

M.A. Psychology
2014-2015 Program Guidebook
Effective 09/08/2014

NOTE:

- 1) This guidebook is subject to change. If it does, students will be notified via email and will be provided with the revised version.
- 2) Policies and program information are located in the Student Handbook and Academic Catalog, to access click on the URL:
<http://catalog.thechicagoschool.edu/>

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Program Overview

The Master of Arts in Psychology (MAP) program is a non-licensure advanced degree program designed for professionals who choose to gain broad knowledge in psychology and wish to advance their careers. The program is designed for those wishing to earn an advanced degree and increase their knowledge of various aspects of human behavior and functioning, such as group dynamics, personality development, culture, psychopathology, interviewing skills, research methods, and professional ethics. The applications of these psychological concepts are broad and potential employment settings include social and human service agencies, non-profit organizations, the government sector, public relations, market research, and management.

The M.A. Psychology program is distinctive in that students apply learning directly to the workplace or area of concentration through their Applied Research Project and other application-based learning methods.

Intensive course work, offered through an online format, balances theory and practice. The course work of 36 semester credit hours may be completed in as little as one year, and is designed for working adults. Course work includes 18 credit hours in foundational psychology, 6 credit hours in the Applied Research Project, with the remaining 12 credit hours taken within the student's concentration area.

The M.A. Psychology program currently offers six concentrations: Applied Behavior Analysis, Child and Adolescent Psychology; International Psychology; Organizational Leadership; Sport and Exercise Psychology; and Generalist.

Mission Statement

Through integration of theory, practice, and technology students in the M.A. Psychology non-licensure program at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology (TCSPP) will gain broad knowledge that will enhance their professional behavior and practice across cultures in the social/behavioral sciences. The students will set themselves apart through a diverse curriculum and creation of an Applied Research Project that will highlight their area of concentration in a real life application of scholarly theory and practice.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program students will be able to:
Program Outcomes

Intervention: integrate knowledge of psychological theory, research, and professional literature to choose professional activities that promote optimal health and well-being in individuals, groups, and systems.

Assessment: demonstrate knowledge of psychological theory and assessment techniques to evaluate various dimensions of human experience across a range of contexts.

Written communication: compose grammatically correct papers reports, and discussion posts of a professional quality, using style and formatting consistent with the most recent APA Style publication manual.

Professional behavior and ethics: demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and practices of ethical decision-making and behavior.

Professionalism: relate to others in professional and responsible ways.

Scientific Knowledge of theory: demonstrate acquired knowledge of the psychological bases of behavior and developmental issues across the lifespan.

Research methods: demonstrate understanding of research, research methodology, techniques of data collection and analysis, as well as ability to apply scientifically derived knowledge.

Diversity and Cultural Competence: respond ethically and effectively to individual and group differences across racial, ethnic, gender, age, social class, disability, sexual orientation and religious boundaries.

Statement of Ethical Guidelines

Students are expected to develop a working knowledge of the ethical and legal issues pertaining to, but not limited to, APA's current Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct for Psychologists; relevant federal, state, and local laws, statutes, regulations, and legal precedents (e.g., the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's *Uniform Guidelines on Employee Selection Procedures*, 1978) as well as the professional norms, standards, and guidelines relevant to the profession.

Turnitin

Turnitin.com is a technology used by TCSP to help teach students how to write academically, and to deter and detect potential instances of plagiarism. It is the policy of Online Campus Programs to utilize Turnitin.com in each course. Originality

Reports generated by Turnitin.com are used to inform feedback on students' academic writing, paraphrasing, and proper use of quotes and citations. Students should also be using the reports to revise their work before each assignment's due date.

Advising

The Department Chair and department faculty are academic advisors for all students in the MAP program.

Students are also assigned to a Student Services Advisor who assists the student throughout the duration of the program. Advisors help with handling general inquiries, monitoring student progress toward graduation requirements, registering students for classes, providing general guidance, support, and self-management assistance.

Students can also access career advisement through the school's Career Services department.

APA Style

All assignments are to be written in APA style using the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th edition. The only exceptions are journal-type "reflection" assignments.

Late Assignments

Late assignments may be accepted only with prior permission. Prior permission means that students make the request more than 24 hours before the assignment is due and that justify the late submission to the instructor through written documentation. Permission to turn in an assignment late is given at the instructor's discretion. Unless there is some extenuating circumstance, late papers must be turned in during the week following the due date. **Note: During the final week of the course late work cannot be accepted so that grades can be posted on-time.**

It is not possible to make up **missed participation in a discussion forum**. If a student misses participating for a documented reason (see above), and at faculty discretion, a one page paper in which the student responds fully to the discussion questions, integrating course material and using APA Style may be accepted for partial credit. This remedy should only be allowed once per term.

Resubmission of Work

Instructors may allow a student to resubmit an assignment if they believe that it would advance the student's learning and skill mastery. Instructors are directed to use this option with discretion. No resubmissions are allowed on the final week of the course.

Extra Credit

No extra credit is given to individual students. However, it is acceptable and fair if the entire class is afforded the opportunity to earn extra points. Use this with discretion. The focus of the learning experience is not to ensure all students receive high grades. Grades should be earned based upon clear understanding and application of the concepts.

Concentration Declaration

Students declare their concentration upon admission into the MAP program. Students may not change their concentration once they have begun courses except with approval from the Department Chair. Acceptance into the chosen concentration is automatic EXCEPT for the Applied Behavior Analysis Concentration, which is contingent upon several factors.

Students wishing to complete the Applied Behavior Analysis Concentration must:

- . 1) Notify Admissions and their Student Advisor at the time of admission of their desire to go into the Applied Behavior Analysis Concentration.
- . 2) Be enrolled in the program as a “half-time” student.
- . 3) Petition to be accepted into the Applied Behavior Analysis concentration by the end of the 2nd week of their 6th term; that is, once a student has completed all MAP core courses as well as the ARP courses, and is ready to take the four-course concentration sequence.
- . 4) Complete the Applied Behavior Analysis Concentration Petition and submit it to their Student Advisor along with their unofficial TCSPS transcript and a letter of recommendation from a MAP instructor.

Acceptance into the concentration will be determined by the MAP Department Chair in consultation with the BCBA Department Chair. The student will be notified if he/she is accepted into the concentration and will be registered for classes accordingly. Students must be in good academic standing in order to be accepted into this concentration.

Failure of any Applied Behavior Analysis course will result in removal from the Applied Behavior Analysis Concentration and placement in the Generalist Concentration.

Applied Research Project (ARP)

All students in the MAP program complete an Applied Research Project (ARP), in which they connect theory to practice. In dialog with their ARP faculty and Instructors, students formulate, investigate, analyze and apply their findings within



their area of concentration or workplace to develop solutions to address a defined problem in the field of psychology.

The ARP is utilized as the summative assessment of the student's learning throughout the program and assesses the student's ability to integrate knowledge from the various courses in the degree program. It is considered a comprehensive examination of the student's knowledge, skills and abilities.

Students complete components of the ARP during each of the credited ARP courses with the support of a faculty member and/or ARP Instructor. Students must successfully pass each ARP course in order to progress into the subsequent ARP course. Successful completion of the ARP and all related courses are a requirement for graduation from the MAP program.