

***GRADUATE PROGRAM HANDBOOK: 2014-2015***

Department of Psychology  
College of Arts and Sciences  
Georgia State University

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## ***THE CURRICULUM***

Coursework and other requirements specified by both the department and the individual programs are described in this section of the handbook.

### **DEPARTMENTAL CORE CURRICULUM**

All students are expected to complete the departmental core curriculum within two years of entering the program. All students take the following five departmental core courses:

- 8010 Research Methods in Psychology
- 8410 Psychological Research Statistics I
- 8420 Psychological Research Statistics II
- 8490 Scientific and Professional Ethics in Psychology
- 8500 History of Psychology

Students who have taken similar graduate courses previously and believe that any of these required courses should be waived must submit a petition in writing to the Director of Graduate Studies by the end of their first semester of study. See Waiving Required Courses later in this handbook.

## **CLINICAL CURRICULUM**

The following course work and activities constitute the course of study for all students in the Clinical Program. Clinical students also complete all departmental and college requirements. Additional requirements for students enrolled in both the Clinical and either the Community or the Neuropsychology and Behavioral Neuroscience Program are described under those programs. Clinical students must be enrolled full time for at least 3 years to complete the curriculum.

### **Required General Psychology Courses**

#### **Biological Bases of Behavior:**

8610 Behavioral Neuroscience

#### **Cognitive, Affective, and Social Bases of Behavior:**

8520 Cognitive, Affective, and Social Aspects of Behavior

or

\*8540 Advanced Cognitive Psychology *plus* one of the following:

8510 Advanced Social Psychology

#### **Human Development (one of the following):**

8551 Cognitive, Perceptual and Linguistic Development

8552 Social and Emotional Development

### **Required Clinical Courses**

8025 Foundations of Clinical Psychology: Science and Practice

8035 Foundations of Clinical Psychology: Assessment 8045 Foundations of Clinical

Psychology: Therapy 8050 Diversity Issues in Clinical Psychology

8650 Psychopathology

#### **Consultation, Supervision, and Evaluation:**

9240 Supervision, Consultation, and Evaluation

#### **Clinical Electives (two of the following):**

*(Note): Students may submit a petition to the Clinical Faculty to fulfill one elective requirement with a course not listed herein.*

8020 Introduction to Community Psychology

8220 Community Interventions, Social Change, and Prevention

8230 Assessment, Consultation, and Evaluation I (ACE I)

8260 Assessment, Consultation, and Evaluation II (ACE II)

8280 Psychology, Advocacy, and Organizing

8620 Introduction to Clinical Neuropsychology

8910 Topics in Clinical Neuropsychology

8640 Psychopharmacology

9130 Seminar in Advanced Approaches to Assessment \*\*

9140 Neuropsychological Assessment

9230 Seminar in Advanced Approaches to Psychological Interventions\*\*

\*recommended if student anticipates seeking licensure in MA or NY; these states currently require separate courses in the social and cognitive/affective aspects of behavior.

\*\* may be taken more than once if topic is different

### **Directed Readings**

Some hours can be filled with Advanced Directed Readings (PSYC 9910). The topic and requirements for the course should be negotiated between the student and the readings supervisor at the beginning of the semester, and the basis upon which the final grade will be assigned should be clearly documented. PSYC 9910 hours are an excellent way to provide individual instruction tailored to a student and faculty member's mutual interests. However, PSYC 9910 should not be substituted for existing courses on the same topic, which should instead be taken as formal elective courses.

### **Research**

Students are expected to be involved in research throughout their graduate training. Their research projects include theses, dissertations, and other activities. Students are encouraged to initiate projects, carry them through to completion, and present their work at professional meetings and in journal articles. Students will normally register for hours of PSYC 9920 in recognition of individual research training they receive from their research supervisors. Each student and supervisor should agree at the beginning of each semester on the research topics, activities, and requirements for those PSYC9920 hours, and the basis on which the semester grade (S or U) will be assigned.

### **Supervised Clinical Work**

Clinical students must take a minimum of 30 credit hours of supervised clinical experiences distributed among the following practicum courses:

9950A Apprentice (4 hrs required)

9950B Beginning Assessment (6 hrs required)

9950C Advanced Assessment and Supervision (10 hrs required)

9950E Psychotherapy

9950M Specialized Skills

Clinical students will complete a sufficient variety of practicum experiences to ensure a breadth of training in assessment and intervention. Students are expected to enroll in clinical practica every semester they are active in the program. Students will maintain a record of their activities for inclusion in their annual reports and internship applications.

Students will enroll for 2 hours of Apprenticeship (9950A) in the Fall and 1 hour of Apprenticeship (9950A) in the Spring semester of their first year in the program. This experience places first-year students in clinical supervision with advanced students who are conducting assessment and therapy. During Fall semester, first-year students will participate in a bi-weekly meeting ("First-year seminar"). After the first year requirements are met, students will also enroll in a minimum of 6 credit hours of

Beginning Assessment (9950B) and 10 credits of Advanced Assessment and Supervision (9950C). Students will enroll for 3 hours of Psychotherapy (9950E) or Specialized Skills (9950M) each semester they are supervised in the provision of direct services. Students will enroll as needed for additional hours of credit based upon the services to be provided as determined by the supervisor. It is expected that advanced students will continue to carry a caseload in the Psychology Clinic throughout their time in the program.

All clinical students are required to attend Clinical Program Meetings. Attendance at these meetings will be recorded by the Associate Director of Clinical Training and reflected in students' practicum evaluations and annual review letters. Excused absences must be approved by the Associate DCT.

Students must be approved by the clinical faculty prior to registering for off-campus practica for the first time by April 1st. To register for off-campus practica, students must (1) successfully propose their thesis, and (2) complete two semesters of assessment practica and at least 3 credit hours of therapy practica on-campus under the supervision of members of the clinical program faculty or staff. Students may interview for external practicum prior to completing these requirements, but they are not allowed to register. The Psychology Clinic and the Regents Center for Learning Disorders are examples of on-campus practicum sites. Students must defend their thesis before registering for a 4<sup>th</sup> semester of external practicum.

External practicum sites may have other requirements (e.g., background check, flu shot) that students must meet in order to participate in the practicum. Students are responsible for knowing these requirements and should agree to abide by these requirements prior to registering for the practicum.

### **Professional Development**

Students will engage in at least two of the following three activities to foster their professional development and strengthen their professional identity. Advisors will assist students in meeting these requirements and certify that they have been satisfied. Students should ensure that certification is recorded in students' clinical files.

1. Author or co-author of a presentation at a state, regional, or national meeting.
2. Author or co-author an article or chapter in a psychological journal or book.
3. Prepare or assist faculty in preparing a proposal for extramural funds.

### **Pre-Doctoral Clinical Internship**

Clinical students are required to complete a 2000 hour one-year pre-doctoral internship in accordance with standards of the Education and Training Board of the American Psychological Association. Credit for the clinical internship will be granted only for training completed within APA-approved sites. Students who wish to seek an internship in a non-APA-approved site must petition the clinical faculty for approval. The limited number of APA-accredited internship/residency opportunities in the state of Georgia in general, and in the metropolitan-Atlanta area in particular, dictates that students must be prepared to complete this internship elsewhere.

Students wishing to apply for internship must inform the DCT by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Students must receive approval by the clinical faculty to apply for internship. Students wishing to apply for internship should meet with their clinical advisor well before this time to review their readiness. Approval to apply for internship will be based on a determination of the student's academic and clinical competence, a history of ethical and professional behavior, and satisfactory progress on the dissertation. Students must successfully defend their dissertation proposal (and turn in the appropriate paperwork) by October 1<sup>st</sup> and must be making acceptable progress toward completion of the research before being permitted to apply for internship. All other program requirements must be completed. The clinical advisor will present the student to the Clinical Committee for approval. The Director of Clinical Training will inform the student of the committee's decision.

The clinical faculty strongly encourages students to defend their dissertations prior to leaving for internship. Please review the "continuous enrollment" policy described later, which applies when students do not defend their dissertations before the completion of internship.

The clinical program is a subscriber to the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC), which oversees the internship application process. Students are encouraged to visit APPIC's website early and regularly to stay informed of the internship application process, including the amount and types of clinical training typical of successful internship applicants. Students are encouraged to carefully track their clinical activities so that they accumulate the number of clinical, supervision, and preparation hours necessary to meet their professional goals.

The clinical curriculum is designed in part to prepare students to practice as licensed psychologists. However, licensure requirements vary from state to state, and the program cannot guarantee that the curriculum covers the necessary elements for all states. Students are encouraged to consult the licensure requirements for states in which they are interested in practicing and plan their curriculum accordingly.

Clinical students should be aware that some external practicum and internship sites will ask about a history of unprofessional and/or criminal behavior (e.g., prior felony) and will conduct background checks. A history of such behavior may influence a student's ability to participate in a given practicum or secure an internship.

***Validating Previously Earned Master's Practicum Hours.*** Practicum hours earned during graduate work occurring prior to the start of GSU's Clinical Psychology Program must be approved by the DCT before these practicum experiences may be included on students' internship application (APPI). The only hours that will be considered for approval are those that were sanctioned practicum experiences (1) as part of a Psychology graduate program, and (2) in settings where the primary supervisor was a licensed clinical psychologist. Once these two criteria have been met, the student is responsible for providing to the DCT the following information for each individual practicum experience:

1. The total number of direct intervention contact hours (e.g., therapy and related categories)
2. The total number of assessment hours (e.g., test administration and related categories)
3. The total number of supervision hours
4. The number of support hours (e.g., test scoring, report writing, clinical notes, case conferences, other related activities). Note: Support hours reflect most of the activities you do while on a practicum that do not fit into the aforementioned categories above.

The primary supervisor for each site, supervisor overseeing all practicum training, or director of the Master's Program must verify in writing that these data are accurate to the best of his/her knowledge. This verification process should be completed no later than the end of your first year in the doctoral program.

## **COGNITIVE SCIENCES CURRICULUM**

Students in the Cognitive Sciences Program must meet all departmental and college requirements. Cognitive Science students also take 3 courses covering research methods and core knowledge in cognitive psychology, as well as 3 elective courses in an area of concentration within the cognitive sciences. Some possible concentrations are listed below, including Cognitive Psychology, Social Psychology, Evolution of Behavior, and Cognitive/Social/Affective Neuroscience. However, student concentrations may be uniquely shaped in consultation with their respective advisors. Students are not limited to 3 elective courses, and can likely benefit from additional coursework in the area of concentration. Students can also cross-register for graduate courses offered by members of the Atlanta Regional Consortium for Higher Education, with Georgia Tech and Emory University being particularly good candidates, for example to supplement the available curriculum in Cognitive Psychology and Evolution of Behavior.

### **Required Cognitive Sciences Courses**

- 8010 Research Methods in Psychology (or another methods course endorsed by one's advisor)
- 8540 Advanced Cognitive Psychology
- 8541 Special Topics in Cognitive Psychology (see topic examples below)
- 9940c Specialized Seminar: Cognitive Sciences (i.e., Hard Data Café—see below)

### **Elective Courses (choose any 3)**

#### Methods

- 6140 Introduction to Psychophysiology
- 8430 Psychological Statistics III
- 8014 Research: Community/Applied Social Psychology

#### Cognitive Psychology

- 6130 Sensation and Perception
- 8551 Cognitive and Linguistic Development
- 8541 Special Topics in Cognitive Psychology  
(e.g., Comparative Cognition, Cognition and Emotion in Communication)
- 8560 Animal Learning and Cognition
- PHIL 6330 Philosophy of Mind
- PHIL 6530 Philosophy of Language

#### Social Psychology

- 6030 Cross-cultural Psychology
- 6620 Psychology of Women
- 8200 Introduction to Community Psychology
- 8220 Community Interventions and Social Change
- 8280 Psychology and Public Policy
- 8510 Advanced Social Psychology
- 8511 Special Topics in Social Psychology  
(e.g., Stereotyping and Prejudice, Social Cognition)
- 8552 Social and Emotional Development

SOCI 8040 Cognitive Sociology  
SOCI 8110 Social Psychology (sociology)  
SOCI 8201 Social Inequality  
SOCI 8212 Race and Ethnic Relations  
SOCI 8216 Gender and Society

Evolution of Behavior

6116 Primate Behavior  
7560 Psychology of Animal Behavior  
ANTH 6330 Primate Behavioral Ecology  
BIOL 6911 Internship in Zoo Research  
BIOL 7440 Fundamentals of Evolution

Cognitive/Social/Affective Neuroscience

6630 Hormones and Behavior  
8610 Behavioral Neuroscience  
8615 Functional Human Neuroanatomy  
8616 Neurobiology I: Cellular  
8617 Neurobiology II: Integrative  
8618 Advanced Behavioral Neuroscience  
8630 Developmental Neurobiology  
8640 Psychopharmacology  
8910 Topics in Neuropsychology  
8956 Topics in Behavioral Neuroscience  
BIOL 6242 Circadian Rhythms  
BIOL 6911 Internship in Zoo Research  
BIOL 8950 Topics in Behavior and Neurobiology

Other Courses of Possible Interest

6520 Environmental Psychology  
8060 Issues of Human Diversity in Psychology  
6801 Survival Skills in Academia  
9900 Seminar in Psychology  
AL 8520 Psycholinguistics  
BIOL 6102 Neurobiology  
BIOL 6180 Neurobiology Laboratory  
EXC 7520 Neuroscience for Communication  
MATH/PHYS 8515 Dynamical Foundations of Neuroscience  
PHIL 6130 Philosophy of Science  
PHIL 8130 Topics in Philosophy of Science  
PHIL 8330 Seminar in Philosophy of Mind  
PHIL 8530 Seminar in Philosophy of Language  
SOCI 8156 Sexuality and Society  
WST 8920 Special Topics in Women's Studies

## **Directed Readings**

Some elective hours can be filled with Advanced Directed Readings (PSYC 9910). The topic and requirements for the course should be negotiated between the student and the readings supervisor at the beginning of the semester, and the basis upon which the final grade will be assigned should be clearly documented. PSYC 9910 hours are an excellent way to provide individual instruction tailored to a student and faculty member's mutual interests. However, PSYC 9910 should not be substituted for existing courses on the same topic, which should instead be taken as formal elective courses.

## **Research**

Students are expected to be involved in research throughout their graduate training. Their research projects include theses, dissertations, and other activities. Students are encouraged to initiate projects, carry them through to completion, and present their work at professional meetings and in journal articles. Students will normally register for hours of PSYC 9920 in recognition of individual research training they receive from their research supervisors. Each student and supervisor should agree at the beginning of each semester on the research topics, activities, and requirements for those PSYC9920 hours, and the basis on which the semester grade (S or U) will be assigned.

## **Hard Data Café (HDC)**

Hard Data Café (HDC) is the Cognitive Sciences colloquium series, and all students are expected to attend both departmental and HDC colloquia as a component of their graduate education. Through their first 3 years, Cognitive Sciences students are also required to register for HDC each semester as a 1-credit, pass-fail course (accommodations or exceptions may be possible under unusual circumstances, but require advisor approval). As a course, HDC requires that each student read and comment on papers by speakers (including their peers), and to present their own research during each of the first two years.

*Papers by outside speakers.* One to two articles will be made available at least one week prior to a given speaker's colloquium. Students post comments on an HDC electronic bulletin board.

*Research presentations.* At the end of their first year, each student will give a 15-minute, conference-style research presentation (12-minute presentation, 3 minutes for questions). During Spring semester of their second year, each student will give a 30-min research presentation (25-minute presentation, 5 minutes for question). At least one week prior, presenters will provide 1 to 2 relevant articles from their own or others' work for CGS students to read.

*Pre-defense colloquium.* Finally, each student will give a full-length research colloquium within the 6 months prior to their anticipated doctoral dissertation defense date. At least one week prior, the presenter will provide 1 to 2 relevant articles from their own or others' work for CGS students to read. Note that the pre-defense colloquium is not part of

the dissertation defense per se, and does not replace the dissertation defense presentation, unless so designated by the student's dissertation committee.

### **Cognitive Sciences Minor**

The Cognitive Sciences program offers a minor that consists of 12 semester hours of coursework. These hours include two required courses, Advanced Cognitive Psychology and Special Topics in Cognitive Psychology, as well as two electives jointly agreed upon by the student and the student's graduate advisor, and approved by the CGS program chair. Electives cannot be courses that are used to fulfill course requirements in any other GSU Psychology graduate program. Electives are also typically drawn from among PSYC (including cross-listed PSYC) courses suggested for CGS doctoral students. However, up to one elective class can be a non-PSYC course. The electives requirement can be fulfilled through graduate coursework taken at other institutions, subject to approval. Students from other program areas must explicitly apply to the CGS program for minor status, but can do so either before or after taking the relevant courses.

## **COMMUNITY CURRICULUM**

Students in the Community Psychology Program must meet all departmental and college requirements. Students who plan to seek licensure should also take four courses that satisfy the Clinical Program's general psychology course requirement.

### **Foundational Courses Required for Community and Dually-Enrolled Clinical and Community Students**

8010 Research Methods in Psychology or 8014 Research Methods in Community Psychology (if offered)  
8060 Issues of Human Diversity  
8200 Introduction to Community Psychology  
8430 Psychological Statistics III or 9900 Qualitative Methods [a]  
9940B Specialized Seminars in Psychology (3 X 1-credit each)  
9960C Community Practicum/9970C Clinical-Community Practicum (3 X 3-credits each)

### **Professional Specialization Electives (Take 9 credits of the following) [b]**

8280 Psychology, Advocacy, and Organizing  
8230 Assessment, Consultation, and Evaluation I (ACE I)  
8260 Assessment, Consultation, and Evaluation II (ACE II, prerequisite ACE I or permission of instructor)  
8220 Community Interventions, Social Change, and Prevention  
8430 Psychological Statistics III [c]  
9900 Qualitative Methods [c]

Notes:

*Students dually enrolled in the Clinical and Community programs must satisfy all Clinical Program requirements. For these dually-enrolled students, 8060 is satisfied with 8050. Dually-enrolled students may take any combination of community practica (9960C) or clinical-community practica (9970C) to satisfy the practicum requirement.*

*[a] Clinical-Community students are not required to take either of these courses, but in consultation with their advisor may choose to take one or both to fulfill the professional specialization requirement.*

*[b] Upon discussion with the advisor and approval of the program faculty students may elect to take one course inside or outside the department that fulfills their training needs as part of this requirement.*

*[c] One or both of these courses may be taken to fulfill the professional specialization requirement after completing foundational courses (i.e., a course cannot fulfill requirements in both categories at once)*

### **Fourth Year Paper Required for Community and Dually-Enrolled Clinical and Community Students**

Prior to the general examination, and during the fourth year of the student's career, the student will submit a paper to his/her advisor entitled, "*The Making of a Community Psychologist*," otherwise known as the fourth year paper. This paper will allow students a chance to identify scholarly and personal influences that have contributed to their identity and self-definition as community psychologists. Rather than assessing knowledge,

competency and ability to complete doctoral work, this paper is a process and product designed to help students reflect on their identities at a critical juncture in their careers, as well as a means for the faculty to better understand the students, including their past, present and future selves. On rare occasions, students may be asked to revise or clarify this statement, but it is not an examination per se.

### **Minor in Community Psychology**

A minor in community psychology is available to graduate students enrolled in graduate work in the Department of Psychology or to students enrolled in other graduate programs with the approval of the Community Program Faculty. The minor consists of 12 semester hours of coursework that has been approved by the Community Program faculty.

Students applying for the Community Psychology minor must either satisfy the core requirements of the Department of Psychology graduate program, or propose comparable masters or doctoral level coursework before being accepted for a minor in community psychology. Requirements for the minor are as follows:

1. 8200 Introduction to Community Psychology
2. 8060 Issues of Human Diversity
3. Choose 1 course from “Professional Specialization” list
4. Community Practicum (1 X 3 credits)

### **Recommended professional specialization courses for students who anticipate a career focus in:**

1. Applied Research and Practice
  - 8230 ACE I
  - 8260 ACE II
  - 8220 Community Interventions, Social Change, and Prevention
2. Empowerment/Social Justice
  - 8220 Community Interventions, Social Change, and Prevention
  - 8280 Psychology, Advocacy, and Organizing
  - 9900 Qualitative Methods
3. General Community Psychology
  - 8220 Community Interventions, Social Change, and Prevention
  - Either 8280 Psychology, Advocacy, and Organizing Or 8230 ACE I*
  - Either 8430 Statistics III Or 9900 Qualitative Methods*

## **DEVELOPMENTAL CURRICULUM**

Students in the Developmental Psychology Program must meet all departmental and college requirements.

### **Courses Required for Developmental Students**

8012 Developmental Methods  
8430 Psychological Statistics III  
8551 Cognitive, Perceptual and Linguistic Development  
8552 Social and Emotional Development  
9940A Developmental Seminar.

There are no other required courses as such. Instead, in consultation with their advisor, students propose a course of study to the Developmental Program faculty, typically during their first semester in the program. They specify the courses they plan to take and provide a rationale for their choice. Once approved by the program faculty, this becomes a binding course of study for the student, although requests for subsequent modifications can be made. Courses that might be specified include, but are not limited to:

6130 Sensation and Perception  
6400 Psychology of the Atypical Child  
8015 Theories of Development  
8060 Issues of Human Diversity in Psychology  
8200 Introduction to Community Psychology  
8510 Advanced Social Psychology  
8540 Advanced Cognitive Psychology  
8610 Behavioral Neuroscience  
8662 Adolescence  
9900 Special Topics in Developmental Psychology  
9660 Infancy  
COMM 6400 Development of Communication and Language

### **Minor in Developmental Psychology**

A minor in developmental psychology is available to graduate students enrolled in graduate work in the Department of Psychology. The minor consists of 12 semester hours of coursework that has been approved by the Developmental Program faculty. Students apply to the Developmental Program faculty for the minor either before or after taking either of the two foundation developmental courses (8551 Cognitive and Linguistic Developmental, 8552 Social and Emotional Development) and under most circumstances before taking other coursework for the minor. For example, a minor might consist of one or both of the foundation courses (i.e., Cognitive and Linguistic Development, Social and Emotional Development;), Developmental Methods, or any of the content courses appropriate for developmental psychology offered in the department.

## **NBN CURRICULUM**

All students in the Neuropsychology and Behavioral Neuroscience Program must fulfill all requirements of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and the Department of Psychology. In addition to course work, practica, and other academic/research pursuits available at the university, students are encouraged to take advantage of research and professional experiences, conferences, workshops and seminars related to neuropsychology and behavioral neurosciences nation- and world-wide.

### **Courses Required for NBN Students**

(Track 2: Specialization in Behavioral Neuroscience)

8010 Research Methods in Psychology  
8615 Functional Human Neuroanatomy  
8616 Neurobiology I: Cellular Neurobiology  
8617 Neurobiology II: Integrative Neurobiology  
8618 Advanced Behavioral Neuroscience  
8620 Introduction to Clinical Neuropsychology

In addition, each Track 2 student proposes an integrated plan of study that meets all departmental requirements and provides a clear focus that can be met by the faculty in the program and department. This plan of study can include courses listed in Track 1 below, those courses listed as program electives below (that can be taken as Psyc 9920 – Advanced Directed Readings), and additional courses available in other units of the college.

Examples of other relevant courses include:

Physiological Basis of Motivated Behaviors  
Behavioral Endocrinology  
Mammalian Reproduction: An Ecological Perspective  
Neural and Humoral Basis of Feeding  
Circadian Rhythms  
Reproduction  
Aggression, Hormones, and Behavior  
Neurobiology of Learning and Memory  
Psychopharmacology  
Survival Skills in Academia

### **Courses Required for Dually-Enrolled Clinical and NBN Students**

(Track 1: Specialization in Clinical Neuropsychology)

8010 Research Methods in Psychology  
8610 Behavioral Neuroscience *or* 8618 Advanced Behavioral Neuroscience  
8615 Functional Human Neuroanatomy  
8620 Introduction to Clinical Neuropsychology  
9140 Neuropsychological Assessment  
8910 Topic in Clinical Neuropsychology

Note. In addition, dually-enrolled students satisfy all Clinical Program requirements (which includes 8610). This course of study is consistent with the guidelines proposed by the Houston Conference on Specialty Education and Training in Clinical Neuropsychology.