Psychological & Brain Sciences

The Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences teaches 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 & Cognition; Clinical Psychology; Aging & Development; and Social & Personality Psychology. The traditions of Washington University and the department encourage interdisciplinary graduate study, both between the subfields of psychological and brain sciences and across other disciplines. Therefore, although students must affiliate with at least one of the areas within psychological and brain sciences, they are frequently affiliated with multiple areas within the field. In addition, many graduate students in the department also engage in interdisciplinary learning, scholarship and research. For example, cross-disciplinary opportunities and research are available in the Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences (e.g., neuroscience, genetics); in 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 in the School of Medicine and McKelvey School of 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 a thesis as part of the requirements for a PhD. In addition, the PhD includes required courses (including statistics, methods, ethics and several core content areas), a subject matter exam, at least two semesters of a teaching experience to fulfill the doctoral teaching requirement, and consistently high-quality research productivity that results in publishable findings.

The Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences also offers the Graduate Certificate in Quantitative Data Analysis, which is open to graduate students of various disciplines. Advanced skills and knowledge in quantitative analysis, methods and interpretation are critical assets for scholars in a wide range of disciplines within the social sciences. In addition, many of the important practical, analytical and conceptual skills are shared across disciplines. Many of the graduate programs in the social sciences include basic quantitative analysis skills within the core required curriculum of their department, but many students would benefit from advanced preparation in this domain. The certificate program provides an organized means for students to achieve an advanced level of knowledge and skill in quantitative social science data analysis, interpretation and visualization that can be applied and shared in a variety of occupational domains.

The Graduate Certificate in Quantitative Data Analysis requires students to master both an introductory level and a more advanced level of quantitative skills and knowledge. Some of the introductory-level courses may overlap with courses that are already required within a student’s individual PhD program curriculum, but the advanced level will require students to go beyond the basic expectations of their graduate program to achieve a greater depth and breadth of their knowledge and abilities.

Students interested in the Graduate Certificate in Quantitative Data Analysis should first apply for admission to the Washington University department in which they wish to obtain a graduate degree. After being admitted, students should notify their department advisor and the Graduate Certificate in Quantitative Data Analysis program director (currently dbarch@wustl.edu) (dbarch@wustl.edu) of their plans to obtain the certificate. In addition, students should submit an Application for Admission to Certificate Program form to the Office of Graduate Studies, Arts & Sciences, and send a copy to the Graduate Certificate in Quantitative Data Analysis office.

Phone: 314-935-6520
Website: https://psych.wustl.edu/graduate-program

Faculty

Chair
Jeffrey M. Zacks (https://dcl.wustl.edu/people/jeff-zacks/)
Professor
PhD, Stanford University

Associate Chair
Denise P. Head (http://psychweb.wustl.edu/people/denise-head/)
PhD, University of Memphis

Endowed Professors
Deanna M. Barch (http://psychweb.wustl.edu/people/deanna-barch/)
Gregory B. Couch Professor of Psychiatry
PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

John Baugh (http://psychweb.wustl.edu/people/john-baugh/)
Margaret Bush Wilson Professor in Arts & Sciences
PhD, University of Pennsylvania
(African and African-American Studies; Anthropology; Education; English)

Pascal R. Boyer (https://psych.wustl.edu/people/pascal-boyer/)
Luce Professor of Collective and Individual Memory
PhD, University of Paris
(Anthropology)

Henry L. Roediger III (https://psych.wustl.edu/people/henry-roediger/)
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(Education & Applied Linguistics)
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MD, PhD, Washington University School of Medicine
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(Business)

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(Psychological & Brain Sciences)

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(Education)

Lawrence Snyder (https://profiles.wustl.edu/en/persons/lawrence-snyder/)
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(Neurobiology)

David Van Essen (https://profiles.wustl.edu/en/persons/david-van-essen/)
PhD, Harvard University
(Anatomy and Neurobiology)

James V. Vetsch (https://anthropology.wustl.edu/people/james-wertsch/)
Marshall S. Snow Professor in Arts & Sciences
PhD, University of Chicago
(Anthropology; International and Area Studies; Education)
Degree Requirements

PhD in Psychological & Brain Sciences

The following is a brief listing of the requirements for the PhD in Psychological & Brain Sciences. A more detailed description of these requirements may be found in our Graduate Student Handbook (PDF) and the Clinical Program Handbook (PDF). Students in the clinical science training program have somewhat different requirements; please refer to the Clinical Program Handbook as well.

All students must do the following:

- Complete required graduate-level courses (courses must be completed for a student to be considered “all but dissertation”). A typical semester course load for the first two years is 12 to 13 credit units unless teaching responsibilities suggest a load of 9 to 10 credit units.
- 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 Student Handbook.
- Attend a 1-credit (one hour per week) seminar on research ethics. This seminar typically happens during the fall semester of a student’s first or second year in the program.
- Attend at least five professional development workshops over the course of the program.
• Complete a qualifying research project during the first two years of graduate study. This project 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 Student Handbook.

Graduate Certificate in Quantitative Data Analysis

The goal of the certificate is to ensure that students have a solid basis in probability and statistics, inference, and quantitative research design as well as some depth of experience in a more advanced topic area. As such, students completing the certificate are required to take at least five courses, the categories of which are shown below. Some courses appear in more than one area, but a course can only be used to fill one of the requirements. In consultation with the certificate advisor, students may substitute equivalent courses or more demanding mathematical treatments of the same course material. For programming prerequisites, visit our Quantitative Data Analysis website (https://psych.wustl.edu/graduate-certificate/).

Core Area Courses (at least one from each area)

**Probability and Statistics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anthro 5365</td>
<td>Problems in Applied Data Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Econ 508</td>
<td>Mathematics for Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pol Sci 572</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods in Pol Analysis II: Linear Models (Generalized Linear Models)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pol Sci 581</td>
<td>Quantitative Political Methodology I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pol Sci 582</td>
<td>Quantitative Political Methodology II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psych 5066</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psych 5067</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWSA 5230</td>
<td>Applied Linear Modeling</td>
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**Inference and Quantitative Research Design**

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<tr>
<td>Educ 503</td>
<td>Foundations of Educational Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math 5110</td>
<td>Experimental Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pol Sci 5024</td>
<td>Causal Inference</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psych 5011</td>
<td>Research Designs and Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

**Focus Area Courses (at least two from one of these three areas)**

**Longitudinal and Time-Series Data Analysis**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MEC 661</td>
<td>Analysis of Time Series Data</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSB 618</td>
<td>Survival Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pol Sci 584</td>
<td>Multilevel Models in Quantitative Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psych 5068</td>
<td>Hierarchical Linear Models</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psych 5165</td>
<td>Applied Longitudinal Data Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psych 5167</td>
<td>Applied Bayesian Statistics for Psychologists</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWDT 6600</td>
<td>Multilevel and Longitudinal Modeling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWDT 6905</td>
<td>Propensity Score Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Multivariate and Machine Learning Analysis**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSE 514A</td>
<td>Data Mining</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSE 517A</td>
<td>Machine Learning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math 5430</td>
<td>Multivariate Statistical Analysis</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math 535</td>
<td>Topics in Combinatorics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psych 5012</td>
<td>Selected Topics in Design and Statistics</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psych 516</td>
<td>Applied Multivariate Analysis</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWDT 6901</td>
<td>Structural Equation Modeling</td>
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</table>

**Data Mining and Specialized Research Tools**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSE 514A</td>
<td>Data Mining</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSE 517A</td>
<td>Machine Learning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Econ 5161</td>
<td>Applied Econometrics</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math 5310</td>
<td>Bayesian Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSB 550</td>
<td>Introduction to Bioinformatics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psych 5167</td>
<td>Applied Bayesian Statistics for Psychologists</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWCD 5082</td>
<td>Foundations of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for the Applied Social Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The fifth course can be from any of the three focus areas, or it can be a second course from the Probability and Statistics group.