Psychological & Brain Sciences

The Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences trains graduate students who are interested in becoming the next generation of academic researchers and educators in psychological and brain sciences. Graduate study may be undertaken in the following general areas: Behavior, Brain, and Cognition; Clinical Psychology; Aging and Development; and Social and Personality. The traditions of Washington University and the department encourage interdisciplinary graduate study, both between the subfields of psychological and brain sciences and with other disciplines. Therefore, whereas students must affiliate with at least one of the areas within psychological and brain sciences, they are frequently affiliated with multiple areas within psychological and brain sciences. Further, many graduate students in psychological and brain sciences also engage in interdisciplinary training and research. For example, opportunities for cross-disciplinary training and research are available in the Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences (e.g., neuroscience and genetics), the programs of Linguistics and of Cognitive, Computational, and Systems Neuroscience; in African-American Studies; and in Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology, as well as in several departments of the Schools of Medicine and Engineering.

The Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences admits students for full-time study toward the PhD and does not offer a terminal master's degree. However, students are required to complete a master's degree with thesis as part of the requirements for a PhD. In addition, the PhD requires coursework (including statistics, methods, ethics and several core content areas), a subject matter exam, at least one semester of a teaching experience that fulfills the doctoral teaching requirement, and consistently high-quality research productivity that results in publishable findings.

In making decisions about admission, the Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences considers many factors, including test scores, grade-point average, research experience, and letters of recommendation, as well as other factors that help us assess an individual's potential. There are no minimum undergraduate course requirements on which admission to graduate study in the department is based. However, the department recommends a liberal undergraduate education with a major in psychology before undertaking graduate study in psychological and brain sciences, though other major fields may be suitable as preparation in specific areas of psychological and brain sciences.

In addition to completing the Graduate School’s online application, qualified applicants are asked to visit for an interview. We have found such interviews to be highly useful both for the applicant and for the faculty in the department. However, an in-person interview is not mandatory for admission.

Phone: (314) 935-6520
Departmental website: http://psychweb.wustl.edu/graduate

Chair
Deanna M. Barch
Gregory B. Couch Professor of Psychiatry
PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Associate Chair
Jeffrey M. Zacks
Professor
PhD, Stanford University

Endowed Professors
John Baugh
Margaret Bush Wilson Professor in Arts & Sciences
PhD, University of Pennsylvania
(African and African-American Studies, Anthropology, Education, English)

Randy J. Larsen
William R. Stuckenberg Professor of Human Values and Moral Development
PhD, University of Illinois

Thomas F. Oltmanns
Edgar James Swift Professor of Arts & Sciences
PhD, State University of New York–Stony Brook

Steven E. Petersen
James S. McDonnell Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience
PhD, California Institute of Technology
(Neurology and Neurological Surgery)

Henry L. Roediger III
James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor
PhD, Yale University

Rebecca A. Treiman
Burke and Elizabeth High Baker Professor of Child Developmental Psychology
PhD, University of Pennsylvania

Professors
Richard A. Abrams
PhD, University of Michigan

David A. Balota
PhD, University of South Carolina

Todd Braver
PhD, Carnegie Mellon University
Ian G. Dobbins
PhD, University of California, Davis

Leonard Green
PhD, State University of New York–Stony Brook

Sandra S. Hale
PhD, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

Larry L. Jacoby (part-time)
PhD, Southern Illinois University–Carbondale

Mark A. McDaniel
PhD, University of Colorado

Kathleen B. McDermott
PhD, Rice University

Michael Merbaum (part-time)
PhD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Mitchell Sommers
PhD, University of Michigan

Michael J. Strube
PhD, University of Utah

Desirée A. White
PhD, Washington University

Denise E. Wilfley
PhD, University of Missouri

Associate Professors

Brian D. Carpenter
PhD, Case Western Reserve University

Janet M. Duchek
PhD, University of South Carolina

Denise P. Head
PhD, University of Memphis

Alan J. Lambert
PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Lori Markson
PhD, University of Arizona

Thomas L. Rodebaugh
PhD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Assistant Professors

Ryan Bogdan
PhD, Harvard University

Julie M. Bugg
PhD, Colorado State University

Tammy English
PhD, University of California, Berkeley

Joshua Jackson
PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Renee J. Thompson
PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Heike Winterheld
PhD, University of Minnesota

Adjunct Professors

Robert Carney
PhD, Washington University
(Psychiatry)

Kenneth Freedland
PhD, University of Hawaii
(Psychiatry)

Barry Hong
PhD, Saint Louis University
(Psychiatry)

Patrick Lustman
PhD, Michigan State University
(Psychiatry)

Marcus E. Raichle
MD, University of Washington
(Radiology)

Eugene Rubin
MD, PhD, Washington University School of Medicine
(Psychiatry)

James V. Wertsch
Marshall S. Snow Professor in Arts & Sciences
PhD, University of Chicago
(Anthropology, International and Area Studies, Education)

Adjunct Associate Professors

Arpana Agrawal
PhD, Virginia Commonwealth University
(Psychiatry)

C. Robert Almli
PhD, Michigan State University
(Occupational Therapy)

John Newcomer
MD, Wayne State University
(Psychiatry)

John Rohrbaugh
PhD, University of Illinois
(Psychiatry)

Research Professor

Joel Myerson
PhD, Arizona State University
Lecturers

Amy D. Bertelson
PhD, Ohio State University

Tim Bono
PhD, Washington University

Sara J. Estle
PhD, Washington University

Heather Rice
PhD, Duke University

Robinson Welch
PhD, University of Missouri–Columbia

Professors Emeriti

Stanley Finger
PhD, Indiana University Bloomington

Anthony Schuham
PhD, Washington University

Martha Storandt
PhD, Washington University

Robert L. Williams
PhD, Washington University

Degree Requirements

General Requirements for the PhD in Psychology

The following is a brief listing of the requirements for the PhD in Psychology. A more detailed description of these requirements may be found on the department website (http://psychweb.wustl.edu/graduate) in our Graduate Training Manual. All students must:

• Complete 72 credit hours of graduate-level course work (this course work must be completed for a student to be considered ABD). A typical semester course load for the first two years is 12-13 credit hours, unless teaching or research responsibilities suggest a 9-10 credit hour load.

• Obtain teaching experience commensurate with preparation for an academic career. There is a Teaching Requirement that all students must meet, the details of which are outlined in our Graduate Training Manual.

• Attend a 1-credit (one hour per week) seminar on Research Ethics. This typically happens during the fall semester of a student's first or second year in the program.

• Attend at least five (5) workshops on professional development over the entire course of the program.

• Complete a qualifying research project during the first two years of graduate study. This is often referred to as the master's thesis.

• Pass a subject matter examination. This examination must be passed before work on the dissertation can begin.

• Complete a dissertation project and defend it in an oral examination. The research requirements for the PhD are described in more detail in our Graduate Training Manual.