

Psychology, PhD (Boston)

The PhD program in the Department of Psychology covers a wide spectrum of contemporary behavioral science within a close-knit community of faculty and students. The program offers experimental emphasis and coursework in behavioral and developmental neuroscience, cognitive science, sensation and perception, and social/affective science. The program does not offer training in clinical or counseling psychology. The objective of the PhD program is to prepare students to become experts in research and teaching in psychology. To accomplish this goal, the department takes a mentoring approach whereby the graduate students are apprentices in faculty laboratories, working closely with their faculty mentors throughout their time in the program. The basic apprenticeship relationship is supplemented by other activities, such as required courses (concentrated in the first and second years), advanced seminars and/or course work in this as well as other departments or universities, a colloquium series, assignments as teaching assistants, the master's project, and the dissertation and its oral defense. After the first year, the structure of the doctoral program, including course work, is flexible and assumes that the process of learning and scientific discovery must be individualized. Graduate students also have an opportunity to develop their teaching and research skills through close mentoring of undergraduate research assistants. The PhD program is a five-year, twelve-months-per-year program.

The dissertation committee must include at least three tenured or tenure-track faculty members from within the psychology department—two from the student's interest area and one from another area. The oral defense committee consists of the dissertation committee plus additional tenured and tenure-track faculty members from the psychology department.

Students who do not qualify for the doctoral degree, but who have completed required coursework with a cumulative GPA of 3.000 or better, may be eligible to receive a terminal MS Psychology (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/graduate/science/psychology/psychology-ms/>) degree. Note that no students will be admitted directly into the Psychology program to pursue a master's degree.

Program Requirements

Bachelor's Degree Entrance

Complete all courses and requirements listed below unless otherwise indicated.

Milestones

- First-year paper
- Master's proposal
- Master's paper
- Master's presentation
- Annual review
- Dissertation committee
- Dissertation proposal
- Dissertation
- Dissertation defense
- At least two assigned courses as teaching assistant

Core Requirements

All graduate courses within the Department of Psychology are graded S/U. A grade of S is required in each psychology department course.

Code	Title	Hours
Fundamentals		
Complete the following:		
PSYC 5110	Cognitive Science	3
PSYC 5170	Social and Affective Science	3
Complete one of the following:		3
PSYC 5115	Colloquium	
PSYC 5120	Proseminar in Sensation	
PSYC 5130	Proseminar in Perception	
PSYC 5140	Proseminar in Biology of Behavior	
PSYC 5150	Proseminar in Clinical Neuroscience	
Research Dissemination		
PSYC 5301	Research Methods in Psychological Sciences	3
Quantitative Methods		
PSYC 5180	Quantitative Methods 1	3
PSYC 5181	Quantitative Methods 2	3

Ethics		
PSYC 7302	Ethics and Professional Issues	3
Project		
Take the following (repeatable) course three times:		9
PSYC 8401	Research Project	
Thesis		
Take the following (repeatable) course twice:		6
PSYC 7990	Thesis	

Electives

Code	Title	Hours
Complete 14 semester hours from the following:		14
Note: Proseminars not taken to fulfill core requirements and courses outside the department may be taken if approved by faculty adviser and Director of Graduate Studies.		
PSYC 7200 to PSYC 7300		
PSYC 5110	Cognitive Science	
PSYC 5115	Colloquium	
PSYC 5120	Proseminar in Sensation	
PSYC 5130	Proseminar in Perception	
PSYC 5140	Proseminar in Biology of Behavior	
PSYC 5150	Proseminar in Clinical Neuroscience	
PSYC 5170	Social and Affective Science	
PSYC 8402	Special Topics in Psychology	

Dissertation

Code	Title	Hours
PSYC 9990	Dissertation Term 1	
PSYC 9991	Dissertation Term 2	
Complete the following (repeatable) course until graduation:		
PSYC 9996	Dissertation Continuation	

Program Credit/GPA Requirements

50 total semester hours required
Minimum 3.000 GPA required

Plan of Study

Year 1					
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer Full Semester	Hours
Complete the following:		Complete the following:		PSYC 8401	3
PSYC 5110		3 PSYC 5170		3 Elective	3
PSYC 5180		3 PSYC 5181		3 Elective	2-3
PSYC 8401		3 PSYC 8401		3	
		Complete one of the following:		3	
		PSYC 5120			
		PSYC 5130			
		PSYC 5140			
		PSYC 5150			
		PSYC 5115			
		9		12	8-9
Year 2					
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer Full Semester	Hours
Elective		3 Elective		3 PSYC 7302	3
Complete the following:		Complete the following:		PSYC 7996	0
PSYC 7990		3 PSYC 7990		3 Elective	3

PSYC 5301		3			
		9		6	
Year 3					
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer Full Semester	Hours
PSYC 9990		0 PSYC 9991		0 PSYC 9996	0
		0		0	
Year 4					
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer Full Semester	Hours
PSYC 9996		0 PSYC 9996		0 PSYC 9996	0
		0		0	
Year 5					
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer Full Semester	Hours
PSYC 9996		0 PSYC 9996		0 PSYC 9996	0
		0		0	
Total Hours: 50-51					

Advanced Entry Program Requirements

The PhD program in the Department of Psychology covers a wide spectrum of contemporary behavioral science within a close-knit community of faculty and students. Advanced Entry is for students who enter possessing a master's degree in psychology or another acceptable field. The program offers four overlapping areas of experimental emphasis: behavioral neuroscience, cognition, perception, and social/personality. The program does not offer training in clinical or counseling psychology. The objective of the PhD program is to prepare students to become experts in research and teaching in psychology. To accomplish this goal, the department takes a mentoring approach whereby the graduate students are apprentices in faculty laboratories, working closely with their faculty mentors throughout their time in the program. The basic apprenticeship relationship is supplemented by other activities, such as required courses (concentrated in the first and second years), advanced seminars and/or course work in this as well as other departments or universities, a colloquium series, assignments as teaching assistants, the master's project, and the dissertation and its oral defense. After the first year, the structure of the doctoral program, including course work, is flexible and assumes that the process of learning and scientific discovery must be individualized. Graduate students also have an opportunity to develop their teaching and research skills through close mentoring of undergraduate research assistants. The PhD program is a five-year, 12-months-per-year program.

For students who enter the program with a suitable master's degree, degree candidacy is established through completion of a set of requirements determined on an individual basis. An additional 20 semester hours beyond the master's degree are required for the PhD degree. The dissertation committee must include at least three tenured or tenure-track faculty members from within the psychology department—two from the student's interest area and one from another area. The oral defense committee consists of the dissertation committee plus additional tenured and tenure-track faculty members from the psychology department.

Complete all courses and requirements listed below unless otherwise indicated. Individual programs of study will be tailored to acknowledge students' previous coursework.

Milestones

- Master's presentation
- Annual review
- Dissertation committee
- Dissertation proposal
- Dissertation
- Dissertation defense
- At least two assigned courses as teaching assistant

Core Requirements

A grade of S is required in each psychology department course.

Code	Title	Hours
Consult your faculty adviser and director of graduate studies for acceptable coursework.		10

Electives

Code	Title	Hours
Consult your faculty adviser and graduate director for acceptable electives.		10

Dissertation

Code	Title	Hours
PSYC 9990	Dissertation Term 1	
PSYC 9991	Dissertation Term 2	
Complete the following (repeatable) course until graduation:		
PSYC 9996	Dissertation Continuation	

Program Credit/GPA Requirements

20 total semester hours required
Minimum 3.000 GPA required

Note: The number of semester hours to complete this program may be more than 20. The number of semester hours and the specific required courses will be determined by a review of previous coursework by the graduate director and faculty adviser.