Master’s Program in General Psychology

Policies and Procedures Handbook

2019-2020

*Supplemental to Nova Southeastern University Policy and Procedure Handbook at www.nova.edu/student-handbook

Website: http://psychology.nova.edu

The policies contained in this handbook supersede any previous handbook versions.

Revised: 07/2019
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ACADEMIC REGULATIONS AND INFORMATION

CALENDAR AND CLASSES

Academic Calendar

The academic calendar can also be found on the college’s website https://psychology.nova.edu/students/current-students.html for the most updated information.

Academic Year

The academic year for students is divided into three 15-week semesters. Students are expected to register for classes at the designated time in accordance with procedures outlined in this text and in program literature unless they have an approved leave of absence (see section below on Student Enrollment).

Students are responsible for accessing and reviewing the academic calendar. Please refer to the College of Psychology website at https://psychology.nova.edu/students/current-students.html for the most updated information.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all scheduled learning activities including classes, lectures, and seminars. Anticipated absences should be approved in advance with the instructor. Excessive absences may result in a lower grade at the instructor’s discretion or may necessitate a withdrawal from the course.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

All degree-seeking students are considered full-time students when they register for two or more courses per semester. This requirement is independent of the number of transfer credits the student may receive.

In order to maintain an active student status, all students are to be in continuous registration until they receive their degree unless prior approval is received from the master’s program office. Failure to remain in continuous registration will be considered formal withdrawal from the program. Students who do not complete courses for two consecutive semesters will be considered not in continuous enrollment and will be reviewed by the program office.

Full-time Status

Students are considered to be full-time if they complete six credit hours each semester. A student on financial aid considering completing less than the scheduled credit hours in any given semester should discuss this with the master’s program office and the Office of Student Financial Services and Registration prior to the time of registration. It is the responsibility of the student to seek advisement of options available for completing the Master’s Program.

Leave of Absence

A Leave of Absence (LOA) is a university-approved temporary period of time during which the student is not enrolled, but is not considered withdrawn from the university. A student may request a leave when a good cause can be demonstrated. A request for leave due to poor academic performance is not considered good cause.

Matriculated students (degree candidates) who must interrupt their studies for an adequate reason such as illness may be granted a leave of absence. Students must apply in writing for a leave of absence to the master’s program office. If granted, the leave shall be for a stated period of time, not to exceed one year. Under normal circumstances students should apply for a leave of absence prior to registration for each
semester. Time spent on an approved leave of absence is not charged against the five-year time limit requirement for completion of the program.

Students who interrupt their studies without a leave of absence or register in absentia will be assumed to have terminated their studies. Such students must make a formal application for readmission if they wish to continue the program at a later date.

Non-degree seeking students who must interrupt their studies for an adequate reason, such as illness, must inform the Master’s Program Office.

**Time Limit Requirements**

Students must complete their program within five years from the date of first enrollment. This means that students are expected to graduate with the master’s degree within this time period. In the event that a matriculated student who has not completed all requirements within the five-year time limit, he or she must re-enroll in the master’s program and:

1. Maintain full-time status (minimum six credits per semester).
2. Complete remaining degree requirements, which will include any course work that is more than five years old.

All other program, college, and university requirements will be in effect.

**Failure to Register**

Students who fail to register for a regular semester without a leave of absence are considered to have withdrawn from their program. Such students must make formal application and go through the entire admission process if they wish to reenter the program at a later date.

**ADVISING**

The college offers academic advisement to students. Advisers are accessible to students to assist with course planning and selections, development of a planned program of study, appraisal of their academic standing, review of university policies and procedures, respond to individual circumstances, etc. A formal orientation program will be available to all students to familiarize them with the academic program and requirements, registration procedures, library information, student rights and responsibilities, etc. Students may meet with an adviser regularly during registration or at any time upon request.

All matters pertaining to a student’s record, schedule of classes, leaves of absences, etc. should be directed to the master’s program administration on the main campus in Fort Lauderdale.

**REGISTRATION**

All students are expected to be in continuous enrollment every semester until they receive their degree (see section on Student Enrollment). Arrangement with the Bursar’s Office regarding payment of tuition and fees is part of the registration process and registration is a prerequisite to class attendance.

Non-degree seeking students who are not registered for two consecutive semesters will be withdrawn from graduate study.

**Registration Policies and Procedures**

Students register directly on the university system: [http://webstar.nova.edu](http://webstar.nova.edu).

All students must complete the Student Enrollment Agreement (SEA) form in order to register for classes. The SEA requires students to agree with NSU standards and policies regarding course registration and withdrawal, financial responsibility, a release of liability, and more. Students registering for courses will be prompted to complete the form as part of the registration process on Sharklink.
Payment of Tuition and Fees

Payment of tuition and fees is due within 30 days of the beginning of a particular semester. Students awarded financial aid will have fees/tuition deducted before receiving a refund.

Arrangement with the Bursar’s Office regarding payment of tuition and fees is part of the registration process and registration is a prerequisite to class attendance.

Tuition and Fees

Master’s tuition for 2019–2020 will be charged at the rate of $790 per credit hour (Students should anticipate an annual review of fees by the university and possible increases). Students are expected to pay tuition in full at the time of registration. Students receiving financial aid must familiarize themselves with the requirements of that office with regard to payments and may defer payment only if they have been officially notified of an award. Once a loan check is disbursed, students will be responsible for making all appropriate payments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>$790 per credit hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application Fee</td>
<td>$ 50 (non-refundable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration Fee</td>
<td>$ 30 per semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Payment Penalty</td>
<td>$100 per semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Service Fee</td>
<td>$500 per semester (4 or more credits) $250 per semester (under 4 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textbooks</td>
<td>$ 80-200 per course (approximate cost)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree Application Fee</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transcript Fee</td>
<td>$ 10 per transcript</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Health Insurance</td>
<td>$959 for August 1, 2019 thru December 31, 2019; $1336 for January 1, 2020 thru July 31, 2020; $2295 total amount charged for August 1, 2019 thru July 31, 2020 (fees subject to change)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The expenses outlined above are to be considered as very general estimates and may vary considerably depending on individual circumstances. Some courses may require additional fees for laboratory and/or equipment (e.g. calculator, testing materials) and supplemental course materials. Students are provided NSU Email accounts at no charge. Students will need to make arrangements for Internet access and pay the corresponding fee.  
* Please note that all above fees are subject to change without notice.

Refund Policy

Any student in good standing enrolled in the General Psychology Program wishing to withdraw from classes because of illness or some other satisfactory reason must contact the Master’s Program Office immediately at 954-262-5757 or email: rschenck@nova.edu, (Regina Schenck).

Adjustment of tuition fees will be computed from the date on which the notice is received by the Program Office.

(a) No part of the application fee or the registration fee will be refundable upon withdrawal.

(b) The refundable percentage of total tuition (paid or due) will be computed as provided by the program Office.
Class Cancellation Policy

The university reserves the right to cancel any class. If a class is cancelled and a replacement is not offered, then students will receive a full refund of tuition paid for the cancelled class. If the student registered for only one class, then the registration fee would be refunded as well.

Drop/Add

The academic calendar outlines the dates and refund schedule for courses dropped or added. A course that is dropped within the time frame indicated on the academic calendar will not appear on the student's official transcript. Once a semester begins, Master’s students must contact the program office to drop a course.

Withdrawal from a Course

When the student withdraws from a course prior to the first class, the course is deleted from the student's record. A “W” grade is assigned when a student withdraws from a course after the last date indicated on the academic calendar to drop courses with a refund and prior to last published date to withdraw for the term. If the student fails to withdraw by the final published date to withdraw for the term, the student will be assigned a grade of “F.” Withdrawal from a course may affect the student’s financial aid status.

Transfer of Credit

All transfer credit must be awarded during the student’s first academic year in the master’s program. Students requesting transfer of credit must submit a written request for transfer along with supporting documentation to the master’s program office. Sufficient documentation is required to allow for evaluation by faculty committee and the Department Chair, including an official transcript from the institution where the course was taken and a course description as listed in the institution’s catalog. Other documentation may be required, such as syllabi, course notes, or other material.

The number of transfer credits that will be credited towards graduation is six. Transfer of credits will be awarded when the course being evaluated meets all of the following criteria:

1. It is a graduate level course taken at an institution accredited as degree-granting by a recognized regional accrediting body for higher education at the time the course was completed. A graduate level course is defined as one that would be credited toward a master’s degree at the institution where the course was taken. At minimum, this must be verified in the school’s catalog or a letter from the chair of the department.

2. It is equivalent in content to a required course in the curriculum.

3. It was completed no longer than five years prior to the student’s first enrollment in the program.

4. A grade of B or higher was received. A grade of P (Pass) or CR (Credit) or other such grades cannot be accepted as equivalent unless it can be officially verified as such.

It will be the responsibility of the student to satisfactorily demonstrate the equivalence of the course(s) proposed in order for credits to be awarded. Course work submitted from a foreign institution will be evaluated for equivalency in accordance with accreditation standards.

Courses completed at other institutions after the student has enrolled in the master’s Program will be considered only if there has been prior approval by faculty committee and the Department Chair. Typically, such transfer credit is granted only under special circumstances. Transfer credits are not taken into account when computing the student’s grade point average.

Federal Regulations require that veteran students MUST report all prior credit and training, and that the school MUST evaluate such and grant credit as appropriate, with training time and tuition reduced proportionately and with the VA and student so notified.
Credits earned at Nova Southeastern University are transferable only at the discretion of the receiving school.

**PROVISIONAL ADMISSIONS**

Students may be provisionally admitted to a degree-seeking program based on a review of unofficial transcripts or other specific program admission requirements. However, this admission includes a condition that final and official documents and requirements must be received within 90 calendar days from the start of the term. If these final and official documents and/or requirements are not received by that time, the student will not be allowed to continue class attendance. Financial aid will not be disbursed to a provisional/conditional student until he or she has been fully admitted as a regular student (all admission requirements have been approved by the college/program admissions office).

**GRADING POLICY**

The following policies apply to all academic programs in the College of Psychology effective Fall 2017. All degree programs in the College of Psychology programs assign grades to coursework according to the following system:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points or Percentage Earned</th>
<th>Quality Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>3.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88-89</td>
<td>3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-87</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>2.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78-79</td>
<td>2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-77</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 70</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In all courses, a letter grade will be assigned based on the individual instructor’s assessment and evaluation of the student’s work.

**Before the first class session, dropped courses will be deleted from a student’s record.** A grade of W is assigned when a student withdraws from a course after the “last day to drop courses,” indicated in the section on Withdrawal from Classes. A grade of W will appear on the student's official transcript and will be included in attempted credit hours. **Students failing to officially withdraw before the “last day to drop courses” will be subject to grading as described in the course syllabus.**

An “I” (Incomplete) indicates that the student has not completed the course requirements during the scheduled time and the instructor has given additional time to do so. An “I” grade is not routinely assigned in courses. An “I” grade is not assigned by faculty members when students fail to complete the course requirements. Students cannot be assigned an “I” to finish extra credit work.

A student must request an Incomplete from the instructor. If the instructor approves an Incomplete, a contract form is signed by the instructor and the student and submitted to the master’s program office. The contract must specify the following:

1. The requirements to be completed by the student to remove the incomplete.
2. The time period within which the student must satisfy the incomplete. The time limit is to be specified by the instructor, but must not exceed 10 weeks from the end of the semester.
3. The grade that the student will receive if the incomplete is not satisfied by the conclusion of the
specified time period.

Should the instructor choose not to assign an incomplete, the grade assigned will then be based upon the instructor’s assessment of the quality and quantity of work completed. A student will not be permitted to register for a sequential course when a grade lower than a B- or an “I” (incomplete has been received in a prerequisite course.

Policy for Grading Disputes

Grade disputes shall be limited to concerns about the method(s) (i.e. error in calculation of grades) by which grades are determined. A student seeking to dispute a decision regarding a course grade and/or other evaluation should seek solutions through the following administrative channels by entering at the appropriate level and proceeding in the order stated:

a. Course Instructor/Supervisor
b. Program Coordinator
c. Department Chair

A student seeking to resolve a grade problem or dispute through the administrative channels cited above must initiate such action in writing within five business days (excluding official school holidays and weekends) from the date that the grade was recorded in WEBSTAR. The grade appeal should include a concise statement of the basis of the appeal and shall not exceed one (1) page. The student will then have five days from the time of notification of the decision at each level in order to proceed to the next level in the administrative channels cited above (i.e., if the student receives notification of an unfavorable decision by the course instructor/ supervisor, the student must proceed with his/her appeal to the program administrator within five days of said notification). Where a student fails to either initiate this process or proceed through this process within the specified time frame, the student will be deemed to have waived his/her right to dispute the grade in question.

In the case of a grade dispute or other appeals relating directly to a student’s academic performance, an administrator may not substitute his/her judgment for the performance appraisal of the faculty member rendering the grade or assessing the students’ work.

EVALUATION OF MASTER’S STUDENTS

Core Performance Standards for Admission and Progress

The standards required for admission keep in mind the safety and well-being of clients whom its graduates will eventually serve in clinical situations. Candidates for the degree must possess with or without reasonable accommodation, multiple abilities and skills including intellectual, conceptual, integrative, and quantitative abilities; and intrapersonal, communication, behavioral, and personal attributes including empathy, emotional self-awareness, and emotional maturity.

Each student is evaluated on an ongoing basis while enrolled in the program, including during the practicum experience. In addition to course evaluations, matriculation and evaluation of readiness for practicum is coordinated by the Master’s program office. The purpose of evaluation is to provide students with relevant feedback concerning their performance and to serve as a screening process in order to ensure high standards for the profession. Relevant information including practicum evaluations is coordinated through the program administration.

In addition to academic abilities and skills, students will be evaluated on an ongoing basis, including on the practicum experience, on intrapersonal, communication, behavioral, and personal attributes that are
considered integral and necessary parts of professional functioning. Faculty will monitor these areas of functioning and may, identify problems in their students’ functioning, provide constructive feedback to them, and require a remediation plan to address those difficulties.

While it is difficult to operationally define all characteristics associated with quality professionalism, students and faculty have targeted several observable behavioral categories that they consider to be an integral and necessary part of professional functioning. These broad areas include the following:

1. Academic Achievement
   a. Academic standing as discussed in this handbook.
   b. Ability to communicate orally and in writing.
   c. Management of practicum experiences.

2. Responsible Behavior
   a. Dependability in commitment (e.g., punctuality in attending classes, submitting papers and assignments, meeting with clients, etc.).
   b. Accepts responsibility for own work.
   c. Carries through and completes tasks.
   d. Seeks needed guidance from appropriate sources.

3. Ethical Behavior
   a. Abides by university requirements as outlined in this handbook and in other published university and center documents.

4. Intrapersonal Behavior
   a. Displays mature and appropriate behavior.
   b. Demonstrates ability to function independently.
   c. Exhibits usual and customary judgment and discretion in both student and professional activities.
   d. Presents a generally respectful and non-hostile attitude.
   e. Participates in activities that are pursuant to professional development.
   f. Develops intrinsic criteria to evaluate own performance.

5. Interpersonal Behavior
   a. Cooperative with and respectful of others.
   b. Ability to give, accept, and utilize constructive criticism.
   c. Develops and maintains positive relationships with peers and faculty.
   d. Develops satisfactory working relationships with supervisors and advisers.

NSU CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT AND ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITY

Purpose
This code seeks to promote high standards of behavior and academic integrity by setting forth the responsibilities of students as members of the university community. Abiding by the code ensures a climate wherein all members of the university community can exercise their rights of membership. Please refer to the NSU Student Handbook for more details: www.nova.edu/student-handbook

PROFESSIONAL STANDING COMMITTEE
The Professional Standing Committee of the College of Psychology is appointed by the Dean and serves in a variety of capacities related to the review of student professional standing matters. The committee consists of faculty, concentration adviser, and other members as appointed by the Dean.
The committee may be asked to review alleged violations of the university Student Code of Conduct, including academic standards and ethical standards of the field. In addition, the committee may conduct reviews concerning emotional and behavioral problems serious enough to suggest interference with professional functioning (e.g., in relation to staff and faculty, other students in the program, and/or those in practicum and internship sites), academic performance, or performance in a clinical practicum or internship setting.

The purpose of the committee’s review and recommendations are not limited to disciplinary actions, but may encompass efforts to remediate a deficiency or problems so that students can continue their education and function competently as professionals. Committee activities are designed to ensure a process by which all relevant facts can be determined, including providing the student with full opportunity to present important information. Actions the committee may recommend to the Dean could include, but are not limited to, remediation, referral, warning or sanctions up to suspension or termination.

In instances of complaints regarding violations of Student Conduct and Academic Responsibility, the Dean may charge the committee with conducting a formal investigation into the facts pertaining to allegations of misconduct. In such cases the committee will adhere to professional standing committee guidelines that ensure a timely and complete review of the facts. The process will ensure that the student and involved parties have the opportunity to present relevant information.

**DEGREE CONFERRAL**

Students who have completed all requirements for the master’s degree must submit an online application for degree. Forms are available via the Office of the University Registrar’s website: [http://www.nova.edu/cwis/registrar/instructions.html](http://www.nova.edu/cwis/registrar/instructions.html). A fee is required upon submission of the degree application form.

Degree applications require approval by the Office of the Dean, University Comptroller, Registrar, and Library. These offices verify that requirements are met and that the student’s accounts, records, etc. are in good standing. Upon approval, the application is presented to the NSU Board of Trustees for conferral. Following the official conferral of the degree, which is noted on the transcript, a diploma is mailed to the student. Students are encouraged to submit their degree applications at least one month prior to the completion of their program.

**GRADUATION**

Graduation exercises for Nova Southeastern University take place each summer. Eligibility to graduate is determined by having completed all requirements prior to the graduation date or by the end of the summer term. Students eligible to participate in graduation may contact the Office of the University Registrar for information about graduation ceremonies.
STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

ETHICAL ISSUES IN THE MASTER’S PROGRAMS

In particular, attention is drawn to the following points, which are illustrative rather than exhaustive or comprehensive:

1. Students have an obligation to disclose if they have been convicted of a criminal offense, been found not guilty, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere (no contest), regardless of adjudication. The disclosure obligation is a continuing one. All students must report to the College of Psychology any such arrest or conviction after the filing of the application for admissions or during the time that the student is enrolled at the college. The College of Psychology will consider new information submitted and, in appropriate circumstances, may change the status of an applicant or student. Students at application give permission to make any necessary inquiries and voluntarily and knowingly authorize any former school, government agency, employer, person, firm, corporation, its officers, employees and agents or any other person or entity making a written or oral request for such information.

2. No student should represent him/herself as being in possession of the master’s degree, either orally or in writing, directly or by implication, until all formal requirements for the degree have been satisfactorily completed, and the NSU Board of Trustees has met and conferred the degree.

3. It is misleading and inappropriate to append “master’s student”, or some similar designation, after your name.

4. Any academic, professional, or personal difficulty which results in action being taken by the master’s program regarding a student will be brought to the attention of a program administrator. Depending upon the particular type of difficulty identified, a number of processes are available to the program administrator.

5. Florida students in the mental health counseling program should familiarize themselves with Chapter 491, Florida Statutes, the Florida State Law for licensure as a Mental Health Counselor. Florida students in the school counseling program should familiarize themselves with the Florida Department of Education guidelines for certifying school counselors. Students from other states should familiarize themselves with the laws of their state.

Dual Relationships between Faculty Members and Students

While in principle the APA policy of discouraging dual relationships is endorsed, recognition is given to the fact that, given the complexity and diversity of our functions, certain dual relationships between faculty members and students are bound to arise. Faculty members and students are therefore urged to be sensitive to and aware of the existence of dual relationships and to enter into these with full awareness of their implications.

Sexual relationships between a university faculty member or administrator and a student who are not married to each other or who do not have a preexisting analogous relationship are inappropriate whenever the university faculty member or administrator has a professional responsibility for the student in such matters as teaching a course or otherwise evaluating, supervising, or advising a student as part of a school program. Even when a university faculty member or administrator has no professional responsibility for a student, the university faculty member or administrator should be sensitive to the perceptions of other students that a student who has a sexual relationship with a professor may receive preferential treatment. A university faculty member or administrator who is closely related to a student by blood or marriage or who has a preexisting analogous relationship with a student should eschew roles involving a professional responsibility for the student whenever possible. Romantic or sexual relationships between a faculty member and a student then enrolled in the faculty member’s class (including supervised student activities
for which academic credit is given) may be or appear to be coercive and are discouraged. Even when no coercion is present, such relationships create an appearance of impropriety and favoritism, which can impair the academic experience of all students in that class. It is, therefore, improper conduct for a faculty member to engage in a romantic or sexual relationship with a student enrolled in the faculty member’s class.

At Nova Southeastern University, romantic and sexual relationships between a faculty member and a student are subject to the prohibition against sexual harassment.

It is specifically required that when either a faculty member or any agency, corporation, or program under the auspices of a faculty member employs a student, or whenever a student or any agency, corporation, or program under the auspices of a student employs a faculty member, both parties shall document the existence of this dual relationship in a letter to the Dean of the College of Psychology. This documentation shall be retained in both the student’s and the faculty member’s permanent files. As necessary, an ad hoc committee shall be appointed to review any complaints that might arise as the result of dual employment relationships.

Further, no services provided by a faculty member or any agency, corporation, or program under the auspices of a faculty member shall result in academic credit being granted to a student unless the services are officially rendered as part of the recognized curriculum (e.g., practicum work, supervised university research, internship, or course work). Approval of such rendering of service must be in writing and approved by the Dean.

The provision of psychological services by faculty to students is discouraged. Extenuating circumstances may exist, such as when some unusual expertise is possessed by a faculty member or when a student was in treatment with a faculty member prior to becoming a student. In such cases, the Dean must approve the provision of psychological services to a student. Adjunct faculty members who expect no further instructional or supervisory relationship with a student may provide services without this reporting requirement.

No Direct Payment to Faculty

Direct student payment to faculty for educational or professional services is not permissible. That is, no student is to make private arrangements to reimburse any faculty member for psychotherapy, tutoring, supervision, or other educational assistance. Students are encouraged to seek whatever educational help they need from faculty members and to seek professional services (such as psychotherapy) outside of the program.

STUDENT GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS

The College of Psychology faculty and staff value professionalism, honesty, and ethical conduct in the handling of student concerns. At all times, matters are handled in the spirit of education and development. The purpose of the student grievance and appeals process is to allow for the orderly resolution of student grievances concerning a policy, procedure, or administrative action. At all times, the respect and protection of students is of utmost concern.

Evaluation of course work and assessment of competency resides within the expertise of faculty who are uniquely qualified by their training experience. Such evaluations and grades are not subject to student grievances and appeals under this section, unless there is an allegation of federally/state protected discrimination, but rather are subject only to appeal under the Policy for Grading Disputes where applicable.

Informal Procedure

Before initiating a formal appeal, the student must first meet with the party against whom the complaint is being made and present supporting information in an attempt to resolve the matter informally. If this does not result in an acceptable resolution the student shall bring all academic matters to the attention of the
Program Coordinator within 30 working days of its occurrence, where informal resolution will continue in consultation with the Department Chair or Designee. Should the Department Chair or Designee find insufficient evidence or if this step fails to bring about an acceptable resolution, the student must next request intervention through the Dean of the College of Psychology within another 30 days.

**Formal Procedure**

1. A student wishing to proceed with the grievance must file a written appeal with the Dean. This document should contain a concise statement of the particular manner of harm, along with all relevant facts and compelling supporting evidence.

2. Upon receipt of a written appeal, the Dean shall review the document to determine if the complaint warrants further review.
   
a. If the Dean decides that no further action should be taken, the appeal will be terminated and a brief written explanation will be submitted to the student.

   b. If the Dean decides that a further review should occur, the appeal should be referred to the college’s standing Appeals Committee. The committee will conduct a substantive review of all facts it deems pertinent to the appeal. The committee, at its discretion, may interview the student or any other pertinent person, which it judges has information relevant to the review. No persons may have legal counsel accompany them or appear in their behalf.

3. The Appeals Committee will file a written recommendation to the Dean with justification, including whether sufficient evidence exists to uphold or overturn the action being grieved. The Dean will notify the student of a determination in writing within a reasonable period following the filing of the appeal.

4. If the student has evidence that there have been any procedural irregularities within the appeals process, such irregularities must be presented in writing to the director within 5 days of the notification of determination. The Dean will review the document and notify the student of a decision. Should any irregularities have occurred, the director will return the appeal to the Appeals Committee for consideration consistent with the process described in this policies and procedures handbook.

5. Following a review of the committee’s report, the Dean’s decision shall be final. Students acknowledge upon their acceptance into this program that the above procedure provides for adequate review of university action by any other outside parties or jurisdictions. Further, the jurisdiction for all grievance issues related to policies, procedures, and/or administrative action shall be Broward County, Florida.

**REMEDIATION POLICY**

A student receiving a grade of F in any course must repeat and successfully complete the course within one year (excluding leaves of absence). Both grades shall remain on the student’s record and shall count toward the cumulative total of below B minus (B-) grades; however, only the higher of the two grades will be counted toward the student’s grade point average.

Progress in the degree program requires that students maintain good course grades, academic standing, and professional functioning as outlined in academic standing policies, core performance standards for admission and progress, and criteria for evaluation of students as listed in this handbook.

Progress in the degree program requires that students maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or better, and professional functioning as outlined in academic standing policies, core performance standards for admission and progress, and criteria for evaluation of students as listed in this handbook.

Students may be referred to the Professional Standing Committee for a review of areas needing remediation, for violations of the academic code of conduct, or other concerns about professional functioning in the program. The committee reserves the right to dismiss students from the program.
In the event students are unsuccessful with remediation, they will be referred to the college’s professional standing committee for review. The committee reserves the right to dismiss students from the program.

A student will not be permitted to register for a sequential course when a grade of I, C, or F has been received in a prerequisite course.

**READMISSION**

Students dismissed from the program may petition for readmission after one academic year. Applicants should supply documentation regarding remediation. Readmission petitions should be submitted to the College of Psychology Admissions Office. Students will have their records examined by the master’s program admission committee. Upon approval, the student will be readmitted to the program in effect at that time. Only those courses, previously completed in the College of Psychology master’s program within the past five years with grades of B or better and that are equivalent will be applied toward the master’s degree.
OTHER POLICIES AND INFORMATION

PROTECTION OF HUMAN SUBJECTS IN RESEARCH/
PROCEDURES FOR BOTH FUNDED AND UNFUNDED RESEARCH

The procedures described herein apply to both funded and unfunded research performed by students and faculty. The College adheres to published professional and governmental guidelines and regulations for protecting human participants in research. Any research conducted by NSU faculty, staff, or students, which involves human participants, whether funded or unfunded, must be submitted to the College of Psychology IRB Representative to determine the necessity of review by the Institutional Review Board (IRB). All NSU faculty, staff, and students involved in research studies must complete an online course related to the protection of human participants (CITI course). To obtain more information, visit the NSU IRB website at www.nova.edu/irb/training.html. All IRB policies and procedures can be accessed at the IRB website: http://www.nova.edu/irb/manual/policies.html.

All research studies involving human participants are reviewed in one of three ways; College Level Review (previously labeled Exempt Research), Expedited Review, or Full Review. Every research protocol process begins with the principal investigator completing the New Protocol Submission xForm in IRBManager. IRBManager is the electronic submission system used by the NSU IRB for submitting research protocols for review by the IRB Office. The principal investigator will be responsible for completing the New Protocol Submission xForm in IRBManager and ensuring that all consent forms and research instruments to be used in the study are uploaded into the xForm in the appropriate locations. Once completed, the principal investigator will submit their protocol in IRBManager for review by the college representative from the College of Psychology. The college representative may choose to reassign a submission to his/her alternate college representative for review. Contact the program office for further information regarding the College of Psychology college representative and his/her alternate college representative.

The college representative/alternate, not the principal investigator, is charged with reviewing the submission, to determine the appropriate level of review for the study, as well as assuring that all necessary documents are included. Examples of studies falling into the different categories of reviews may be found on the IRB website here: www.nova.edu/irb/review.html. The college representative/alternate will work with the principal investigator to prepare the required IRB documents in accordance with NSU policies and procedures. Once the submission is complete, the college representative/alternate will review the research protocol to determine if the research warrants review by the IRB Office. Research that is determined to not have potential risk to participants and meets specific guidelines, will be exempted from review by the IRB Office, following review by the college representative or alternate.

If the IRB college representative/alternate determines that the proposed research poses potential risk to participants, the submission will automatically be electronically submitted in IRBManager for further review by the IRB Office. Upon receipt of the IRBManager submission, the IRB Office will pre-review the research protocol before forwarding to the IRB Chair or their designee(s). The IRB Chair or their designee(s,) in conjunction with the IRB Office, will determine if the research can be reviewed through expedited review or if the research needs to be reviewed by the full IRB Board during their monthly meeting. After review, the IRB Office will notify the principal investigator, via the IRBManager electronic submission system, of any changes that must be made, in addition to any other decisions regarding approval or disapproval of a research submission.

Remember that all research, including that done with clinic clients, students, or volunteers, must be submitted to the College of Psychology IRB Representative and receive approval or exemption prior to beginning the research. Policies and procedures can be accessed at the IRB Web site at http://www.nova.edu/irb/index.html
COURSE ATTENDANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

Students are expected to engage with the course on the first day of class. Students not attending the course by the 14th day of class will be marked as non-attending, and may be withdrawn from coursework in accordance with University Registrar and Roster Reconciliation policies.

COLLEGE OF PSYCHOLOGY STUDENT AID PROGRAMS

College Scholarships: The College of Psychology maintains a limited amount of scholarship funds. Information on various scholarships, including College of Psychology, is available at: https://www.nova.edu/financialaid/scholarships/index.html

COLLEGE OF PSYCHOLOGY STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Student employment opportunities are available within the College of Psychology or its affiliates. These positions are generally awarded on a competitive basis and usually require a 10 to 20 hour time commitment per week.

Assistantships: Graduate Assistantships are available for College of Psychology students through the college. Contact the coordinator of employee services in NSU Human Resources for information regarding the availability of graduate assistantships.

STATE DISCLOSURES

All educational formats offered by the college meet the same stringent accreditation requirements as on campus programs. The following states have provided these disclosures

Iowa Disclosure

Note: In accordance with Iowa code §261B.9, students in the College of Psychology graduate programs will receive the following attached disclosure statement accompanied by copy of the program’s policy and procedures handbook at the beginning of the program before any tuition and fees are received.

Note to Iowa Students: The following information is being provided in accordance with Iowa code §261B.9.

1. Title of courses in the Master’s Program in General Psychology:
   Please see the college’s current program policy and procedures handbook for list of course titles.

2. Description of courses in the Master’s Program in General Psychology:
   Please see the college’s current program policy and procedures handbook for a listing of course descriptions.

3. Tuition and Fees for the Master’s Program in General Psychology:
   Please see the college’s current program policy and procedures handbook for all tuition and fees.

4. Refund Policy for the Master’s Program in General Psychology:
   Please see the college’s current program policy and procedures handbook for refund policy.

5. Applicability:
   The courses offered in this Master’s Program in General Psychology leads to a Master of Science degree. Please see the college’s current program policy and procedures handbook for graduation requirements.
Washington Disclosure
Nova Southeastern University is authorized by the Washington State Achievement Council and meets the requirements and minimum educational standards established for degree-granting institutions under the Degree-Granting Institutions Act. This authorization is subject to periodic review and authorizes Nova Southeastern University to offer field placement components for specific degree programs. The Council may be contacted for a list of currently authorized programs. Authorization by the Council does not carry with it an endorsement by the Council of the institution or its programs. Any person desiring information about the requirements of the act or the applicability of those requirements to the institutions may contact the Council at P.O. Box 43430, Olympia, WA 98504-3430
General Psychology Program

The master’s in general psychology program is a 30-credit online program that will prepare students to develop foundational knowledge in psychological theory and research. Local, national, and international students may select this M.S. degree as an opportunity to obtain prerequisite courses to meet eligibility requirements for application to other psychology programs, including advanced doctoral studies. Through its specialty tracks, the program will also allow a variety of professionals within the fields of education, human services, and allied health to access coursework both as degree-seeking and non-degree seeking students in order to advance their psychological knowledge and use of psychological applications in their respective fields. In addition to the direct benefit of obtaining foundational knowledge in psychology, the curriculum is designed to facilitate the development of basic interpersonal skills, cultural sensitivity, and additional knowledge and skills that enhance the preparation of students for professional work in increasingly diverse social agencies, school and community settings, in business and industry environments, and in hospitals.

* Note: Graduate students who earn this degree will not have met the educational requirements for certification or licensure in the state of Florida and should not expect to provide psychological services as an independent practitioner. Rather, this degree demonstrates master's-level achievement and enhances employment opportunities.

CURRICULUM AND DEGREE COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

Master’s in General Psychology Program Curriculum

*Core Foundational Courses (12 credits)
  • PSY 0600 Cognitive Psychology
  • PSY 0601 Behavioral Neuroscience
  • PSY 0605 Human Growth and Development
  • PSY 0607 Social Psychology

*Core Methodology Courses (9 credits)
  • PSY 0609 Individual Evaluation and Assessment
  • PSY 0611 Research Design (MUST BE COMPLETED WITH A GRADE OF B- OR BETTER)
  • PSY 0613 Psychological Quantitative Methods

Concentrations

General Psychology (9 credits)
  • PSY 0614 Adult Psychopathology
  • PSY 0615 Human Sexuality
  • PSY 0616 History and Systems of Psychology
  Or
  • PSY 0617 Master’s Thesis (6 credits) PLUS one of the preceding concentration courses (3 credits)

Applied Health Science Courses (9 credits)
  • PSY 0619 Psychological Aspects of Treating Disease
  • PSY 0620 The Business of Psychology
  • PSY 0633 Interviewing Techniques

Note: All core foundational and methodology courses should be completed before enrolling in designated concentration courses due to prerequisite requirements. Refer to the course description listing on page 44 of this policies and procedures handbook for further information.
A student must complete all course work required for the degree with a minimum grade point average of a 3.0 (B) and successfully complete a thesis (if required) and the comprehensive examination. The Master of Science program requires a minimum of 30 semester hours of graduate credit. The student will have 5 years to complete the program.

Students who have achieved matriculation status (completed four courses) and would like to add or change tracks must complete a MS General Psychology Specialty Track Request form and submit to the program office of the MS General Psychology program for approval. In each concentration, students must satisfactorily complete all curriculum requirements.

**Comprehensive Examination**

Students will be required to successfully complete an objective comprehensive examination following completion of the core foundational and core methodology courses (PSY 0600 Cognitive Psychology, PSY 0601 Behavioral Neuroscience, PSY 0605 Human Growth and Development, PSY 0607 Social Psychology, PSY 0611 Research Design and PSY 0613 Psychological Quantitative Methods).

The comprehensive exam is a two-part assessment consisting of a multiple-choice test and a critical essay paper. The multiple-choice test is proctored and offered via Canvas. Information concerning the examination format and content will be provided to students at the appropriate time in their curriculum.

Students who do not successfully complete the test on the first sitting will have an additional opportunity to pass the test. Students who do not complete will be discontinued from the program.

**Thesis**

Students in the General Psychology concentration have the option of completing a Thesis, which is an original contribution to knowledge resulting from the systematic study of a significant problem or issue. The student will develop their own research questions and hypotheses, study design, data collection and analysis and interpretation of results. Students will work with an NSU faculty member in creating and conducting their own research project.

Before registering for Master’s Thesis, students are expected to have successfully completed prerequisite courses PSY 611 Research Design and PSY 613 Psychological Quantitative Methods and be in good academic standing.

**Learning outcomes:**

1. Formulate one or more scientific questions and hypotheses based on the latest empirical and theoretical knowledge available in the chosen field on psychological research.
2. Choose an appropriate research design and methods for the proposed question.
3. Collect the empirical data for the study and utilize appropriate statistical analyses for the data to draw reasonable conclusions as pertaining to the original hypothesis.
4. Write a research report according to the current APA standards.

**MATRICULATION REQUIREMENTS (DEGREE CANDIDACY)**

Students are admitted into graduate study at the master’s level and are reviewed for degree candidacy (matriculation) after completion of the first four courses (12 credits).

During the formal review for matriculation, the students’ academic, behavioral, interpersonal, and professional performance in the first four courses will be examined. Students need a grade point average of 3.0 or above in the four designated courses to be matriculated. **Students who receive two grades below a B minus (B-) or a grade of F in any of the first four courses will not be matriculated and will be**
withdrawn from graduate study.

Prior to the formal matriculation review, should a student receive a second grade below B minus (B-) or a grade of F, the student will automatically be withdrawn from graduate study. Under no circumstances will students who achieve a grade point average of 2.5 or below in the first four courses be permitted to take graduate level courses in the MS General Psychology program.

Students with a grade point average greater than 2.5 but less than 3.0 for the first four courses may petition to be maintained in a non-matriculated status. No more than four additional courses may be taken without achieving an overall grade point average of 3.0.

ACADEMIC STANDING (FOLLOWING MATRICULATION)

Students must earn a minimum grade of “C” in each master’s degree course in order for that course to apply toward the degree. Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 throughout the program. Students whose cumulative GPA falls below 3.0 will be placed on academic probation for one semester. Students on probation who fail to raise their GPA to 3.0 or higher will be dismissed from the program. Students who receive two grades below a B minus (B-) or a grade of F in any course will be dismissed from the program.

Probation

Academic probation will occur automatically when any of the following conditions exist:

1. The cumulative grade point average falls below 3.0
2. A grade of “F” is received.
3. Three concurrent incompletes (I) appear on the transcript.

The student, the director of the program, and the Office of Student Financial Services will be notified in writing of the student’s probationary status. A student is allowed one year (excluding leaves of absence) to remove probationary status.

Academic probation may affect the student’s financial aid status.

Dismissal

Automatic dismissal from any graduate program in the College of Psychology will occur when any of the following conditions exist:

1. Academic probation extends beyond one year.
2. More than 2 grades below B are received.
3. Two grades of F are received.
# Master’s in General Psychology Program
(Online)

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Master’s in General Psychology Program  
Course Descriptions Index

Core Foundational Courses (12 credits)

PSY 0600 Cognitive Psychology (3 credits)  
This course examines the various cognitive processes that affect behavior. Topics include information processing, memory, attention, unconscious processing, decision making in social context, language, and self-schemata development.

PSY 0601 Behavioral Neuroscience (3 credits)  
This course emphasizes the principles of behavioral neuroscience, stressing the methods and rationales used to acquire information and reach conclusions about brain mechanisms underlying behavior. Students will survey topics related to the biology of psychology including: the basic anatomy of the nervous system, the normal physiological functions of the nervous systems, cellular electrophysiology, behavioral disorders, and brain diseases. The course also reviews current research on the role of the biological basis of behavior. The relative contribution of heredity and environment will also be examined.

PSY 0605 Human Growth and Development (3 credits)  
This course examines how developmental maturation and social learning shape personality, both in childhood and adulthood. Theory and research in social development and learning are covered in topics such as attachment, aggression, sexuality, morality and self regulation, and self concept.

PSY 0607 Social Psychology (3 credits)  
This course is designed to provide graduate students with a broad overview of current theories and research in social psychology. This course will review, in detail, the scientific study of how people’s thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by the real or imagined presence of other people. Topics such as self-perception, judgment and decision-making, attitude change, conformity, social influence, obedience, attraction, love, aggression, violence, altruism, deception, nonverbal communication, and prejudice will be covered.

Core Methodology Courses (9 credits)

PSY 0609 Individual Evaluation and Assessment (3 credits)  
This course surveys frequently used psychological tests of aptitude, interest, and personality. Test content, purpose, psychometric properties, administration, and scoring procedures are compared and evaluated. Issues of test use with culturally diverse populations are addressed.

PSY 0611 Research Design (3 credits)  
The focus of this course is research methodology and scientific thinking. It covers basic experimental designs (between and within groups), single subject experiments, group experimental designs, non-experimental designs (correlational research, case studies, meta-analysis), and program evaluation. Validity issues in research (internal and external) and research ethics are emphasized throughout. (MUST BE COMPLETED WITH A GRADE OF B- OR BETTER)

PSY 0613 Psychological Quantitative Methods (3 credits)  
This course will focus on the theory and application of the most commonly used parametric statistical methods in Psychology. Specifically, this course will explore the relationship between advanced statistical methods and psychological research methods by providing students with an advanced understanding of the univariate methods commonly used for the analysis of behavioral data.
General Psychology Concentration
Course Description Index

PSY 0614 Adult Psychopathology (3 credits)
This course covers descriptive psychopathology and research on the etiology, epidemiology, dynamics and diversity issues of major adult pathologic syndromes. It provides a thorough introduction to DSM-IV-TR as a diagnostic tool.

PSY 0615 Human Sexuality (3 credits)
This course is an overview of the basics of sexual anatomy, physiology, and development. The student will acquire an understanding of human sexual response, concepts of sex therapies, and human sexual dysfunction. Also included are methods of contraception, sex and family planning, variations of sexual behavior. Prerequisite: PSY 0605

PSY 0616 History and Systems of Psychology (3 credits)
This course will review some of the major theoretical concepts and schools of thought in the history of psychology. More specifically, the course covers the history of various psychological concepts (such as perception, memory, emotions, consciousness, self, mental illness, etc.) as interpreted by various scholars of the mind over time. A historically-informed perspective of these concepts will help students realize the subtle changes in interpreting various psychological processes and phenomena across different time periods and the connections between these changes and the larger socio-political and intellectual environments at the time.

PSY 0617 Master’s Thesis (6 credit hours)
Students will work with an NSU faculty member in creating and conducting their own research project. A thesis is an original contribution to knowledge resulting from the systematic study of a significant problem or issue. Prerequisites: PSY 0611, PSY 0613

Applied Health Science Concentration
Course Description Index

PSY 0619 Psychological Aspects of Treating Disease (3 credits)
This course will explore both the strengths and limitations of utilizing a strict bio-medical model for treating disease. Current research on the effective management of pain and chronic disease will be reviewed and discussed from a psychological perspective. Implications for a better understanding and evaluation of psychological distress associated with chronic disease will be explored as well as research on the role of psychological support from family members and care givers.

PSY 0620 The Business of Psychology (3 credits)
This course will introduce students to the business of psychology. Issues related to private practice, employment, program development, and implementation will be presented. Specific topics will include: developing a private practice, surviving in a changing marketplace, marketing strategies, establishing fees, coding and reimbursement, negotiating employment contracts, and development and implementation of psychological service units.

PSY 0633 Interviewing Techniques (3 credits)
This is a basic course on the theoretical and practical aspects of the clinical assessment interview. Emphasis is placed on the development of communication skills, rapport building, evaluation strategies, and the consideration of diagnostic data as well as cultural/ethnic diversity, the mental status evaluation, and the ability to organize information in written and oral form. Prerequisite: PSY 0609
GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Karen S. Grosby, Ed.D., Dean
Glenn Scheyd, Ph.D., Department Chair
Alexandru Cuc, Ph.D., Academic Coordinator
Regina Schenck, Administrative Assistant II

PROGRAM FACULTY

Paula Brochu
Noreen Commella
William Dorfman
Ellen Flynn
Tom Kennedy
Jeffrey Kibler
Craig Marker
Esther Misraji
Timothy Moragne
Adam Schulman
Jean Thaw
Manuela Villa
## Important Contact Information

### Dean’s Office
Karen Grosby, Ed.D.  (954) 262-5701
Yvette Coello  (954) 262-5712 ycoellp@nova.edu

### General Psychology Program:
- **Department Chair**: Glenn Scheyd, Ph.D.  (954) 262-3760 scheydjr@nova.edu
- **Academic Coordinator**: Alexandru Cuc, Ph.D.  (954) 262-5889 calex@nova.edu
- **Administrative Assistant II**: Regina Schenck  (954) 262-5757 rschenck@nova.edu

### Other Important Contacts:
- **College of Psychology Student Emp.**: Marie Stokes  (954) 262-5782
- **College of Psychology Student Government Association**:  (954) 262-5909
- **Accounts Receivable**:  (954) 262-5200
- **Library, Research and Tech. Ctr.**:  (954) 262-4601
- **NSU Bookstore**:  (954) 262-4750 bksnsubooks@bncollege.com
- **Public Safety (Main Campus)**:  (954) 262-8999
- **Enrollment and Student Services**:
  - Bursar  (954) 262-5200
  - Registrar’s Office  (954) 262-7200
  - Degree Applications  (954) 262-7226/7
  - Financial Aid  (954) 262-3380
  - Grades  (954) 262-7235
  - International Students  (954) 262-7240/1
  - Transcripts  (954) 262-7225
  - Loan Deferrals  (954) 262-7251
  - Veterans’ Affairs  (954) 262-7236
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