Psychology Department

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Degree Awarded
Ph.D. in Biopsychology, Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, Ph.D. in Cognitive/Experimental Psychology, Ph.D. in Social/Health Psychology

Psychology Department

The Department of Psychology, in the College of Arts and Sciences, is one of Stony Brook’s largest graduate departments. More than 800 Ph.D. degrees have been awarded since the program began more than 40 years ago. In recent years the population of students has been about 60 percent female, 15 percent minority, and 10 percent international students.

The department is administratively organized into four program areas: Biopsychology, Clinical Psychology, Cognitive/Experimental Psychology, and Social and Health Psychology. Students must be admitted to one of these four program areas, but they are encouraged to receive training in more than one program area if appropriate. In conjunction with the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior, Brookhaven National Labs, and the Department of Psychiatry, interdisciplinary training is offered in behavioral neuroscience. In conjunction with the Departments of Linguistics and Computer Science, interdisciplinary training is offered in cognitive science. Course offerings and research training are structured in such a way that students can meet the requirements for a Ph.D. degree in Biopsychology, Clinical Psychology, Cognitive/Experimental Psychology or Social and Health Psychology. Stony Brook’s doctoral program in Clinical Psychology is accredited by the American Psychological Association. A detailed description of the graduate programs, including requirements for students in each area of graduate studies, is available from the departmental graduate office or from our Web site: www.psychology.sunysb.edu.

In all four program areas, the primary emphasis is on research training through apprenticeship, advisement and independent research. New students are encouraged to become involved immediately in ongoing research and to engage in independent research when sufficient skills and knowledge permit, with the goal of becoming active and original contributors.

Admission requirements of Psychology Department

The requirements for admission to doctoral study, in addition to the minimum Graduate School requirements, ordinarily include:

A. A bachelor’s degree with a major in psychology, or in a program providing adequate preparation for the intended area of study (ordinarily including statistics, research methodology, and/or psychology laboratory).

B. An average of 3.5 or better in all graded academic undergraduate coursework.

C. One official copy of all previous college transcripts, with certified English translations of any transcripts in a foreign language.

D. Letters of recommendation from three instructors or academic advisors, and, for applicants to Clinical Psychology, three supplementary recommendations. The Clinical supplemental recommendation form can be found at the departmental Web site: www.psychology.sunysb.edu.

E. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test. The subject GRE is not required.

F. For international students, TOEFL or IELTS scores (unless their native language is English or they attended college where English was the language of instruction) and the International Student Financial Affidavit.

G. Students who do not meet these requirements may also apply if they feel that special circumstances should be considered.

H. Acceptance by the department and Graduate School.

The deadline for receipt of applications and all supporting materials for fall admission is December 15. Applications must be submitted online. Links to the online application system are on the department Web site at: www.psychology.sunysb.edu.

Facilities of Psychology Department

Faculty in each area maintain active laboratories with state-of-the-art equipment for research and graduate training.

The Clinical area research interests of the core faculty center on depressive disorders, anxiety disorders, personality disorders, discord and aggression among couples, romantic competence among adolescents and adults, social problem solving, psychotherapy process and outcome, and lesbian/gay/bisexual issues. Faculty labs are equipped with state-of-the-art facilities including equipment for observational research (e.g., digital cameras and DVDs), psychophysiological equipment (e.g., heart rate, blood pressure, respiratory rate,) as well as electrophysiology (EEG, ERP). The clinical area also utilizes a number of other on- and off-campus facilities for clinical research and training, including the Psychological
The Biopsychology Program provides opportunities to learn the neural genetics, anatomy, circuitry, physiology and chemistry underlying a broad array of behaviors and disorders. The program develops conceptual knowledge of issues ranging from social, affective, cognitive and clinical neuroscience to behavioral and molecular neuroscience. Likewise we offer opportunities for developing a wide range of research skills, from behavioral and systems analysis to cellular, subcellular and genetic analysis. Students have the opportunity for research training with core faculty or affiliated faculty in the Departments of Neurobiology, Medicine and the Medical Department at Brookhaven National Labs. Students have access to facilities for histological and neuroanatomical analysis, behavioral analysis, molecular and genetic analysis, transcranial magnetic stimulation, human electrophysiology, eye-tracking, PET and fMRI imaging. Human imaging is conducted with a research dedicated, state-of-the-art 3T MRI system housed in our new NSF-funded SCAN (Social, Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience) center. The curriculum supports the development of broad content knowledge, while research training provides development of skill expertise. In addition, the program supports the development of teaching and professional skills.

The Cognitive/Experimental area offers training in cognitive science in its affiliations with the Departments of Linguistics and Computer Science, and in cognitive neuroscience, in cooperation with the Biopsychology Program, the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior, and Brookhaven National Laboratory's Medical Department. Laboratory facilities include a state-of-the-art 3TeslafMRI research dedicated scanner, aPurkinje eyetracker and several lightweight head-mounted eyetrackers for psycholuminics and visual cognition studies, rooms equipped to study electronic communication and human-computer interaction, sound-isolated chambers for perception and psycholinguistics experiments, multimedia workstations for presenting stimuli and collecting data, and computer-controlled choice stations for testing human and non-human subjects. Faculty research is particularly strong in language, memory, attention, visual cognition, perception, and decision making. Most research programs are funded by agencies such as the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Army Research Office, and the National Patient Safety Foundation. Faculty, students, and postdoctoral associates rely primarily on the Psychology Department's large volunteer pool of human subjects.

The Social and Health area offers predoctoral training for students who are interested in a research career in social psychology, health psychology, or the interface between these two disciplines (e.g., application of social psychological theory to health problems). Areas of particular strength in the faculty's research in social psychology include the study of attachment and close relationships in adults and children; social cognition; social-cognitive development; social identity, prejudice, and stereotyping; academic achievement; and the representation and processing of social experience, motivation, and self-regulation. Health psychology focuses on identifying, evaluating, and enhancing the psychosocial and behavioral factors that promote health, prevent disease, or affect adjustment to illness. Faculty research topics in health psychology include the impact of stress on health; the role of social support in dealing with health problems; and coping with breast cancer, pregnancy, or the loss of a spouse. Social and Health Area faculty have affiliations with the Department of Psychiatry, other departments in the University, and they collaborate with researchers and clinicians in the Stony Brook School of Medicine, Dental School, and University Hospital. Students in our graduate program work collaboratively with faculty members on research projects of mutual interest. A variety of courses are offered so that students can fulfill requirements by selecting the courses that best fit their interests and needs. Students may also take courses in other departments of the university, such as Political Science, Public Health, or Women’s Studies. In addition, students have the opportunity to receive training in methodological and quantitative techniques such as structural equation modeling and meta-analysis and they may elect to complete a quantitative minor. Seminars are offered on topics such as career issues, teaching methods, and grant writing. Another important feature of our program is its cultural and ethnic diversity. We strive to integrate cultural and ethnic concerns into all aspects of graduate training.

Requirements of Psychology Department

The receipt of the Ph.D. signifies both a scholarly mastery of the field of psychology and the ability to conduct independent research. In addition to the Graduate School’s degree requirements, students must satisfy the following requirements (as well as requirements of their area of studies):

A. Course Requirements

A student must maintain a graduate G.P.A. of at least 3.0 and successfully complete an approved program of study with a grade of at least B in each required course. Two semesters of quantitative methods and three breadth courses selected from outside the student’s area of graduate studies are required. In addition, two semesters of First-Year Lectures (no credit) and two semesters of a practicum in statistical computer applications are required. The four training areas of the department have additional course requirements. Following admission, students with graduate training elsewhere can petition to satisfy course requirements on the basis of their previous graduate work. No more than three departmental course requirements will be waived. Petition to waive requirements or to satisfy them on the basis of previous graduate work should be directed to the Psychology Graduate Office. Petitions concerning area requirements should be addressed to the student’s area head.

B. Yearly Evaluation

The progress of each graduate student is reviewed at the end of each academic year by the student's area's faculty. This provides opportunities for both positive feedback about the student's achievements and constructive feedback for improving or accelerating the student's progress. We expect that all students admitted to the Ph.D. program have the potential to succeed; however, any student whose performance is below the standards established by the department and the area may be dismissed or asked to withdraw. Under certain circumstances a student may be permitted to obtain a terminal Master of Arts degree satisfactorily completing the required courses and 30 graduate credit hours of study, and writing a second-year research paper.
C. Second-Year Paper
At the end of the second year of study, each student must submit an original research paper to the advisor and the area head. Although the form of this paper and the date it is due varies by area, all second-year papers must include data collection and analysis. The second-year paper must be approved prior to the specialties paper (see item E). A copy of the approved paper must be provided to the Psychology Graduate Office.

D. M.A. Degree in the Course of Doctoral Studies
The department will recommend granting an M.A. degree to students who have successfully completed the second-year requirements, including the second-year research paper, upon the recommendation of the faculty in the student’s area of graduate studies. This process is not automatic; students wishing to obtain an M.A. degree must file for one.

E. Specialties Paper and Examination
This requirement should be completed by the end of the sixth semester of study. The specialties paper is a review/research paper suitable for submission to a refereed journal. The paper must be presented to and defended before a committee. The form of the specialties paper depends upon the student’s area of graduate studies, but all areas require its completion by the end of the third year in order for a student to be considered to be on track.

F. Advancement to Candidacy
After successful completion of the specialties paper and examination, all required coursework, two SDI courses (see G), and the requirements of the student’s area of studies, a majority vote of the faculty of the student’s area is required to recommend advancement to candidacy for the Ph.D. The Graduate School requires that students must advance to candidacy at least one year before defending their dissertations.

G. Research and Teaching
All four graduate training areas focus heavily on research; research activity from the time of admission through the fourth year is required. Students who are funded on state lines serve as teaching assistants (TAs) for classes taught by departmental faculty and instructors. For all students, regardless of source of funding, two semesters of substantial direct instruction (SDI) in the classroom or laboratory is required (one of which must be PSY 310). Students may satisfy this requirement by providing significant hours of lecturing and student contact in a class for which they are serving as a TA, or by serving as the instructor of record for a class of their own. During these semesters, graduate students must receive teaching evaluations from their students.

H. Residence
Minimum residence of two years and the equivalent of three years of full-time graduate study are ordinarily required. Unless admitted as part-time students (which happens very rarely), residents must register for full-time study until they are advanced to candidacy. Full-time study is 12 credits during the first year and nine thereafter.

I. Dissertation
The approval of the dissertation proposal and successful oral defense of the completed dissertation are required.

Within Area Course Requirements: In addition to satisfying Graduate School and departmental degree requirements, students must satisfy all of the course requirements of their training programs.

Biopsychology
Complete the following courses (required of all Biopsychology Area students):

PSY 561 Cognitive and Behavioral Neuroscience I
PSY 562 Cognitive and Behavioral Neuroscience II
Complete at least two of the following courses:

PSY 560 Neuropsychology
PSY 564 Neuropsychopharmacology
PSY 620 Seminars in Selected Topics: Affective Neuroscience
PSY 620 Seminars in Selected Topics: Cognitive Neuroscience
Sign up for the following sequence each year (required of all Biopsychology Area students):

PSY 581 Cognitive and Behavioral Neuroscience Colloquium I
PSY 582 Cognitive and Behavioral Neuroscience Colloquium II

Clinical Psychology
Complete the following courses in the first year (required of all Clinical Area students):

PSY 534 Assessment: General Principles, Clinical Interviews, and Adult Psychopathology
PSY 602 Assessment: Personality Testing, Intellectual/Cognitive Testing, and Child/Parent Assessment
PSY 537 Methods of Intervention: Treatment of Internalizing Disorders
PSY 538 Methods of Intervention: Treatment of Externalizing Disorders and Relationship Problems
PSY 545 Psychopathology: Conceptual Models and Internalizing Disorders
PSY 596 Psychopathology: Externalizing and Psychotic Disorders
PSY 603 Ethics and Professional Issues

Complete the following courses in the second year (required of all Clinical Area students):
PSY 535 Advanced Research Methods
PSY 604 Intervention Practicum
PSY 605 Advanced Clinical Practicum
PSY 606 Supervised Practice
PSY Breadth Course 1

Complete the following courses in the third year:
PSY 533 Principles Applicable to Clinical Psychology: Historical & Systemic Perspectives
PSY 606 Supervised Practice (Fall and Spring)
PSY Breadth Course 2
PSY Breadth Course 3
PSY 698 Research (Fall and Spring)

Complete dissertation (PSY 699) during the fourth year and complete internship (PSY 608) in the fifth year.

**Cognitive/Experimental Psychology**

Complete three of the following:
PSY 513 Attention and Thought
PSY 514 Sensation and Perception
PSY 518 Memory
PSY 520 Psycholinguistics
PSY 610/620 Seminars in Selected Topics: Cognition

Sign up for the following sequence each year (required of all students):
PSY 583 Experimental Colloquium I
PSY 584 Experimental Colloquium II

The Cognitive/Experimental Area also requires submission of a First-Year Research Paper requiring data collection and analysis. This paper must be submitted to the advisor and area head at the end of the second semester of graduate study.

**Social and Health Psychology**

Complete two of the following courses:
PSY 541 Social Psychology of Close Relationships
PSY 543 Attachment
PSY 544 Emotions & Cognition
PSY 549 Prejudice & Discrimination
PSY 555 Social Psychology

PSY 558 Theories of Social Psychology: Health Applications

PSY 559 Psychology of Women’s Health

Complete an additional special topics course in the Social and Health Area (PSY 610 or PSY 620). Alternatively, students can complete an additional course from the preceding category.

Students must complete one of the quantitative courses listed below or an additional methods or statistics course as approved by the student’s advisor or Area Head.

PSY 505 Structural Equation Modeling & Advance Multivariate Methods

PSY 506 Psychometrics

PSY 535 Advanced Research Methods

PSY 610 Seminars in Selected Topics: Meta-Analysis

Faculty of Psychology Department

Distinguished Professors
Goldfried, Marvin, Ph.D., 1961, University at Buffalo: Lesbian, gay and bisexual issues; psychotherapy process research; cognitive behavior therapy; delineation of common therapeutic principles across theoretical orientations. Clinical Program

O’Leary, K. Daniel, Director of Clinical Training. Ph.D., 1967, University of Illinois: Etiology and treatment of marital discord and spouse abuse; physical aggression in intimate relationships; the effects of marital discord on partner depression; memory for interpersonal events. Clinical Program

Rachlin, Howard, Emeritus, Ph.D., 1965, Harvard University: Choice, decision making, behavioral economics, self-control, addiction, gambling, and time allocation in humans and other animals. Cognitive/Experimental Program

Professors
Aron, Arthur, Ph.D., 1970, University of Toronto, Canada: Motivation and cognition in close relationships; intergroup relations; social neuroscience. Social and Health Program

Brennan, Susan E., Graduate Program Director, Ph.D., 1990, Stanford University: Language production and comprehension; speech disfluencies; human/computer interaction; computational linguistics; eye gaze as a measure of language processing and as a cue in conversation. Cognitive/Experimental Program

Davila, Joanne, Ph.D., 1993, University of California, Los Angeles: Interpersonal functioning and psychopathology, depression, maladaptive personality styles, close relationships, attachment processes. Clinical Program


Gerrig, Richard, Ph.D., 1984, Stanford University: Psycholinguistics; text understanding and representation; nonconventional language; cognitive experiences of narrative worlds. Cognitive/Experimental Program

Klein, Daniel N., Chair, Ph.D., 1983, University at Buffalo: Psychopathology; mood disorders; assessment, classification, course, development, familial transmission, and treatment of depression; child temperament and personality development. Clinical Program

Levine, Marvin, Emeritus, Ph.D., 1959, University of Wisconsin: Problem solving, especially heuristics, and the use of spatial information; comparison of Buddhist and Western views of human nature. Clinical Program

Lobel, Marci, Head, Social and Health Area. Ph.D., 1989, University of California, Los Angeles: Stress, coping, and physical health; psychosocial factors in pregnancy and birth outcomes; social comparison processes. Social and Health Program

O’Leary, Susan G., Emeritus, Ph.D., 1972, Stony Brook University: Theoretical and applied research on discipline practices in the home; prevention and early intervention vis-a-vis oppositional and conduct-disordered children. Clinical Program

Rajaram, Suparna, Ph.D., 1991, Rice University: Human memory and amnesia; implicit and explicit memory distinctions; new learning in amnesia; priming, social influences on individual memory; experimental investigation of remembering and knowing the past. Cognitive/Experimental Program


Samuel, Arthur G., Chair, Ph.D., 1979, University of California, San Diego: Perception, psycholinguistics, and attention; perception of speech as a domain of study in cognitive psychology; spatial and temporal properties of visual attention. Cognitive/Experimental Program
Squires, Nancy K., Ph.D., 1972, University of California, San Diego: Neuropsychology; neurophysiological measures of sensory and cognitive functions of the human brain, both in normal and clinical populations. Biopsychology Program

Waters, Everett, Ph.D., 1977, University of Minnesota: Social and personality development; parent-child and adult-adult attachment relationships. Social and Health Program

Waters, Harriet Salatas, Ph.D., 1976, University of Minnesota: Cognitive development (comprehension and production of prose; memory and problem solving) and social cognition (mental representations of early social experiences, construction and socialization processes). Social and Health Program

Whitaker-Azmitia, Patricia, Undergraduate Program Director, Ph.D., 1979, University of Toronto: Animal models of autism and Down syndrome; serotonin and its role in brain development. Biopsychology Program

Wortman, Camille. Ph.D., 1972, Duke University: Reactions to stressful life experiences; the role of social support and coping strategies in ameliorating the impact of life stress; predictors of good psychological adjustment among those who experience major losses, including bereavement and serious injury; others’ reactions to those who experience life crisis. Social and Health Program

Associate Professors


Canli, Turhan, Ph.D., 1993, Yale University: The genetic and neural basis of personality and emotion. Biopsychology Program

Franklin, Nancy, Head, Cognitive/Experimental Area. Ph.D., 1989, Stanford University: Human memory; source monitoring; spatial cognition; mental models. Cognitive/Experimental Program

Freitas, Antonio L., Ph.D., 2002, Yale University: Social cognition, motivation, self-regulation. Social and Health Program

Hajcak, Greg, Ph.D., 2006, University of Delaware: Psychophysicsiology, emotion, cognition; anxiety disorders and their treatment. Clinical Program

Leung, Hoi-Chung, Ph.D., 1997, Northwestern University: Prefrontal and parietal function in human cognition; neural mechanisms underlying spatial information processing and eye movement control; FMRI applications in cognitive neuroscience. Biopsychology Program

Levy, Sheri, Ph.D., 1998, Columbia University: Ideologies and lay theories; intergroup relations; prejudice reduction; volunteerism. Social and Health Program

Moyer, Anne, Ph.D. 1995, Yale University: Psychosocial issues surrounding cancer risk: research synthesis and research methodology. Social and Health Program


Assistant Professors

London, Bonita, PhD. 2006, Columbia University: Social identity and intergroup processes; stereotyping and prejudice; academic achievement. Social and Health Program

Luhmann, Christian, Ph.D., 2006, Vanderbilt University: High-level cognition; causal and associative learning, probabilistic reasoning, economic and perceptual decision making, neuroimaging and computational modeling. Cognitive/Experimental Program

Research Faculty

Heyman, Richard, Research Professor. Ph.D., 1992, University of Oregon: Escalation and de-escalation of family conflict; observation of couples; defining and assessing family maltreatment; innovative approaches to prevalence estimation of secretive problems (family maltreatment, substance abuse, suicidality); community-based prevention of secretive problems; clinical assessment and treatment of relationship dissatisfaction and partner abuse. Clinical Program

Slep, Amy Smith, Research Associate Professor. Ph.D., 1995, Stony Brook University: Affect regulation in parent-child and marital dyads; etiology of parental and partner aggression/abuse; connections between parenting and marital functioning. Clinical Program

Vivian, Dina, Associate Professor. Director, Psychology Center Ph.D., 1986, Stony Brook University: Marital therapy; communication skills in maritally discordant couples; communication and problem solving in physically abusive couples; cognitive and affective processes in physically abusive and maritally discordant couples. Clinical Program

Joint and Associated Faculty

Stony Brook University Graduate Bulletin: www.stonybrook.edu/gradbulletin
Biegon, Anat, Ph.D., 1980, Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel, Senior Scientist, Medical Department, Brookhaven National Labs: Brain response to traumatic, ischemic or inflammatory insults. Biopsychology Program

Brown, Stephanie L., Ph.D., 1999, Arizona State University: Altruism, prosocial behavior, and health; compassion neuroscience; hormones and behavior; evolutionary constraints on social relationships and the "caregiving system". Social and Health Program

Crowell, Judith A., Professor, Psychiatry: Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. M.D., 1978, University of Vermont: the attachment system across the life span; parent-child and adult-adult interactions. Social and Health Program


Fischel, Janet, Professor, Pediatrics. Ph.D., 1978, University at Stony Brook: Behavioral and developmental pediatrics; developmental language disorders and emergent literacy skills; psychological management of disorders of elimination. Clinical Program

Goldstein, Rita Z., Assistant Scientist, Ph.D., 1999, University of Miami: Neuroimaging (fMRI, PET, ERP); Neuropsychology (reward processing/salience attribution, inhibitory control, and extinction); and Drug Addiction (comorbidity with depression, PTSD, aggression and anger). Biopsychology Program

Huffman, Marie K., Ph.D., 1989, University of California, Los Angeles: Phonetics: phonology. Cognitive/Experimental Program

Kritzer, Mary, Associate Professor, Neurobiology and Behavior, Ph.D., Yale University, 1989: Gonadal hormone influence over function and dysfunction in the cerebral cortex. Biopsychology Program

Krupp, Lauren, Associate Professor, Neurology. M.D., 1981, Albert Einstein College of Medicine: Neuropsychological and neurobehavioral characteristics of chronic mental illness; interrelationship between memory performance and mood disturbance in chronic fatigue syndrome, Lyme disease, and Multiple Sclerosis. Biopsychology Program

Kotov, Roman, Research Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry: Psychiatric Epidemiology. Ph.D., 2006, University of Iowa: Classification of mental illness; relationships between personality and psychopathology; clinical assessment. Clinical Program

Lavine, Howard, Ph.D., 1994, University of Minnesota: Political psychology; cognition. Social and Health Program

London, Manuel, Professor, College of Business and Center for Human Resource Management. Ph.D. 1974, Ohio State University: Organizational psychology; person perception applied to performance ratings, feedback, and performance management systems; group learning and team development; dispositional factors affecting involvement in social advocacy. Social and Health Program

Morin, Lawrence P., Professor, Psychiatry, Ph.D., 1974, Rutgers University, Institute of Animal Behavior: Biological rhythms; environment and reproduction; endocrine system and behavior. Biopsychology Program

Sprafkin, Joyce, Associate Professor, Psychiatry. Ph.D., 1975, University at Stony Brook: Child psychopathology; ADHD; tic disorders; effects of television on child behavior. Clinical Psychology Program

Stone, Arthur, Professor, Psychiatry. Ph.D., 1978, University at Stony Brook: Stress, coping, and illness; immune system functioning and health. Clinical Program, Social and Health Program

Thanos, Peter, Staff Scientist, Laboratory for Neuroimaging, Brookhaven National Lab, Ph.D. Eastern Virginia Medical School, 1997: Addiction, including: alcohol, drug abuse and obesity. Biopsychology Program

Adjunct Faculty

Burkhard, Barbara, Assistant Professor and Director, Child Treatment Program, North Suffolk Center. Ph.D., 1976, University at Stony Brook: Child abuse and neglect.

Peterson, Anne, Professor and Associate Director, University Counseling Center. Ph.D., 1980, Ohio University: Psychopathology, assessment, psychodynamic psychotherapy, women’s issues, couple’s therapy, and multicultural issues.

Sternglanz, Sarah, Assistant Professor, Social Sciences Interdisciplinary Program. Ph.D., 1973, Stanford University: Human ethology; sex roles; social learning theory; female academic and career success.

NOTE: The course descriptions for this program can be found in the corresponding program PDF or at COURSE SEARCH.