PhD in Psychology

Program Overview

The Doctor of Philosophy degree in Psychology is designed for students who have completed a Master's degree and are interested in pursuing advanced doctoral training in topics related to health and mental health, statistics, and research methods. Graduates will have a reputation for research excellence and make contributions to applied areas of knowledge, especially in settings related to military health. Graduates are expected to have strong skills in conducting research including data analysis and interpretation, using the most advanced research methods and statistical techniques. Graduates are also expected to be able to implement practical applications of psychological theory in military environments and to have the communication skills necessary to convey their theoretical and methodological expertise to others. In order to meet these objectives, the program provides students with the opportunity to acquire a strong conceptual background in Psychology and provides opportunities for advanced training in quantitative and research methodologies. Although the program does not lead to licensure, students will have opportunities to develop their scientific writing and oral communication skills and to apply their knowledge and skills in both laboratory settings and in ecologically-valid settings pertaining to military health.

Admission Requirements

Applications are due on February 1. All students admitted to the program must meet University-wide requirements as outlined in the UTSA Graduate Catalog. In addition, the following factors will be considered for admission:
1. A 36-hour Master’s degree in Psychology that required completion of a Master’s thesis and courses comparable to those required by the UTSA Psychology Masters of Science program.
2. A Master’s degree transcript documenting a GPA of 3.5 or higher.
3. Graduate Record Exam (GRE) General Test scores no older than 5 years, which will be weighed in conjunction with the other material in the applicant’s file.
4. Three letters of recommendation.
5. A 3-page statement of career goals, research interests, and purpose for pursuing a Ph.D.
6. Documentation of prior research experience.
7. For applicants whose native language is not English, a score of at least 550 on the TOEFL.

Topics of Study

Theories from many areas of psychology are applied in research on health issues, including social psychology, cognitive psychology, biopsychology, developmental psychology, and clinical psychology. The interests of the faculty reflect our integrative approach to training students to conduct research on issues related to health and mental health among members of the military and their family. For example, ongoing research by faculty addresses PTSD, substance use, partner violence, health related risk taking, stress and coping, pain, anger management, emotional experience and regulation in the workplace, training for stressful environments, depression and suicide ideation, and measurement of these factors.
Required Coursework

Core Courses (9 hours required)
PSY 7003  Multivariate Statistical Analysis (3 hours)
PSY 7013  Advanced Research Design (3 hours)
PSY 7023  Military Health Psychology (3 hours)

Advanced Seminar Topics (12 hours selected from the following)
PSY 7103  Advanced Topics in Biopsychology (3 hours)
PSY 7113  Advanced Topics in Clinical Psychology (3 hours)
PSY 7123  Advanced Topics in Applied Social Psychology (3 hours)
PSY 7133  Advanced Topics in Applied Cognitive Psychology (3 hours)
PSY 7143  Advanced Topics in Diversity and Health Disparities (3 hours)

Prescribed Electives (6 hours selected from the following)
PSY 7203  Grant Development  STAT 5253  Time Series Analysis
PSY 7213  Program Evaluation  STAT 6113  Bayesian Statistics
DEM 7233  Forecasting  STAT 6853  Categorical Data Analysis
STAT 5413  Nonparametric Statistics

Research and/or Internship (9 hours required)
PSY 6513  Psychology Research Internship (3 hours)
PSY 7911-6  Doctoral Research (3 hours)

Dissertation research (minimum 12 hours required)
PSY 7921-6  Doctoral Dissertation

UTSA Faculty
Michael R. Baumann, Ph.D., Social/Organizational Psychology
James H. Bray, Ph.D., Clinical Psychology
Thomas R. Coyle, Ph.D., Cognition and Development
Ann R. Eisenberg, Ph.D., Developmental Psychology
Ephrem Fernandez, Ph.D., Clinical and Health Psychology
Robert W. Fuhrman, Ph.D., Social Cognition
Edward Golob, Ph.D., Experimental Psychology
Willie Hale, Ph.D., Social and Quantitative
Stella G. Lopez, Ph.D., Experimental Psychology
Deborah L. Mangold, Ph.D., Biological Psychology
Mary McNaughton-Cassill, Ph.D., Clinical Psychology
Sandra Morissette, Ph.D., Clinical Psychology
Augustine Osman, Ph.D., Clinical Psychology
David R. Pillow, Ph.D., Social Psychology
Paul Romanowich, Ph.D., Experimental Psychology
Michael Ryan, Ph.D., Cognitive Psychology
Alicia A. Swan, Ph.D., Cognitive Psychology
Rebecca Weston, Ph.D., Experimental Psychology
Tina Zawacki, Ph.D., Social and Health Psychology

UTHSC Faculty
Alan L. Peterson, Ph.D., ABPP, Clinical Health Psychology
Jennifer S. Potter, Ph.D., M.P.H., Clinical Psychology

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