Master of Arts in Psychology

Health Psychology Option

The Master of Arts in Psychology (Health Psychology Option) will provide students with a solid academic background in health psychology. This specialized track is designed to meet the professional needs of college graduates who plan careers in community mental health and other health care settings such as rehabilitation centers, primary care centers and hospices. In addition, students enrolled in the Health Psychology Option will learn how to promote wellness in individuals and within organizations, and how to evaluate the effectiveness of prevention and treatment programs. The goal of concentrated study in health psychology is to provide the student with an understanding of the relationships among relationships among biological, psychological, and social factors as they interact to influence mental and physical health. This goal is accomplished through an integrated program of coursework and research training.

In the Psychology M.A. (Health Psychology track) the student is required to complete 36 units of credit, including three hours of practicum course work. In addition, the student must successfully complete a thesis.

Admission Procedures

A. Mail the following documents directly to:

Attention: Karen I. Wilson, Ph.D.
Master of Arts in Psychology Program
Psychology Department
California State University, Dominguez Hills
1000 E. Victoria Street
Carson, California  90747

1. Departmental application for admission to the Master of Arts in Psychology program. Obtain application from the Psychology Department Office (SBS A336) or online (http://www.nbs.csudh.edu/psychology).

2. One official transcript from each college attended.

3. Official score report of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test. Students can call the Testing Office (243-3909) to obtain a schedule for the GRE.

4. Personal statement

5. Three letters of recommendation

B. Submission of a university application and supporting documents.
C. All documents listed under item “A” must be on file in the Department of Psychology in order for your application to be considered for entrance to the program. The deadline for applications is March 1 for entrance to the program in the fall semester.

D. You may be asked to attend a personal interview as part of the selection procedure.

Admission Requirements

A. Bachelor’s degree from a fully accredited institution of higher education.

B. Completion of Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test

C. At least a “B” average in the last 60 semester units attempted.

D. Successful completion of the following undergraduate courses or their equivalent, with at least a “B” average:

- PSY 230. Elementary Statistical Analysis in Psychology (3)
- PSY 235. Introduction to Research Methods (3)
- PSY 330. Behavioral Statistics and Research Design (3) or
  
  *PSY 331. Measurement in Psychology (3)*

- PSY 363. The Abnormal Personality (3)
- PSY 370. Health Psychology (3) or coursework in biological psychology

E. Special consideration concerning the waiving of some of the above requirements is possible (e.g., if the student has had extensive previous experience in the health psychology area).

Classified Standing and Conditionally Classified Standing

Only students who have met all requirements as noted under Admission Procedures - M.A. Programs for the Psychology Department will be considered for admission into the M.A. in Psychology Program with Classified Standing.

Students who lack any or all of the admission requirements may be considered for admission into the program with Conditionally Classified Standing. This would allow them to enroll in the University to correct their deficiencies, and also permit them to take up to nine semester units of
graduate coursework which they could apply toward their degree if and when Classified Standing has been established. Please note that admission to Conditionally Classified Standing does not assure that a student will achieve Classified Standing in the program.

**Advancement to Candidacy**
A student must be advanced to candidacy before enrolling in PSY 599 Thesis (1-3). The requirements for advancement to candidacy are as follows:

1. Classified Standing in the Master of Arts in Psychology program
2. Completion of a minimum of 24 semester units of required courses.
3. Completion of the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement.
4. Approved Program of Study.
5. A cumulative GPA of 3.0 in all courses taken as a graduate student.
6. No grade lower than a "C" in the degree program.

**Degree Requirements (36 units)**

A. Required Courses (33 units)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSY 520</td>
<td>Seminar in Psychopharmacology (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 530</td>
<td>Advanced Analysis of Variance and Multivariate Techniques (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 535</td>
<td>Advanced Research Methods (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 555</td>
<td>Psychology and Aging (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 563</td>
<td>Seminar in Psychopathology (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 570</td>
<td>Community Psychology (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 574</td>
<td>Practicum: Diversity Issues in Clinical and Health Psychology (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 575</td>
<td>Theories of Health and Behavior (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 576</td>
<td>Seminar in Health Psychology Research (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 585</td>
<td>Neuropsychology (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 599</td>
<td>Thesis (3)</td>
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B. Select one course from the following (3 units):

- PSY 550. Seminar in Developmental Psychology (3)
- PSY 564. Advanced Psychotherapy Techniques (3)
- PSY 565. Psychology of Clinical Groups (3)
- PSY 566. Individual Intellectual Assessment (3)
- PSY 567. Individual Assessment (3)
- PSY 595. Selected Topics (3)
- PSY 597. Directed Reading (3)
- PSY 598. Directed Research (3)

C. Additional program requirements include:

1. Completion of the Graduate Writing Competency requirement within two semesters of admission to the program.

2. Students must write a thesis as the culminating experience for awarding the degree Master of Arts in Psychology (Health Psychology).

3. In addition to the major requirements, students must meet all university requirements for the master’s degree indicated in the section of the catalog entitled “Graduate Degrees and Postbaccalaureate Studies.”