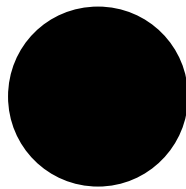


Applied Psychological Research Program Student Handbook



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This publication is for informational purposes only and is not binding on The Pennsylvania State University.

OVERVIEW

Welcome to Penn State Harrisburg and to the Applied Psychological Research program. This handbook has been designed to introduce you to our program and to guide you on your way to graduation and your future career. The Psychology faculty and staff wish you every success and will do everything possible to make your educational experience at Penn State Harrisburg a meaningful one. If you wish to contact us, our offices are all located in room W311 of the Olmsted Building and our phone numbers and email addresses are listed on p. 31 of this handbook.

The Psychology graduate coordinator is Dr. Thomas Bowers. Dr Bowers makes decisions and resolves problems at the program level. The Psychology program is housed in the School of Behavioral Sciences and Education, of which Dr. William Milheim is the School Director. Dr. Milheim is responsible for the overall operation and administration of the entire School of Behavioral Sciences and Education, which contains a number of other academic programs besides Psychology.

All School Directors and all units of the College are responsible to the central administration, which is headed by the Chancellor, Dr. Madlyn Hanes. As the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies, Dr. Marian R. Walters has overall responsibility for all Penn State Harrisburg graduate programs.

SPECIAL ADMISSION ISSUES

Provisional Admission

Students who demonstrate promise but who have minor deficiencies at the time of application might be offered provisional admission to the program. Students admitted with this status must remove these deficiencies within 2 semesters or 15 credits, whichever comes first, before they will be considered degree students. If these deficiencies are not remedied, the student can be dropped from the program. Courses taken to make up admission deficiencies do not count toward graduation.

Nondegree Student Status

Students who do not intend to pursue the M. A. in Applied Psychological Research degree but who want to take graduate-level courses for professional enrichment, professional development, or permanent certification can seek admission as a nondegree student. A maximum of 15 credits earned as a nondegree student may be applied to the M. A. in Applied Psychological Research degree, with the approval of the Psychology program. These credits must have been earned within 5 years preceding entry into the degree program. Nondegree students who later desire formal admission to the program must go through the regular admissions process.

For ethical reasons, nondegree status cannot be used to obtain clinical training for which students would not otherwise qualify. Thus, 500-level clinical-based psychology courses are typically restricted to Psychology degree students. Exceptions to this policy might be made on a case-by-case basis for students who are enrolled in

other graduate programs or who already have a graduate degree in psychology or a related field.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Program Description

The Master of Arts program in Applied Psychological Research focuses on the development of research skills within the context of scientific training in psychology. The program requires 35 credits of course work (29 credits of core courses and 6 credits of electives).

The program is designed to meet the needs of students who plan careers in research or administration within human service or similar organizations, who plan to conduct research in other settings, or who plan to pursue doctoral study. Students can select electives and research experiences to reflect their individual interests in consultation with their advisor.

Degree Requirements

The M.A. in Applied Psychological Research requires 35 credits of course work, including 6 credits of supervised research experience and a master's research paper.

PSYCHOLOGY CORE COURSES: 29 credits

Psychology core courses provide a foundation in professional ethics, individual differences and cultural diversity, the scientific bases of behavior, and scientific research skills.

PSYC 500	Ethics and Professional Practice in Psychology and Counseling (3)
PSYC 501	Cultural Competency in Psychology (3)
PSYC 502	Applied Social Psychology (3)
PSYC 520	Research Methods (4)
PSYC 521	Statistics (4)
PSYC 524	Biological Basis of Behavior (3)
PSYC 530	Research Paper (3)

PSYC 594 Research Topics (6)

ELECTIVE COURSES: 6 credits

Elective courses should be selected in consultation with the student's adviser in support of the student's research focus. Possible elective courses include:

PSYC 510 Human Growth and Development (3)
PSYC 514 Preventive Psychology (3)
PSYC 515 Clinical Health Psychology (3)
PSYC 516 Child Health Psychology (3)
PSYC 525 Forensic Psychology (3)
PSYC 526 Behavioral Systems in Criminal Justice (3)
PSYC 535 Behavioral Management (3)
PSYC 596 Individual Studies (3)
PSYC 597 Special Topics (1-9)

The following courses that are offered through other Penn State Harrisburg graduate programs as electives for APSYR students.

ABA 522 Single Subject Research Designs
ADTED 550 Qualitative Research in ADTED
CMPSY 520 Research Methods II

APSYR students can take the following courses that are offered through the College of Medicine at the Hershey Medical Center (approximately 8 miles from Penn State Harrisburg) for elective credit. Course descriptions can be found at the following web site: <http://www.psu.edu/bulletins/whitebook/courses/hes.htm>

HES 500 Research Ethics for Clinical Investigators (1)
HES 510 Clinical Research Methods (3)
HES 516 Atatistical Genetics (3)
HES 520 Principles of Biostatistics (3)
HES 521 Applied Biostatistics (3)
HES 522 Multivariate Biostatistics (3)
HES 536 Health Survey Research Methods (3)
HES 550 Principles of Epidemiology (3)
HES 551 Advanced Epidemiological Methods (3)
HES 552 Molecular Epidemiology of Chronic Disease (3)
HES 555 Applied Biostatistics
HES 570 Health Economics & Economic Evaluation (3)
HES 580 Clinical Trails: Design & Analysis (3)
HES 581 Clinical Trials: Case Studies (1)
HES 594 Research Topics (3)

Supervised Research Experience

All Applied Psychological Research students are required to successfully complete 6 credits of PSYC 594, Research Topics. This course is intended to give you the experience that you will need to successfully conduct your own research in your chosen career. The PSYC 594 requirement can be fulfilled by either assisting an approved researcher with his/her research or by developing and implementing a project together.

Although PSYC 594 does not have any formal prerequisites, it is typically best to schedule this after you have completed your research methods (PSYC 520) and statistics (PSYC 521) courses. However, individual circumstances might necessitate beginning your applied research experience earlier in the program. Students need to contact a potential faculty research mentor and complete a form, available on the web, in order to register for any credits of PSYC 594.

Your PSYC 594 participation will be most beneficial to you if you give careful thought to the types of research that you would like to do. Toward this end, read the faculty profiles on pages 26 to 30 of this handbook, talk to the faculty, and attend research colloquia to acquaint yourself with the kinds of research opportunities that are available. It is also very important that you consult with your advisor to develop an overall plan that will effectively meet your needs.

Once you have an idea of what you might like to do, speak with the person with whom you would like to work about his or her expectations. Although all research supervisors must be members of both the Penn State Harrisburg psychology faculty and the Penn State graduate faculty, it is also possible to work with other professionals (including those from other disciplines and/or other locations) as long as your research has a psychological focus and is approved by a faculty person who meets the above qualifications.

The 6 required credits hours can be divided across semesters and research projects. Again, however, make sure that you consult with your advisor to develop an overall plan that will effectively meet your needs. Each PSYC 594 credit requires a total of approximately 45 hours of work. This is equivalent to an average of 3 hours a week over a 15-week semester per academic credit, or an average of 9 hours per week for three credits. However, this is only a guideline; the exact time commitment for a particular project is at the discretion of the research supervisor.

Master's Paper

All Applied Psychological Research students are required to write and successfully defend a master's paper as a seminal experience. However, you should not wait until the end of your coursework to begin your planning. Rather, your master's project should be an ongoing development from early in the program, and you should begin serious work on it at least 1 year before your desired graduation date.

This paper may be an empirical study, a conceptual paper, a meta-analysis, or another approved methodology. A complete list of the steps involved in planning, writing,

and defending a master's paper can be found in the *Psychology Program Master's Paper Manual*. You will be given a copy of this when you enter the program.

When you are ready to formally begin work on your master's project, register for PSYC 530, Research Paper. Prerequisites for doing so are completion of PSYC 520, Research Methods, and PSYC 521, Statistics, and permission of the program.

RECOMMENDED PLANS OF STUDY

Recommended plans of study for full- and part-time students follow. Although we realize that you may not be able to follow these schedules exactly, they serve as guidelines for how you can sequence your classes to efficiently progress through the required course work. Deviations from these recommendations will likely increase the time you need to complete the program.

Suggested Schedule for Full-Time Students

Year	Fall	Spring	Summer
1 (26 credits)	PSYC 500 PSYC 501 PSYC 520	PSYC 521 PSYC 524 Elective	PSYC 502 PSYC 594 (3 cr.)
2 (9 credits)	PSYC 530 PSYC 594 (3 cr.) Elective		

Suggested Schedule for Part-Time Students

Year	Fall	Spring	Summer
1 (17 credits)	PSYC 500 PSYC 520	PSYC 524 or Elective PSYC 594 (3 crs.)	PSYC 521
2	PSYC 501	PSYC 524 or Elective)	PSYC 502

(15 credits)

3

(3 credits)

PSYC 594 (3 crs.)

PSYC 530

Elective

AVENUES OF COMMUNICATION

It is very important that there be two-way communication between you and the Psychology program, and there are several means by which we will keep you informed. Program information is posted on bulletin boards that are located in the hallway outside W311. Make it a habit to check these boards regularly. The boards contain advisee lists and information about faculty office hours, class schedules, and the like. The small glass-enclosed board outside W311 contains timely information about upcoming events and deadlines. Some of this information will also be written on the white board in W311, along with notifications of last-minute events.

All mass correspondence with Psychology majors will be to your official Penn State email address. Thus, if you have not yet set up a Penn State email account, it is crucial that you do so immediately. We will not send Program information to non-Penn State email addresses, although it is easy to configure your Penn State email so that it automatically forwards messages to any other email address of your choice. It is your responsibility to check your Penn State email on a timely basis and to take appropriate steps in response to the issues that the Psychology program might raise therein.

We will also post Program information on the School web page, www.hbg.psu.edu/bsed/. ANGEL is a web-based course management system that is also used for communication. Please check your ANGEL classes and groups regularly.

RESOLUTION OF PROBLEMS

If you have a question or a problem related to Program, College, or University policies and procedures, speak with the coordinator. If you have other concerns, talk with either the course instructor (if it is a course-related matter) or with your adviser (if it is a more general issue). If the two of you cannot resolve the problem, the next step is to meet with the Program Coordinator. If the issue is still unresolved after following these steps, you can speak with the School Director, as directed by the Program Coordinator.

ACADEMIC AND CAREER PLANNING

The Importance of Planning

In order to make the most of your time at Penn State Harrisburg, planning is essential. It is a good idea to track your progress through the program by periodically obtaining an updated copy of your transcript from www.eLion.psu.edu/. It also pays to periodically compare your informal records with your official file to make sure that everything is in order. This can be obtained from your adviser or the staff assistant. By planning ahead and carefully monitoring what requirements you have and have not completed, you can avoid unnecessary problems.

Your Adviser

One way to ensure proper planning is to meet regularly with the Psychology advisor who you were assigned to when you entered the Program. Get to know this person! He or she will be able to either answer your questions or to help you find someone who can. Make sure that you allow sufficient time to discuss whatever concerns you might have. When things are not rushed, it is easier to sort out goals and design an appropriate program.

Graduate school can be quite stressful. The work load and the expectations for quality are much greater than for undergraduate study. By helping to plan your schedule, recommending possible internship placements and master's paper topics, providing advice about advanced graduate education or career opportunities, and otherwise guiding you through your studies, your advisor can help to ease this stress.

Faculty are not under contract between May 15 and August 15 and, thus, are not typically available for advising during the summer. They do, however, have set office hours for the fall and spring semesters. Because faculty have other responsibilities, do not expect your advisor to be available to meet with you if you just "stop by" outside of his or her posted office hours. If these times are not good for you, make an appointment for a mutually convenient time when you can get together. It is also a good idea to make an appointment if you want a guaranteed block of time in which to talk.

If you wish to change your adviser, simply ask the person who you would like to have as your new adviser if he or she is agreeable to working with you and, if so, complete a Change of Adviser form. All Psychology advisors must be full-time members of the Psychology faculty.

Scheduling of Classes

It is highly recommended that you meet with your advisor each semester before you register for classes. Although it is ultimately your responsibility to make sure that you fulfill all of your academic requirements, your advisor can help you to develop a workable and balanced schedule. A valuable tool for helping you to efficiently progress through the required course work is the recommended plans of study on pages 6 and 7 of this handbook.

Current course information and registration dates can be found on the Penn State Harrisburg web page, www.hbg.psu.edu/. Early registration decreases the likelihood that a class will be dropped because of low enrollment. Make sure that you register for classes as soon as you possibly can, and by 3 weeks before the end of the previous semester at the latest.

When you go to see your adviser, be prepared. Think about what you want to get out of the meeting. Jot down your questions. Take any material (e.g., draft of your schedule, registration form) that you might need with you, and look them over before the meeting. Scheduling meetings are also a good time to “touch base” with your advisor about other concerns that you might have.

Other Faculty

Faculty members other than your advisor are also available to help you. As you take classes with and otherwise get to know these individuals, you will find that some of them have interests that overlap with yours. Feel free to approach any of the Psychology faculty during their office hours, as they might be able to help you with

advanced graduate education or career opportunities, or to refer you to someone in their network who can. You should also make sure that you familiarize yourself with the faculty's research interests so that you will be able to form a master's paper committee that meets your needs, when you are ready to do. This is discussed further in the *Psychology Program Master's Paper Manual*.

Career Opportunities

Give careful thought to your career goals. The Office of Career Services has a wealth of resources that provide information about almost any career that you might be interested in, and this office can also help you to prepare for your job search. Contact Karl Martz at 717/948-6025 to schedule an individual appointment for career guidance. Your faculty advisor is another valuable source of information about career options.

Penn State Harrisburg's Alumni Mentor Program attempts to match students with alumni who are working in their field of interest. Contact the Alumni Relations Office at 717/948-6715 if you are interested. After you graduate and are working in your chosen field, volunteer to be an alumni mentor yourself.

ACADEMIC POLICIES, RULES, AND PROCEDURES

Graduate School Policies and Procedures

Graduate School academic policies and procedures can be found in the *Graduate Degree Programs Bulletin* at www.psu.edu/bulletins/whitebook/. You should familiarize yourself with this site, as many questions that you might have about academic policies are addressed therein.

Transfer of Credit From an External Institution

Subject to the limitations given below, a maximum of 10 credits of high-quality graduate work completed with a grade of B or above from an accredited institution may be applied toward the requirements for the master's degree. However, credits earned to complete a previous master's degree, whether at Penn State or elsewhere, may not be applied to a second master's degree program at Penn State.

Approval to apply any transferred credits toward a degree program must be granted by the student's academic advisor and the Graduate School. Transfer credits must have been earned at an accredited institution, must be of A or B grade value (B-grades are not acceptable; pass-fail grades are not transferable unless substantiated by the former institution as having at least B quality), must appear on an official graduate transcript, must be earned within the 5 years prior to the date of registration to the M.A. in Applied Psychological Research program, and must be equivalent to the corresponding courses at Penn State Harrisburg. Forms for transferring credit from an external institution can be obtained from the Enrollment Services Office.

Transfer of Graduate Courses from a Penn State Undergraduate Transcript

With the permission of the Program Coordinator, the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies, and the Office of Graduate Enrollment Services, up to 9 credits may be transferred from a Penn State undergraduate transcript to the M.A. in Applied Psychological Research program. However, graduate courses taken to fulfill undergraduate degree requirements can not be applied towards graduate degrees. Forms for transferring graduate courses from a Penn State undergraduate transcript to

a Penn State graduate degree program can be obtained from the Enrollment Services Office or from the staff assistant.

Academic Integrity

Familiarize yourself with University policies on academic integrity. At the beginning of each course, the instructor will provide a statement clarifying the application of academic integrity policies to that course. Make sure to ask him or her to clarify any aspects of these policies that you do not understand. Ignorance is not a valid defense against charges of academic dishonesty. A student charged with violation of academic integrity will be dealt with consistent with University policy.

Changing Programs

Transfer from the Applied Psychological Research program to the Applied Clinical Psychology program is contingent on meeting the following criteria and requires that you complete an Application for Change of Major/Degree Certification form, which you can obtain from the staff assistant. If you are considering such a change, consult with your advisor. The relevant criteria are:

1. Current good academic standing (i.e., GPA of at least 3.0 in the major).
2. No grade below B- in any clinical core courses already taken (i.e., PSYC 510, 517, 518, 519, 540, 571, 595A, 595B).
3. Positive evaluation by site supervisor for any internship experiences completed.
4. No interpersonal or ethical problems that could interfere with clinical practice.

This determination will be based on the collective judgment of the faculty who have taught or otherwise supervised the student in the program.

5. A new personal statement that explains the reasons for the transfer and highlights the revised career goals of the applicant.
6. Majority vote of all graduate Psychology faculty.

Annual Student Reviews

The academic progress of all full-time students will be reviewed annually by the graduate psychology faculty. Part-time students will be reviewed after they have completed a sufficient number of credits. Students will receive a written summary of the faculty's appraisal of their academic progress, as well as any recommendations for improvement.

Academic Dismissal

All students are expected to maintain satisfactory scholarship and an acceptable rate of progress toward completion of all degree requirements. As defined by the Psychology program, unsatisfactory scholarship includes, but is not limited to, the following, each of which is grounds for dismissal from the graduate Psychology program:

1. Receipt of a grade below B- in two courses. A course in which a D has been obtained cannot be used to meet degree requirements and must be retaken with an earned grade of C or better. A student may also choose to retake a course in which a C+ or C has been obtained. In neither case, however, does retaking the course remove the receipt of the unsatisfactory grade from the student's record.
2. A GPA of less than 3.00 in the major for two consecutive semesters.
3. Receipt of a grade below B- in PSYC 595B.

If the Program determines that a student has exhibited unsatisfactory scholarship, the student will be sent a certified letter from the Program coordinator informing him/her that he/she is being evaluated for possible academic dismissal. This letter will provide an explanation for the possible termination and, if applicable, the conditions for continued enrollment.

A student may request to meet with the graduate psychology faculty to appeal his/her situation by so notifying the Program coordinator via certified mail within 10 days of receipt of the notice of possible dismissal. The coordinator will keep minutes of this meeting and distribute copies to the student and all members of the graduate Psychology faculty.

Following this meeting, the graduate psychology faculty will review the student's appeal and decide whether to uphold the termination or to develop/modify conditions for the student's continued enrollment. This decision will subsequently be communicated to the student via a certified letter from the coordinator. If the decision is made to terminate the student due to unsatisfactory scholarship, the student may make a written request to the Dean of the Graduate School for a further review of the decision within 5 days of receiving the notice of termination. For more information about the process at this stage, refer to Appendix III, *Procedures for Termination of the Degree Program of a Graduate Student for Unsatisfactory Scholarship*, of the *Graduate Degree Programs Bulletin* at www.gradsch.psu.edu/policies/student/appendix3.html.

Credit Overload

The typical credit load for a full-time graduate student is 9 credits per semester. Anything less than this is considered part-time. Students who are seeking to register for more than 9 credits should consult with their adviser. The student in academic difficulty should aim for quality rather than quantity.

“R” Grades

A grade of "R" is sometimes issued in place of a letter grade for PSYC 530, Research Paper, or PSYC 594, Research Topics. For instance, once you register for PSYC 530, you will continue to receive an R each semester until you have successfully defended your master's paper. An R indicates that a student has devoted adequate effort to the work scheduled but gives no indication of quality; thus, it does not influence your GPA.

Interrupted Academic Progress

If you wish to resume your studies after being unregistered for a semester, you must so notify the Enrollment Services Office. However, if you remain unregistered for two or more consecutive semesters, you must receive approval from the Psychology program before you will be allowed to begin taking classes. The staff assistant can make arrangements for you to maintain your library and computer privileges while you are unregistered because you are working on your master's paper.

Time Limitation for Degree Completion

All requirements for the M. A. in Applied Psychological Research (including completion and acceptance of the master's paper) must be met within 8 years of

admission to degree status. Extensions may be granted by the Graduate School in appropriate circumstances.

Graduation Deadlines

There are two important University deadlines that you must meet if you wish to graduate in a timely manner. First, your oral defense must occur on or before the Certification for Completion of Master's Paper deadline for the semester in which you wish to graduate. This deadline, which can be found on the academic calendar at www.hbg.psu.edu, typically occurs around the last week of September or the first week of October for the fall semester, around the end of February or the first week of March for the spring semester, and around the first week of June for the summer sessions. Check the program's website for the final date to submit the revised paper along with the receipt for the binding fee.

Second, if you think that you might in fact be able to defend your master's paper by the Certification for Completion of Master's Paper deadline, you must file your intent to graduate through eLion before that semester's filing deadline. Doing so will ensure that your name appears on that semester's graduation list. The intent to graduate deadline, which can be found on the academic calendar, typically occurs approximately 2 weeks into each semester.

Both of these deadlines are set by the University and cannot be extended. **If you miss either one, you will be unable to graduate until the next semester.** Thus, it is very important that you check the academic calendar prior to the beginning of the semester in which you plan to graduate for the specific dates. For your convenience, we

will also post the current deadlines on the Applied Psychology Association of Penn State Harrisburg ANGEL site.

PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT

Students must adhere to the American Psychological Association's (APA) *Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct*. Allegations of professional misconduct are taken very seriously and will be investigated and dealt with as warranted. Disciplinary action, including termination from the Program, can result from verified violations of the APA principles, which can be found at www.apa.org/ethics/code.html. You should familiarize yourself with these upon your entry to the Program.

ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Research and Applied Centers

There are a number of Centers at the College that conduct research or provide applied services for area businesses, communities, and governments. These can be valuable sources of information and can provide access to certain subject populations. Among the Centers that you might want to consult with are the Center for Community Action and Research, the Center for Environment and Community, and the Center for Survey Research. A complete list of College Centers can be found in the *Guide to Graduate Studies*.

Research Opportunities

All Psychology faculty maintain active research programs and welcome the involvement of graduate students beyond what is required for PSYC 594. Occasionally, individual faculty members have research grants that allow them to hire research assistants on an hourly basis.

We encourage students to share their research experiences by presenting their results at appropriate forums (e.g., the Annual Penn State Graduate School Fair; professional conferences). Student researchers who make a significant contribution to the research effort are often invited by faculty to co-author professional presentations and publications.

Student Organizations

Membership in clubs and organizations can be a valuable educational and social experience. The Applied Psychology Association of Penn State Harrisburg (APAPSH) is a student organization open to all students enrolled in either the Applied Clinical Psychology or Applied Psychological Research programs. The purpose of the club is to support students as they progress through the program and to work with the Psychology faculty to strengthen student-faculty communication. The club also has an ANGEL site for posting important documents and announcements and for other communication. Please support the club's activities. Contact any APAPSH officer to have your name added to the membership list.

In addition to the graduate student organization, the other groups of particular interest to Psychology majors are the Psychology Club and Psi Chi, the National Honor

Society in Psychology. The Psychology Club is open to all interested students, whereas Psi Chi has established membership requirements.

The Psychology Club is a student-run organization for individuals who are interested in psychology. Among other activities, the Psychology Club sponsors a trip to the meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association every year. The Psychology Club can be a valuable resource for Psychology majors, but its success depends on you. We strongly recommend that you join and become actively involved.

Admission to Psi Chi requires that one be admitted to a psychology graduate program, have an overall GPA of 3.0, and have completed 9 credits of graduate psychology classes at Penn State Harrisburg. Students will be invited to join when they meet the academic requirements. The national Psi Chi office sponsors a number of activities and competitive fellowships, as well as an undergraduate research paper competition at the American Psychological Association's annual meeting. Membership in Psi Chi is a lifetime honor, and is transferable to a chapter at any other university if you continue your education after you graduate.

Professional Organizations

The American Psychological Association (APA) and the American Psychological Society (APS) are the world's largest organizations of psychologists. Psychology graduate students are eligible to become student affiliates of both groups, and you are encouraged to join one or both during your first semester. This is a good step towards becoming a "professional." The advantages of affiliating with these organizations are detailed in their membership material, which is available through the Psychology office.

A number of Psychology faculty belong to these organizations and can endorse your applications if you decide to join.

There are also numerous specialized professional organizations (e.g., divisions of APA) that offer student membership. One or more of these might be in your field of interest and, by providing you with publications and networking opportunities in your chosen area, membership in these groups can be very rewarding. Speak to a faculty member who works in a relevant field for information about which of these organizations you might want to affiliate with.

Program Functions

The Psychology program, often in conjunction with APAPSH, sponsors several out-of-class programs that we hope you will attend. Penn State Harrisburg faculty as well as invited researchers from other institutions presents their research at a monthly colloquium series. These presentations provide a good opportunity to see how research problems are conceptualized and studied. There are workshops offered as well as social events to facilitate professional growth and development.

GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RULES

University policies and rules that do not relate to academics per se can be found in the Student Guide to General University Policies and Rules at www.sa.psu.edu/ja/pdf/PoliciesRules.pdf. You should familiarize yourself with this site, as many questions that you might have about nonacademic policies are addressed therein. Included on this web page are policies for free expression, intolerance, sexual harassment, and nondiscrimination, all of which the University, Penn State Harrisburg, and the Psychology program take very seriously.

COLLEGE RESOURCES AND SERVICES

Penn State Harrisburg offers a number of academic and nonacademic resources and services. A detailed description of these can be found in the *Student Handbook*, in the *Guide to Graduate Studies*, and on the Penn State Harrisburg web page.

Although it is not possible to discuss them here at length, we want to make you aware of several resources that might enhance your academic experience in the Psychology program. The Learning Center offers tutoring, clinics, and other services tailored to students' needs. The College also has modern computer labs, and we encourage you to become a proficient computer user.

We also want to introduce you to the Penn State Harrisburg Library, which houses collections of psychology books and journals. However, you should be aware that these holdings are somewhat limited and that some class assignments might necessitate the use of materials that are not available at your campus' library. Contact our reference librarian, Ms. Bernadette Lear (bal19@psu.edu) for assistance.

Fortunately, many additional professional references can be accessed through the computerized Library Information Access System (LIAS). The most commonly used database for psychology literature searches is PsycINFO. Both LIAS and PsycINFO are very user-friendly, and a member of the Library staff will be happy to assist you until you feel comfortable using them. Please be sure electronic sources you use are full text, plus graphics. Generally, websites are not considered to be appropriate sources for research purposes.

Interlibrary Loan is another option for obtaining needed information. However, if you use this service, make sure that you allow ample time for the requested material to arrive. Students can also avail themselves of the Hershey Medical Center Library. Students taking Biological Basis of Behavior, Clinical Health Psychology, and related courses find the Medical Center collection to be especially useful. Although the Hershey Medical Center is part of Penn State, Penn State Harrisburg students cannot check out books directly. Rather, this must be done through Interlibrary Loan.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PSYCHOLOGY STAFF

School Director

William D. Milheim, Director, School of Behavioral Sciences and Education (W351, 717/948-6205) is a Professor of Education. He was a postdoctoral fellow in Educational Psychology, received his Ph.D. in Educational Technology, and his M.Ed. in Community Health Education from Kent State University, and his B.A. in Psychology from the College of Wooster. He began his career in higher education as an instructional designer, providing instructional support for technology-based educational projects. He has published journal articles, edited a book and eight book chapters related to design, development and utilization of instructional technology in addition to numerous presentations at conferences.

Full-Time Psychology Faculty

These individuals advise and mentor students in the Applied Clinical Psychology and Applied Psychological Research programs and also teach courses in these areas. In addition, they are qualified to serve as members or chairs of master's paper committees.

MICHAEL A. BECKER, Associate Professor of Psychology (W311, 717/948-6037), is a social psychologist with interests in a number of areas of social behavior. His research has focused on Type A behavior and human sexual behavior. He is currently investigating the nature and function of sexual fantasy, online sexual addiction, and issues involved in interpersonal attraction and romantic relationships. He is the coauthor of a popular introductory statistics textbook, *Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences*, which is now in its fourth edition.

THOMAS G. BOWERS, Graduate Coordinator, Associate Professor of Psychology (W311, 717/948-6063) received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, and is a licensed psychologist specializing in neuropsychology. His research interests include factors influencing alcohol consumption, smoking cessation and behavioral medicine. He has also conducted research on the efficacy of psychotherapy, indicators of brain-behavioral dysfunction, attention and learning disorders.

GINA BRELSFORD, Assistant Professor of Psychology (W311, 717/948-6759) is a licensed psychologist with a research focus in parent-child interactions. Her research interests include positive psychology, spirituality and religion within individuals and families.

BARBARA A. BREMER, Associate Professor of Psychology (W311, 717/948-6362) is a licensed psychologist specializing in social and health psychology. She received her doctorate from Bryn Mawr College, and is currently an Associate Professor of Psychology. Her primary research interests include issues in health psychology such as medical outcomes assessment, chronic and terminal illnesses, rehabilitation, quality of life, and women's health issues including the impact of family violence. Currently she is examining the impact of chronic disease processes, end of life decision making, the possible role of spirituality in quality of life perceptions, and the effectiveness of treatment programs for domestic violence.

RICHARD FIENE, Undergraduate Coordinator, and Associate Professor of Psychology (W311, 717/948-6061) is a professor of Human Development and Family Studies in the College of Health and Human Development. Dr. Fiene, a research psychologist, has spent his professional career conducting research on child care

quality. His research at the national and state levels has centered on child care licensing, early childhood program accreditation, quality rating systems, and child care/early childhood development training systems and their impact on child care quality, in particular infant child care. Dr Fiene also was the Director of the Division of Licensing Systems & Research in the Office of Licensing and Regulatory Management, Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare. Dr. Fiene has been the Research Director and a Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary in the Pennsylvania Office of Children Youth and Families, Co-chaired the Cross Systems Licensing Project in the Pennsylvania Departments of Public Welfare, Aging, and Health, and was the Research Director for the Child Care/Early Childhood Development Training System.

MARISSA HARRISON, Assistant Professor of Psychology (W311

717/948-6068) Dr. Harrison received her Ph.D. from the State University of Albany. She is a tenure track professor at Penn State Harrisburg. She is interested in interpersonal behavior such as the adaptive significance of kissing, interpersonal attraction and relationships.

HELEN HENDY, Associate Professor of Psychology (570-385-6069)

Dr. Hendy received a Ph.D. in psychology from the University of California, Riverside. She was a primatologist who studied primates in Africa with Jane Goodall before changing to the more applied research area of Health Psychology. One line of her research focuses on child obesity prevention. One example is the development of the Kids Choice Program, which is a school-home partnership that improves children's weight management behaviors and weight status while in their everyday environments and while in the company of their peers. Another example of Dr. Hendy's child obesity

prevention research is the development of the Parent Mealtime Action Scale, which identifies nine dimensions of parent behaviors and their associations with children's weight and diet status. A second line of Dr. Hendy's research focuses on predictors of violence in the close relationships of adults.

REBECCA M. LAFOUNTAIN, Associate Professor of Psychology (W331 717/948-6219) is a licensed psychologist and a Diplomate in Adlerian Psychology. She received her doctorate from the College of William and Mary. She was previously a professor for 14 years at Shippensburg University. She serves as the Executive director of the North American society of Adlerian Psychology and has that as her focus in her clinical work.

SENEL POYRAZLI, Associate Professor of Counseling Psychology (W311, 717/948-6040) received her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from the University of Houston. She is a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Counseling Psychology. Her clinical background includes working with adolescents, college students, and war veterans and dealing with issues related to relationships, adjustment, depression, and trauma. Her research involves college student adjustment process and cross-cultural counseling. Currently, she is examining the relation between ethnic identity, social support, acculturative stress and psychosocial adjustment among international college students.

MARIA A. TURKSON, Assistant Professor of Psychology (W311, 717/948-6065) received her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from the University of Maryland-College Park, and is a licensed psychologist. Her research has focused on therapist

self-care, the therapy relationship between client and therapist (in particular the working alliance), and career development using personality variables as predictors. Most recently, she authored a book chapter for therapists on “restructuring cognitions” in the recently published book, *Leaving it at the Office: A Guide to Psychotherapist Self-Care*. Dr. Turkson received an award and grant from the National Career Development Association for her research on career indecision. She has presented her research at the annual convention of the American Psychological Association. Finally, she is also interested in women’s issues as a teaching and research area.

XU XU, Assistant Professor of Psychology (W311, 717/948-6035) is a cognitive psychologist. General research interests include the relationship between language and thinking, abstract concept representation, and the processing of figurative language. Current research projects focus on the organization and the embodied basis of mental activity concepts, and individual differences in the representation of abstract domains. Interests also include the application of statistical techniques in psychological research.

Affiliated Faculty

Although the primary work responsibility for these individuals is not in the Applied Clinical Psychology or Applied Psychological Research programs, they may sometimes teach courses in these areas. In addition, they are qualified to serve as members or chairs of master's paper committee.

JOHN STEVEN BACKELS, Affiliate Assistant Professor of Psychology

(W117, 717/948-6025) has served as Director of Counseling at Penn State Harrisburg since 1991. A licensed psychologist, he earned his Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology at Ball State University and has worked in college and university counseling settings since 1978. His research interests include therapy outcomes and adult development.

PSYCHOLOGY COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Some of the following are official University course descriptions and some are expanded descriptions intended to provide a more detailed understanding of the course content. The official course descriptions for all Psychology courses can be found in the *Graduate Degree Programs Bulletin* and the *Guide to Graduate Studies*.

PSYC 500 Ethics and Professional Practice in Psychology and Counseling (3 credits). This course will familiarize students with the standards of ethical conduct related to research and practice in psychology. Prerequisite: Admission to Applied Clinical Psychology or Applied Psychological Research programs.

PSYC 501 Cultural Competency in Psychology (3 credits). This course will familiarize students with the need for sensitivity to individual and group differences associated with culture and ethnicity. Prerequisite: Admission to Applied Clinical Psychology or Applied Psychological Research programs.

PSYC 502 Applied Social Psychology (3 credits). An examination of social psychological applications to areas such as health, law, interpersonal relations, environment, politics, and other social issues.

PSYC 510 Human Development and Growth (3 credits). This course will focus on aspects of human development across the entire life span, including infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and aging. Prerequisites: Admission to Applied Clinical program or permission of program.

PSYC 514 Preventive Psychology (3 credits). This course focuses on the theoretical, conceptual, programmatic, and empirical issues currently in preventive psychology. Prerequisite: Admission to program.

PSYC 515 Clinical Health Psychology (3 credits). This course examines wellness maintenance, early detection, and the impact of health care on individuals and the community. Prerequisite: Admission to program.

PSYC 516 Child Health Psychology (3 credits). This course will familiarize students with health issues in the context of child development and family systems. Prerequisite: Admission to Applied Clinical Psychology program.

PSYC 520 Research Methods (4 credits). The course will review experimental, quasi-experimental designs, program evaluation, between subject designs, and with subject or intra-subject designs. Prerequisite: Admission to program.

PSYC 521 Statistics (4 credits). The nature, computation, computer analysis, interpretation, and APA-style write-up will be discussed for a number of statistical tests. Prerequisites: PSYC 520, admission to program, and satisfactory performance on a statistics proficiency exam.

PSYC 524 Biological Basis of Behavior (3 credits). This course focuses on biological determinants of behavior, including evolution, hormones, sensory systems, internal states, reproduction, emotions, learning, and memory. Prerequisite: Admission to Applied Clinical Psychology or Applied Psychological Research programs.

PSYC 525 Forensic Psychology (3 credits). This course will explore social, cognitive, civil and criminal issues related to forensic psychology. Prerequisite: Admission to Applied Clinical Psychology program.

PSYC 526 Behavioral Systems in Criminal Justice (3 credits). The impact of crime on the offender, the victim and society will be studied from the psychological perspective. Prerequisite: Admission to Applied Clinical Psychology program.

PSYC 530 Research Paper (3 credits). Supervised research in psychology for degree candidates. Prerequisites: PSYC 520, PSYC 521, and permission of program.

PSYC 535 Behavioral Management (3 credits). Analysis of determinants of behavior and behavioral ecology. Emphasis on data collection and data evaluation techniques.

PSYC 594 Research Topics (1-6 credits).

PSYC 596 Individual Studies (3 credits).

IMPORTANT EMAIL ADDRESSES, PHONE NUMBERS, AND WEB SITES

School of Behavioral Sciences and Education Staff

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Psychology Faculty Advisors and Staff

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Miscellaneous

Bursar	717/948-6009
Career Services	717/948-6260
Computer & Information Systems	717/948-6188
Continuing Education	717/948-6505
Counseling Center.....	717/948-6025
Enrollment Services	
Academic Records	717/948-6021
Admission.....	717/948-6250
Financial Aid.....	717/948-6307
Health Services	717/948-6015
Housing.....	717/948-6244

Learning Center	717/948-6469
Library	717/948-6070
Police Services.....	717/948-6232
Student Activities.....	717/948-6273
Writing Lab	717/948-6469

Web Sites

eLion	www.eLion.psu.edu/
Graduate Degree Programs Bulletin	www.psu.edu/bulletins/whitebook
Penn State Harrisburg Web Page	www.hbg.psu.edu/
School of Behavioral Sciences and Education Web Page	www.hbg.psu.edu/bsed/
Student Guide to General University Policies and Rules	www.sa.psu.edu/ja/pdf/PoliciesRules.pdf

