

COGNITIVE

1. Coursework

The minimum course requirements for the PhD set by the Graduate School is 9 quarters of full-time course registration (a minimum of 3 courses per quarter). To achieve some degree of familiarity with the whole field of psychology, each graduate student in the Department of Psychology enrolls in a proseminar the first two quarters of their first year, a research ethics course in the spring quarter of the first year, and takes three statistics courses over the first three quarters (Psychology 450, 451, and 453). Students in the Cognitive Program also take courses designed to serve as a foundation for later specialization within the area. The course requirements are fulfilled by any 6 courses taught by the program faculty that are either 400-level or are on the list of approved 300-level courses (Different Psych 460 courses must be taken with separate faculty members. Otherwise explicit approval is needed). In addition, one or more courses outside of the Cognitive area is required.

Approved 300-level Courses

- 314-Special Topics (within the cognitive area)
- 324-Perception
- 334-Psychology of Language
- 358-Left Brain, Right Brain
- 361-Brain Damage and the Mind
- 362-Images of cognition

Approved 400-level Courses

- 446-Human Memory and Cognition
- 461-Reasoning and Representation
- 466-Analogy and Similarity
- 460-Special Topics in Cognition

Note: Students can petition to make substitutions and variations. Core courses are to be taken in the first two years.

Beyond these core courses, no particular course is required of all students in the program. Each student is free to develop a program that will combine breadth and depth, in and outside the Psychology Department, to meet his or her objectives. To meet the requirement of one or more courses outside of the Cognitive area, students may take courses in other areas of the Psychology department, or outside the department.

Quantitative requirement: Because of the great importance of methodology, particularly of a quantitative sort, in all branches of psychology, every student in the Cognitive program is required to take **six** courses with a quantitative or formal

emphasis, which can include the required statistics sequence (Psych 450, 451, and 453). Which specific courses are most appropriate for a given student will depend both on career objectives and on courses previously taken.

Since research training is a vital function of the program, students are also encouraged to engage in "Independent Study" even in their first year. Each unit of independent study counts as one course credit. Few formal courses at the graduate level are given during the summer session. Summers are used for independent work and research.

Advanced students (2nd year and higher) must present their research findings or plans at least once a year in the cognitive brownbag series. Students are also strongly encouraged to seek out opportunities for giving guest lectures in courses and conference presentations.

Related Courses

Graduate students may take other 300-level courses for credit. However, if they wish for these courses to count towards the program area's core requirement, they must petition the area director. The list of course below is not exhaustive and is subject to change.

Psychology

- 450 Fundamentals of Statistics
- 451-1,2 Statistics in Experimental Design
- 453 Linear Models
- 454 Psychological Measurement

Philosophy

- 325 Philosophy of Mind
- 350 Systematic Logic
- 358 Epistemology
- 454 Philosophy of Science

Linguistics

- 305 Lexical Semantics
- 306 Fundamentals of Syntax
- 329 Pragmatics
- 454 Psychology of Hearing Impairment

Learning Disabilities

- 422 Learning Disabilities in Late Childhood and Adolescence
- 424 Neuropsychology and Learning Disabilities
- 487 Reading and Learning Disabilities

Speech and Language Pathology

- 337 Language Development and Usage
- 437 Developmental Semantics and Syntax

2. First Year Project

During their first year, students are expected to conduct significant empirical research in their field under the mentorship of their primary advisor. A paper reporting the results of this research is due on **August 31st** following the first year in the program. This paper is then evaluated by the student's advisor and one other member of the Area faculty, who must give formal approval before the beginning of the student's second year. The first year research is presented to the Cognitive area during the second year as the student's Brownbag talk and serves as the foundation for the Master's thesis.

3. Master's Thesis

Each student who does not have a master's degree on entering the program must write a master's thesis. This is normally a revision of the student's first-year paper, incorporating corrections and additions, as specified by the readers of the first-year paper. We strongly recommend that the finished version of the thesis receive formal approval from the student's advisor and second reader by **December 15th** of the second year. To receive the master's degree, the student must also follow the guidelines required by The Graduate School concerning when and how to file for the degree.

4. Third Year Comprehensive Exam/Qualifying Paper

In the third year Cognitive students must write a paper that analyzes and reviews a substantive area of cognitive psychology. The topic and the completed paper must be approved by at least two faculty members from the program faculty, including the major advisor. The paper may, but need not, form part of the background for the dissertation. The paper should be submitted to the student's faculty readers by July 31st of the third year, and the final version of the paper incorporating the readers' feedback should be completed and receive final approval by August 30th. This third year review paper serves as the PhD comprehensive qualifying exam for the Cognitive area, and completion of this milestone must be filed with The Graduate School (TGS) in order to be admitted to candidacy for the Ph.D. TGS requires that the comprehensive qualifying exam be successfully completed no later than August 30th following students' third year in the program.

5. Dissertation Proposal

After the student has successfully passed the Master's and the third-year paper requirement, he/she then forms a Ph.D. committee consisting of the primary advisor plus at least two other faculty members (with prior approval, committee members may be faculty outside the Psychology department). In consultation with the committee, the student is expected to prepare a written prospectus for the

Ph.D. project, and to present this prospectus during an oral examination conducted by committee members. This oral examination normally covers the dissertation proposal but need not be limited to that. The oral examination must be completed, and approval for the Ph.D. project received, by August 31 of the fourth year. Completion of this milestone must be filed with The Graduate School (TGS) by this date. All other requirements must be completed before this oral examination may be taken.

6. Dissertation Defense

The final oral defense covers the completed dissertation. The Ph.D. defense is normally held in the spring of the fifth year or earlier. The student must also follow the guidelines required by The Graduate School (TGS) concerning when and how to file for the completion of the Ph.D. program.

For all milestones, students must complete a TGS form to officially register completion of the milestone. Students can do this by logging in to CAESAR and clicking on Main Menu, then TGS Forms. Print out a hard copy of the completed form (the Graduate Program Coordinator can print the qualifying exam form for you), and take it to the meeting for committee members to sign. The signed copy should be given to the Graduate Program Coordinator for submission to TGS.