



*general graduate
psychology program*



**Academic/Experimental
Concentration**

A/E

Overview

The A/E concentration in the general program is designed for those students who wish to pursue further study at the PhD level, work as a research psychologist, or teach psychology in a junior college. The A/E concentration is research oriented and is designed to give students maximum flexibility in designing a course of study.

In this 36 semester-hour program, there are 18 semester hours of required courses, including 6 semester hours of thesis work. The remaining 18 semester hours may be taken as electives chosen to meet the student's area of interest.

Six faculty members teach the required courses, while another ten to fifteen teach electives or participate in thesis supervision. The A/E concentration is one of three within the general program, the other two being mental retardation/developmental disabilities and industrial/organizational.

Course Work

The required courses and semester credit hours are as follows:

PSYC

- 6412** Advanced Physiological Psychology (3)
- 6421** Social Psychology (3)
- 6427** Advanced Principles of Learning (3)
- 6430** Statistics and Research Design (3)
- 6995** Thesis (3)
- 6996** Thesis (3)

It is strongly recommended that students take **PSYC 6431**, Design and Analysis, and a computer science course.

Some of the available electives within the department include sensation and perception, laboratory methods, behavioral pharmacology, psychology of thinking, gerontology, developmental psychology, group dynamics, and design and analysis. Students with interests requiring course work in other departments are permitted to take up to 9 semester hours outside of psychology.

Thesis

A thesis is a required component of the academic/experimental concentration. Students will exhibit their research skills and writing ability by preparing a professional research paper. Students will defend the completed thesis at an oral session conducted by their thesis committee.

Other Requirements

A comprehensive examination is required. It includes the core course areas (PSYC 6427 and 6430) and, in the A/E concentration, PSYC 6412 and 6421 and one elective. This examination is normally taken in the second year.

A research skill requirement of not less than 3 semester hours from certain areas determined by the department or from a foreign language must be met.

Additional work in statistics or computer science is recommended if it has not already been taken as an elective. These credit hours do not count toward the 36 semester hours required for the master's degree.

Application and Admission

Admission to the general psychology program is contingent on meeting all requirements of the ECU Graduate School *and* being recommended by the graduate admissions committee of the Department of Psychology. A completed application will include a Graduate School application; a Department of Psychology basic information sheet; GRE verbal, quantitative, and advanced test scores; complete college transcripts; and a minimum of two letters of recommendation (at least one from a psychologist). Interviews are occasionally requested.

A combination of GRE scores, grade point average, and references is used in making the admission decision. Applicants should score above the fiftieth percentile on the GRE and have above a 3.0 GPA, both overall and in their major.

The department requires that all graduate students have a common core of undergraduate psychology courses in introductory psychology, psychological statistics, experimental psychology, learning, personality, physiological psychology, and tests and measurements. Applicants are admitted with deficiencies, but those must be met by appropriate undergraduate course work. These courses will not count toward the master's degree. An undergraduate course in computer science is also highly recommended.

The Department of Psychology admissions screening procedure begins March 15. All application materials must be submitted prior to that date. Final decisions generally are sent out in April. The general program will accept applications after the March 15 deadline, but spaces may be limited.

For course sequencing, it is recommended that students begin graduate work in the fall semester. Admissions for entrance at other times should be discussed with the program chair.

Financial Support

Research assistantships are generally available for applicants. A letter accompanying the application materials indicating the desire and basis for needing financial assistance is considered an application for an assistantship.

Additional Information

Additional information, including appointments for further discussion, can be obtained by contacting:

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