

Master of Arts in Psychology

The Master of Arts in Psychology blends scientific theory and principles with academic research and applicable skills that are sought by industry professionals. This online degree program emphasizes the factors related to human behavior including lifespan development, social and cultural diversity, assessment, personality, and psychopathology. Through the online classroom, you will interact with peers and instructors who share your passion for psychology and for enhancing human mental health and well-being. This online psychology program should not be considered a terminal degree in the field, but rather is designed to prepare you for doctoral or other graduate studies while further developing the knowledge and skills needed to achieve career advancement.

This program has specific admission requirements.

Degree Program Objectives

In addition to the institutional and degree level learning objectives, graduates of this program are expected to achieve these learning outcomes:

- Examined historical and contemporary trends occurring across multiple domains of theory, research and practice within the field of psychology;
- Applied core concepts of psychology to normal and abnormal individual, social, cultural, and organizational functioning;
- Constructed discipline-relevant research proposals;
- Evaluated scholarly resources pertinent to the discipline;
- Written competently in accordance with the standards of the American Psychological Association;
- Investigated professional opportunities, responsibilities and challenges experienced by practitioners within the discipline; and
- Applied the Ethical Principles of the American Psychological Association.

Programmatic Admission Requirements

For this program, the following is required, proof of which must be provided prior to course registration:

- Minimum GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale
- An undergraduate degree in psychology or a completed bachelor's degree in another discipline with credit in the following foundational courses:
 - a. **Introduction to psychology or general psychology:** a course designed to introduce students to the broad discipline and

study of psychology, its key historical and contemporary events, publications, practices, and perspectives.

- b. **Research methods in psychology:** a course in which students learn how to develop sound laboratory and field behavioral science research protocols.
- c. **Statistical methods in psychology:** a course that focuses how to statistically analyze and interpret laboratory and field behavioral science research results. Note: One course that focuses on both statistical and research methods in psychology may be used to fulfill both of the above course requirements.
- d. **Human growth and development, or lifespan development:** A course that examines biological, cognitive, and psychosocial milestones of the human lifespan and related normal changes and disorders. Note: completing courses covering phases of the human lifespan but not its entirety (i.e. Early Childhood Development and Adolescence & Young Adulthood), is not a substitute for this requirement.
- e. For those wishing to pursue the Child Life concentration, an additional prerequisite of a Child Development course covering any age range from birth to 18 (but not all ages) is required. Those pursuing the Child Life concentration will also need to submit a signed statement of understanding (SOU).

Preadmission courses completed at the undergraduate level must be grade C or better; B or better at the graduate level.

Please visit our AMU (<https://www.amu.apus.edu/admissions/graduate-requirements.html>) or APU (<https://www.apu.apus.edu/admissions/graduate-requirements.html>) graduate admission page for more information on institutional admission requirements.

Need help?

If you have questions regarding a program's admission requirements, please contact an admissions representative at 877-755-2787 or info@apus.edu.

Degree at a Glance

Code	Title	Semester Hours
Core Requirements		18
Select one concentration from the following:		12-18
General (p. 2)		
Child Life (p. 2)		
Developmental/Personality Psychology (p. 3)		
Industrial/Organizational Psychology (p. 3)		
Military and Trauma Psychology (p. 3)		
Elective Requirements		0-6

Final Program Requirements	3
Total Semester Hours	39

- Apply the Ethical Principles of the American Psychological Association.

Degree Program Requirements

Core Requirements (18 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
PSYC503	Introduction to Scholarly and Technical Writing ¹	3
PSYC601	Qualitative Methods in Social Science Research	3
PSYC602	Quantitative Methods in Social Science Research	3
PSYC550	Professional Ethics and Standards	3
PSYC502	Tests and Measurements	3
PSYC610	Multicultural Issues in Human Behavior	3
Total Semester Hours		18

¹ Required as the first course in this program.

Students must choose a concentration for this degree program and may select from a General Concentration, Concentration in Child Life, Concentration in Developmental/Personality Psychology, Concentration in Industrial/Organizational Psychology, or Concentration in Military and Trauma Psychology.

General Concentration (12 semester hours)

The General Concentration allows students to select from a variety of course offerings in various specialties in the field. Coursework provides students with a broad understanding of theory, principles, research, and ideas across multiple psychological domains.

Upon successful completion of this concentration, the student will be able to:

- Examine historical and contemporary trends occurring across multiple domains of theory, research and practice within the field of psychology.
- Apply core concepts of psychology to normal and abnormal individual, social, cultural, and organizational functioning.
- Construct discipline-relevant research proposals.
- Evaluate scholarly resources pertinent to the discipline.
- Write competently in accordance with the standards of the American Psychological Association;
- Investigate professional opportunities, responsibilities and challenges experienced by practitioners within the discipline.

Concentration Requirements (12 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
Select 4 courses from the following:		12
PSYC510	Lifespan Development	
PSYC511	Learning and Cognition	
PSYC512	Introduction to Industrial/Organizational Psychology	
PSYC515	Social Psychology	
PSYC514	Disaster Psychology	
PSYC521	Organizational Behavior	
PSYC522	Leadership and Change	
PSYC630	Crisis and Emergency Intervention	
PSYC513	Deployment Psychology	
PSYC520	Personality and Counseling Theories	
PSYC525	Physiological Psychology	
PSYC620	Substance Abuse and Addiction	
PSYC526	Psychopathology	
Total Semester Hours		12

Concentration in Child Life (18 semester hours)

The Child Life Concentration allows students to focus on rigorous study of Child Life theory, practice and application. Coursework will promote development of skills needed to work with children and families during times of acute or chronic illness or trauma while preparing students to complete the academic requirements for the Certified Child Life Specialist credential.

Note: Completion of this program does not award any professional certifications. Additional requirements regarding clinical hours can be found at www.childlife.org (<http://www.childlife.org>).

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this concentration, the student will be able to:

- Explore advanced child life theory and practice.
- Discuss the issues faced by children and their families during times of acute or chronic illness or trauma to include physical, developmental as well as psychological impact.
- Gain professional-level academic training in the field of Child Life.

- Apply evidence-based, developmentally appropriate practices to support children and their families during times of acute or chronic illness.

Concentration Requirements (18 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
HDFS501	Advanced Child Life Theory and Practice	3
HDFS502	Therapeutic Play	3
HDFS503	Death, Dying and Grief - A Child's Perspective	3
PSYC509	Child Development	3
HDFS540	Family Systems	3
HIMA503	Healthcare Vocabulary and Clinical Terminologies	3
Total Semester Hours		18

Concentration in Developmental/Personality Psychology (12 semester hours)

The concentration in Developmental/Personality Psychology provides students with in-depth study of theory and research associated with normal and abnormal human development and personality. The topics associated with lifespan development, psychopathology, substance abuse and counseling are addressed.

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this concentration, the student will be able to:

- Compare and contrast major theories of personality and developmental psychology.
- Analyze the impact of development and personality on interpersonal relationships.
- Describe normal and abnormal development and personality, including diagnoses and treatments of the major forms of psychopathology.

Concentration Requirements (12 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
PSYC520	Personality and Counseling Theories	3
PSYC620	Substance Abuse and Addiction	3
PSYC526	Psychopathology	3

PSYC510	Lifespan Development	3
Total Semester Hours		12

Concentration in Industrial/Organizational Psychology (12 semester hours)

The concentration in I/O psychology explores psychological topics related to organizational and workplace settings including, among others: motivation, organizational culture, leadership, and workplace assessment.

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this concentration, the student will be able to:

- Apply psychological theory and research to various scenarios in workplace settings.
- Evaluate organizational culture and structure in the context of understanding and responding to organizational and individual employee needs.
- Effectively apply leadership principles to personal and professional settings.

Concentration Requirements (12 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
PSYC512	Introduction to Industrial/Organizational Psychology	3
PSYC640	Advanced Topics in Industrial/Organizational Psychology	3
PSYC521	Organizational Behavior	3
PSYC522	Leadership and Change	3
Total Semester Hours		12

Concentration in Military and Trauma Psychology (12 semester hours)

The concentration in Military and Trauma Psychology prepares students to have a strong understanding of psychology topics uniquely associated with military and trauma settings. Students will focus on learning about disaster management, leadership, deployment, and emergency intervention.

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this concentration, the student will be able to:

- Recognize and define the unique psychological constructs associated with the military experience.
- Apply psychological theory and research to effective leadership in military positions.
- Analyze best practices in response to military related challenges such as PTSD, impact of deployment on families, or disaster management.

Concentration Requirements (12 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
PSYC630	Crisis and Emergency Intervention	3
PSYC513	Deployment Psychology	3
PSYC514	Disaster Psychology	3
PSYC522	Leadership and Change	3
Total Semester Hours		12

Elective Requirements (0-6 semester hours)

Select from other graduate courses not taken to meet core or concentration requirements.

Final Program Requirements (3 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
PSYC699	Integrative Capstone Project in Psychology ¹	3
Total Semester Hours		3

¹ Taken once all other requirements have been met.