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Marshall University

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PSYCHOLOGY (PSY)

The Department of Psychology offers Master of Arts degrees in either Clinical Psychology or General Psychology. The two programs differ markedly in their course sequence and orientation. Prospective students should request copies of current program curricula from the department.

Clinical (Professional) Psychology

Students intending to qualify for employment as a master's level clinical psychologist complete a minimum of 39 credit hours of core courses, as well as [at least] 6 hours of clinical practicum and a clinical internship in an approved setting. This program has two tracks. One is oriented toward training high quality clinical practitioners. The second track is designed to prepare people for advanced doctoral level training in professional psychology. A thesis is required in this track. The curriculum of the clinical program is highly structured and follows a sequence that provides maximum professional content. For graduation, students are required to take a written comprehensive exam in accordance with University requirements and guidelines.

General (Theoretical) Psychology

Students earning a master's degree in preparation for doctoral study in an experimental field of psychology must complete a minimum of 33 hours of graduate credit, including 3-6 hours of graduate credit on a research-based thesis. Students plan their coursework in conjunction with their advisors and in accordance with their background and their career goals.

Admission to the Programs

Requirements for admission [to both programs] include the aptitude and subject tests section of the GRE, three letters of reference, and undergraduate transcripts. [The clinical program admits students once per year. Completed applications are reviewed after April 15, after which personal interviews may be requested of applicants. Accepted students expected to begin in the fall semester. Generally, many more students apply than can be accepted, and thus the selection process is competitive. Admission to the Clinical Psychology program requires that undergraduate preparation include a course in behavioral statistics, psychometrics, experimental psychology, abnormal psychology, and two of the following: developmental, social, personality and physiological psychology.

Admission to the General Theoretical program requires a minimum of 12 undergraduate credits in psychology, including courses in introductory psychology, behavioral statistics, experimental psychology, and one additional psychology course.

All application materials, including the Graduate School Application Form, should be sent to the Admissions office. When all materials are received the application packet will be forwarded to the department for review. Applicants who are accepted into one of the department's graduate programs will simultaneously be admitted as students in the Graduate School.

Special Requirements in Psychology Program

1. Students cannot have more than one C in any applicable graduate course work. (Psychology students who earn a second "C" will not be permitted to continue taking course work or working on a thesis.)
2. Additional requirements for admission to candidacy:
 - a. All students must be recommended for admission to candidacy by a majority of their three-member guidance committee, composed of faculty members chosen by the student and the faculty advisor.
 - b. Clinical psychology students will apply for candidacy after completing one three-hour practicum of supervised clinical experience plus previous coursework.
 - c. All students must have completed at least twelve (12) hours of the courses required in their programs with a grade point average of 3.0 or better.