Foundations of Applied Psychology
4 CH
This course is designed to provide those that did not major in Psychology with a scientific foundation of psychology theory. It is a required prerequisite course that may be waived, by the director, if sufficient past coursework has been completed. A minimum grade of B is required to continue to PS 500.

PS 500 Foundations of Applied Psychology
4 CH
This course focuses applying psychology to the workplace and community setting. There is additional focus on ethical and legal psychological issues, as well as emphasis on multiculturalism.

PS 520 Developmental Issues Across the Life Span
3 CH
This course will explore human development from childhood to old age, with a focus on developmental milestones and their influence on behavior in applied settings.

PS 525 Identifying and Managing Psychopathology in Community Settings
3 CH
In this course, students learn to identify those at risk of psychopathology in the community and to determine appropriate management and referral of these individuals.

PS 530 Personnel Psychology
3 CH
Examines the application of psychological research, employment law, and ethical principles to human resource issues. Particular attention is given to hiring practices.
PS 531 Organizational Behavior
3 CH
Explores behavior in organizations at individual, interpersonal, group, intergroup, and organizational levels of analysis. Emphasis is on identifying effective ways to achieve organizational goals.

PS 532 Job Analysis, Competency Modeling, and Criterion Development
3 CH
Prerequisite: PS 530 Personnel Psychology
Students will learn how to conduct job analysis and competency modeling and how to use the results for designing personnel selection systems and performance appraisal instruments.

PS 533 Employee Training and Development
3 CH
Examines theory and techniques used to design, conduct, and evaluate instructional programs based on theories and principles of adult learning.

PS 540 Foundations of Community Psychology
3 CH
This course considers the legal, ethical, and practical issues that arise when providing counseling in community settings, and provides an overview of the entire process.

PS 541 Theories of Counseling and Personality
3 CH
Prerequisite: PS 540 Foundations of Community Psychology.
This class will cover the major approaches to personality and the schools of psychotherapy that have developed out of each. Students will critically evaluate each approach.

PS 542 Counseling Methods and Techniques
3 CH
Prerequisite: PS 541 Theories of Counseling and Personality
This class will teach students to recognize and apply basic counseling responses common across all approaches as well as those specific to each approach studied.

PS 543 Community Health Psychology
3 CH
Prerequisite: PS 540 Foundations of Community Psychology.
This course will examine the multidimensional field of community health psychology, developing student skills in advocacy, community organizing, health promotion, and social change regarding health.

PS 550 Applied Research Methods and Statistics
4 CH
This course provides an overview of the basic principles of applied psychological research with a focus on conducting research in community settings.

PS 551 Individual Psychological Assessment and Appraisal
3 CH
Prerequisite: PS 550 Applied Research Methods and Statistics
This course is designed to improve the knowledge, understanding and practices of those who take tests, construct tests, and administer tests in applied settings.

PS 552 Program Development and Evaluation
3 CH
Prerequisite: PS 550 Applied Research Methods and Statistics
Students learn how to assess the need for and then design, implement, and evaluate a program that benefits the workplace or community.
PS 590 Comprehensive Exam
3 CH
Prerequisite: Completion of 36 (32 if PS 450 is waived) credits in graduate program
In this course, the student completes an applied comprehensive exam that covers material from core and concentration courses.

PS 595 Capstone Project I
3 CH
Prerequisite: Completion of 36 (32 if PS 450 is waived) credits in graduate program
This course is dedicated to defining a short research or implementation project in an applied setting.

PS 596 Capstone Project II
3 CH
Prerequisite: PS 595 Capstone Project I
Students either continue Capstone Project I or complete applied written assignments combining psychological theory with field work hours, a case study, or another approved project.

PS 599 Special Topics in Applied Psychology
3 CH
Prerequisite: Completion of 36 (32 is PS 450 is waived) credits in graduate program
Designates new or occasional courses that may or may not become part of the department’s permanent offerings. Courses capitalize on current events or student and faculty interests.

PS 600 Thesis I
3 CH
Prerequisite: Completion of 36 (32 is PS 450 is waived) credits in graduate program and approval from MSAP Director.
Students work with a faculty advisor in defining a substantial research or implementation project that gathers data or responds to a particular problem in the community.

PS 601 Thesis II
3 CH
Prerequisite: PS 600 Thesis I
In this course, the student completes the research project begun in PS 600. The final thesis paper must be written and defended before the thesis committee in a forum that is open to other students and faculty.