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| ***Program Handbook:***  ***MA in Psychology Program***  ***2019-2020***  **Ψ**  Download the SYC bundle |

*The policies and procedures set forth in this handbook at applicable to the entering class of 2019*

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***General Overview***

This handbook presents the most up-to-date authoritative information on the MA program and its requirements. Take the time to read this handbook in its entirety as you begin your graduate school career and keep it as a reference for the future.

***What can (and can’t) you do with this degree?***

*CAN*

* + Apply to PhD program (no guarantees, though!)
  + Be a professional researcher in healthcare, the military, nonprofit organizations, human factors
  + Teach at community college or as an adjunct at a four-year college; however investigate this job market before you make a final decision
  + Develop expertise in Cognitive Science or Community Psychology
  + Other jobs that are not specific to Psychology but would value the skills developed in the MA program, such as writing, ability to critically read professional literature, knowledge of research methodology and statistics, general knowledge of human behavior…

*CAN’T*

* + Qualify for license to practice Psychology
  + Take classes listed at 8000 level (unless it is co-listed as a 6000 level course)
  + Arrange a clinical internship

***Contact Information***

If the Handbook does not adequately answer your questions, please feel free to direct questions to the program director, Jane Gaultney, [Jane.Gaultney@uncc.edu](mailto:Jane.Gaultney@uncc.edu). **You can read about the General MA in Psychology Program at** <https://psych.uncc.edu/graduate-program/masters-arts-psychology>**.**

This handbook is designed as a supplement to the general University Catalog. There is information in the general catalog of relevance to all graduate students at UNCC and you should familiarize yourself with that information. It is assumed that you have carefully read through any relevant portions of the most recent graduate catalog. It can be found here: [**http://graduateschool.uncc.edu/current-students/catalog**](http://graduateschool.uncc.edu/current-students/catalog)**.** Please pay very careful attention to the **Degree Requirements and Academic Policies** section of the catalog as the information in this section is extremely relevant to you and not re-printed in this document.

The faculty has identified three areas of emphasis that a student may complete to earn the MA degree: Cognition, Community Psychology, and Health. Note that the Health option is available ONLY to students who are co-enrolled in the Health Psychology PhD program. Students whose research interests do not fit into one of these categories can still enter the program if a faculty member agrees to supervise their research and by identifying (with the advisor’s help) a tentative plan of study to satisfy the MA requirements.

For students interested in training in Community Psychology, read about community psychology and our award-winning program at <https://healthpsych.uncc.edu/concentration-areas/community>. If you have specific questions related to the Community Psychology program, please contact [Dr. Jim Cook](mailto:jcook@uncc.edu).

Information on Cognitive Science can be found at <https://cognisci.uncc.edu/> or by contacting [Dr. Doug Markant.](mailto:dmarkant@uncc.edu)

Applicants should check with faculty in those areas to determine if the faculty member would be open to serving as research advisor. Without a faculty member who is willing to commit to serving as a research advisor for an applicant, the likelihood of being admitted to the program is very low.

***Criteria to Apply to the Program***

To be considered for admission, a student must present the following requirements from the Graduate School:

* Bachelor’s degree (or its US equivalent) from a regionally accredited college or university.
* GPA 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale).  If an applicant has earned or attempted a post-baccalaureate degree (i.e. a master’s, doctoral or other), grades in that program will also be taken into consideration.
* Prerequisites, where applicable, as indicated by specific master’s program criteria.  Prospective master’s students should consult with the Graduate Program Director to identify them prior to application.
* A Statement of Purpose (essay) submitted online as part of the application submission process. The Statement should describe your experience, objectives for undertaking graduate study and research interests, if known.
* At least three Recommendation Forms from persons familiar with your academic and/or professional qualifications. These recommendations are submitted directly from your recommender via the online application system.
* Unofficial transcripts of all academic work attempted beyond high (secondary) school can be used for admission review. An official (officially certified) final transcript must be submitted if an applicant is offered admission.  International transcripts provided in a language other than English should be uploaded, but a translated version should be uploaded as well.
* Official agency reports of satisfactory Test Scores (GRE/GMAT/MAT) no older than five years from date of application.  [The MA in General Psychology Program requires verbal, quantitative, and analytic GRE scores.]
* For non-native English language speakers:  official and satisfactory scores on the English language proficiency scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) are required.  A minimum score of 83 on the Internet-based TOEFL or a minimum overall band score of 6.5 on the IELTS is required for admissions consideration.

In addition to those required by the Graduate School, the program requires…

* Completed application by March 1
* A minimum GPA of 3.0 in Psychology courses
* 18 credit hours of undergraduate psychology including Introductory Psychology & Research Methods
* An undergraduate course in statistics
* Agreement from a faculty member in Psychological Sciences to supervise your research. **This is critical to admission and your success in the program.** Consider contacting several faculty members whose research fits well with your interests before submitting your application to find out if they are interested in serving as your advisor. Specify these individuals in your personal statement.

Admission to the program is very competitive for the spaces available each year. Most students who are admitted have much better records than the minimum required. The primary application deadline is March 1 for admission in the Fall semester, but if space is still available, late applications will be considered until May 1.

See <https://psych.uncc.edu/graduate-program/masters-arts-psychology> for additional information.

***Forms***

There are not many forms that you will need to fill out to complete the degree, but some are necessary. The graduate school has a listing of all of its forms on their website – here is link to that set of forms: <http://graduateschool.uncc.edu/current-students/forms>.

Forms specific to the MA Program are available at <https://psych.uncc.edu/graduate-programs/masters-arts-psychology/ma-documents>.

***Faculty Members***

You can find a list of faculty members at <https://psych.uncc.edu/people>. Click on their web pages to learn about their research

***Advising***

Not surprisingly, your primary advisor (your supervising faculty member) is always your starting points. For programmatic information, you can contact the Graduate Program Director, Dr. Gaultney (704-687-1331; Jane.Gaultney@uncc.edu).

The faculty conduct a thorough review of student performance on a regular basis. Continuation in the program is contingent upon a favorable review during these evaluations. Students who consistently show borderline course performance, who fail to complete coursework in a timely basis, or who otherwise perform unprofessionally or unsatisfactorily, may be required to complete additional courses or may be removed from the program. The enrollment of a student who receives three grades of C or one Unsatisfactory (U) grade during his or her graduate career is automatically terminated.

**TALK TO FELLOW MA STUDENTS**. What classes have they taken that were helpful? What is the best way to find funding? What obstacles am I going to encounter, and how do I overcome them?

Run the class suggestions by your advisor. For example, check out classes in Philosophy Department (e.,g., PHIL 6240, Research Ethics in Biological and Behavioral Sciences) or RSCH 7111, Qualitative Research).

Consider using your electives to satisfy a **related certification program**. For example…

* Cognitive Science, <https://catalog.uncc.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=19&poid=3902>
* Nonprofit Management, <https://mpa.uncc.edu/prospective-students/graduate-certificate/nonprofit-management>
* Quantitative Analyses, <https://edld.uncc.edu/programs/graduate-certificate-quantitative-analyses>
* Applied Linguistics, <https://catalog.uncc.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=19&poid=3950>
* Child and Family Development, Birth-Kindergarten, <https://spcd.uncc.edu/child-and-family-development/graduate-certificate-program>
* Early Childhood Mental Health, <https://spcd.uncc.edu/child-and-family-development/graduate-certificate-early-childhood-mental-health>
* Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies Certificate, <https://womensandgenderstudies.uncc.edu/graduate-certificate-gender-sexuality-and-womens-studies>

You can double dip so that classes count both for Certificate program and MA (but generally can’t double dip for two certificates).

**\*What is needed to survive and thrive in the program?**

* Work with your advisor to identify thesis project as early as possible. Schedule regular check-in times on thesis progression and overall progression in the MA Program. Remember the goal is to graduate!!
* Consider getting a student membership in professional organizations. Your advisor can steer you to the most relevant ones.
* You should try to get your Methods/Statistics classes done ASAP
* Check out and utilize resources from [Center for Graduate Student Life](https://gradlife.uncc.edu/) (<https://gradlife.uncc.edu/>; university-level resources)
* Personal traits such as flexibility, positive self-concept, being proactive about finding resources and classes
* Get to know others in the program; they are often your best resource

***Funding***

Student funding at the Master’s level is not guaranteed. A variety of resources are available for financial assistance. These include teaching assistantships, research assistantships from faculty grants, and graduate assistantships in other campus units such as the Learning Center and Disability Student Services. See funding opportunities on the [Graduate School website](https://graduateschool.uncc.edu/funding/funding-graduate-education).

MA students are eligible for two types of tuition support from the Graduate School.  You can see the eligibility and other details on the Graduate School [website](https://graduateschool.uncc.edu/faculty-and-staff-resources/student-support).

The answer for students looking for funding is that it's complicated, and requires a lot of investigation and maybe other work.  You will be your best advocate on seeking and securing funding. The Graduate School offers workshops and one-on-one training to show students the tools they can use to find money.

Also check out:

* Niner Scholars (central location to apply for specialized scholarships): <https://ninerscholars.uncc.edu/>
* Hire a Niner: <https://hireaniner.uncc.edu/>
* Check with other departments and university units (such as the Writing Center)
* Network! Your fellow MA students are a wealth of information.

***Course Requirements***

***The Curriculum***

Below is the plan of study for the program. These will be the courses that you will complete over your time in the program.

You and your advisor should form an advisory committee during your first semester of at least three people, of which at least one must be a Psychology faculty member. This committee should approve your plan of study, and review it with you at least once a year. Advisory committee members may or may not be part of your thesis committee.

Hours beyond the required 30 credit hours of graduate course work may be required by the academic advisor and the student's advisory committee.  The faculty conduct a thorough review of student performance on a regular basis.  Continuation in the program is contingent upon a favorable review during these evaluations.  Students who consistently show borderline course performance, who fail to complete coursework in a timely basis, or who otherwise perform unprofessionally or unsatisfactorily, may be required to complete additional courses or may be removed from the program.  The enrollment of a student who receives three grades of C or one Unsatisfactory (U) grade during his or her graduate career is automatically terminated.

**Core Courses (18-21 credit hours)**

***Methodology Courses (6 credit hours)***

*Select two classes from the following options:*

Community Focus

* PSYC 6145 - Applied Research Design and Program Evaluation (3) (Spring of Year 1)
* PSYC 6205 - Field & Lab Quant. Res. Meth.
* Other approved research course: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cognition Focus

* PSYC 6205 - Field & Lab Quant. Res. Meth.
* PSYC 6650 - Research Sem. in Org. Psych.
* OSCI 8650 - Research Methods Seminar in Organizational Science

RSCH 6110 - Descriptive and Inferential Statistics (3)

RSCH 6120 - Advanced Statistics (3)

Other approved research course:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Health Focus (must be co-enrolled in Health Psychology PhD Program)

* PSYC 8102 - Research Design and Quantitative Methods in Psychology (3)
* PSYC 8103 - Basic Quantitative Analyses for Behavioral Sciences (3)
* Other approved research course:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Ethics Courses (3 credit hours***)

*Select one of the following (note that 8000 level courses are available only to those co-enrolled in the Health Psychology PhD program)*

* PSYC 6107/8107 - Ethical and Professional Issues in Psychology (3)
* PHIL 6240/8240 - Research Ethics in the Biological and Behavioral Sciences (3)

***Specialty Courses (6 credit hours)***

*Select two classes from the following options:*

Community Focus

* PSYC 6155 Community Psychology  (Fall Year 2) Either of the following (Spring Year 2):
* PSYC 6355 Community Research Practicum
* PSYC 6455 Practicum in Community Psychology

Cognition Focus

* PSYC 5316 - Cognitive Neuroscience
* PSYC 6111 – Psychology of Learning & Memory
* PSYC 6115 – Sensation and Perception
* PSYC 6116 – Cognition

Health Specialty Focus (must be co-enrolled in Health Psychology PhD Program)

* PSYC 8200 Health Psychology
* PSYC 8201 Health Psychology II

***Thesis Course (>3 credit hours)***

* PSYC 6999 - Thesis (1-3 per semester) Proposal should be presented by end of Year 1 or beginning of Year 2; Thesis completed by end of Year 2

**Elective Courses (12 credit hours)**

A minimum of 12 elective credit hours selected in consultation with the student's advisor are required. You can use **any graduate level Psychological Sciences or Health Psychology (PSYC) class**, or other graduate level courses outside Psychology that are approved by your advisor (including the ones listed below or elsewhere in this plan of study). You will need to submit a petition to the Graduate School in order to count non-Psychology classes not listed here towards the MA. You can use any of the courses listed above as elective credit. For example, a student in the Cognitive Science area may use PSYC 6116 and 6115 to satisfy the Specialty Courses requirement, then use PSYC 5316 and PSYC 6111 as elective credit. PSYC 6899 (Readings and Research) can be used at the advisor’s discretion to document an extra research project, pilot testing or reading towards a thesis, or readings on a specialty area not covered by a class.

* COMM 6000 Topics in Communication Studies
* ENGL 5167 - Mind & Language
* ENGL 6161 - Introduction to Linguistics
* ENGL 6163 Language Acquisition
* GEOG 5110 GIS for Non-majors
* GEOG 6005 Topics in Urban Geography
* GRNT 6210/MPAD 6210 Aging and Public Policy
* GRNT 6600 Current issues in Gerontology
* HLTH 6202 Community Epidemiology
* HLTH 6227 Community Health Planning and Evaluation
* HLTH 6228 Social Determinants of Health
* HLTH 6220 Applied Health Behavior Change
* HSRD 8000 Topics in Health Services Research
* HSRD 8202 Health Care Systems and Delivery
* HSRD 8203/PPOL 8667 Economics of Health and Healthcare
* ITCS 6050 Topics in Intelligent Systems
* ITCS 6150 Intelligent Systems
* ITIS 6400 Human Centered Design
* KNES 5232 Physiology of Human Aging or PSYC 6124 Psychology of Aging
* KNES 6285 Advanced Cardiopulmonary Physiology
* MPAD 6142 Grant Writing and Reporting
* MPAD 6184 Urban Government and Politics

MPAD 6311 Introduction to Nonprofit Management

MPAD 6324 Financial Analysis for Nonprofit Organizations

* NURS 6115 Health Policy and Planning in the United States
* PHIL 6340 Philosophy of Mind
* PPOL 8661 Social Organization of Healthcare
* PPOL 8663 Health Policy

In addition to the courses identified above, students can, with their advisory committee’s approval, co-enroll in a related graduate certificate program and use those courses for elective credit. Any non-Psychology classes not specifically listed here will not automatically count as an elective for the MA Program in Psychology. To receive credit for those classes you will need to complete a [graduate school petition](https://graduateschool.uncc.edu/current-students/academic-petitions) (<https://graduateschool.uncc.edu/current-students/academic-petitions>).

**\*\*Important Information for faculty and students about substituting classes via permit:** In order to maintain the rigor of the MA program and ensure our students receive a high quality education, any course from a department other than Psychological Science you wish to use as a substitution for a requirement or elective must be **PREAPPROVED** by your advisor. In evaluating a potential call for substitution, the advisor will consider whether the course meets the following criteria:

* Must require reading of primary source material rather than solely a textbook.
* Grading criteria must include multiple written and oral assignments.
* Must be taught by a qualified instructor.
* Must require rigor similar to a comparable class in Psychological Science.
* Avoid overlapping content with classes taken or planned (i.e. shouldn’t cover much the same material as a class already taken or planned).

This should be determined BEFORE enrolling for the class so that there will be no question later regarding whether your permit will be granted. Provide your advisor with a copy of the course syllabus. Your advisor will ensure that requirements are being met before authorizing the class. Once your advisor makes this determination, he or she can include a statement of approval when giving permission to receive a permit.

***Milestones***

Year 1

*Fall:* Decide on plan of study with advisor (plan to do methodology courses as soon as possible), form advisory committee and ask their endorsement for your plan of study

*Spring:* Form thesis committee (if different from your advisory committee), plan, write and defend MA thesis proposal (by end of Spring)

Year 2

*Fall:* IRB approval for thesis, begin data collection

*Spring:* Complete data collection, write and defend thesis (by end of Spring)

Each Spring students are asked to complete a self-study indicating their progress towards milestones. Continuation in the program is contingent on satisfactory progress.

***Thesis***

All students enrolled in the General MA Program are expected to be active researchers under the supervision of a Psychological Sciences faculty member. The thesis will be an outgrowth of research done in the lab, developed under the guidance of the supervising faculty member (who will be the chair of the advisory and thesis committees).

Your thesis will be evaluated by a thesis committee you form. The thesis committee is composed of the thesis chair and two other faculty members (at least three members in all). It may include a faculty member from a relevant department other than Psychological Sciences.  If you want a faculty member to be on your committee, make your wishes clear. Make sure you get a definite answer before you assume that the person will serve on your committee. Note that faculty members are not required to serve on committees when they are asked. If a faculty member chooses not to serve on your committee because of other time commitments, low interest in the topic or other reasons, don't take it personally. Find someone else.

Do not get too far along with the thesis idea before putting together your committee. Most people who are willing to serve on your committee will want to have input throughout the process. Check with potential members to see what role they wish to play during the process. For example, some faculty prefer that the chair be primarily responsible for reading and revising drafts of your proposal or final thesis while others desire to be actively involved throughout the process.

The committee must be approved by the student's advisor and the program director. You, in consultation with the thesis chair, should choose people that can make a contribution to your project; that is, someone who can offer substantive comments or suggestions on at least one aspect of the project, be it content, methodology, statistics, etc. Once a thesis committee has been formed any change in committee membership should be discussed with all involved parties.

After submitting the formal written proposal to the committee, a proposal defense will be scheduled.  Approval of the thesis proposal by the committee must be unanimous.  Following a successful proposal, the student shall execute the study, write and submit the complete thesis to the committee.  An oral defense in front of the committee shall then be scheduled.  Approval of the completed thesis by the committee must be unanimous.

***Writing a Thesis Proposal***

The proposal is a written document that specifies what your thesis will be. With a typical empirical thesis, the proposal will consist of a fully developed literature review (with hypotheses if relevant), a proposed method section, and a proposed analysis section. The proposed method section should be as complete as possible, with full descriptions of the measures, procedures and anticipated sample. The proposed analysis section should specify how you will examine your data with respect to your ideas, propositions or hypotheses.

You should work closely with your chair to develop the thesis proposal. Note that it isn’t uncommon to work through four or five revisions of the document before your chair indicates that the proposal is ready for the proposal meeting. Trust your chair here; you really want the proposal document to be as well prepared as possible before the proposal meeting.

Once your proposal is ready for the meeting, give a copy to all the members of your committee and schedule your proposal meeting. You should allow two weeks between the time that you give the proposal document to the committee members and the date of the proposal meeting.

***The Proposal Meeting***

The proposal meeting can take many forms depending on how your committee wants to operate. Consult with your chair to understand how he or she would like to run the proposal meeting. Most often, the proposal meeting involves you giving a short presentation of your thesis idea (just hit the highlights, remember that your committee has read the document), and the committee making suggestions and recommendations.

Your committee will decide whether to approve your proposal (though you may be asked to do more work and to hold a second meeting). You get your committee’s ideas about what you will need to work on or think about to improve your thesis and make it a defensible project. You should expect that the committee will have some recommendations for you, some of which you may not like!

Essentially, the proposal meeting results in something of a contract between the committee and the student. One the one hand, the committee is agreeing that if the student diligently and professionally completes the work in the proposal, satisfactorily analyzes the data, and draws reasonable conclusions, that they will consider the project to be an adequate thesis. On the other hand, the student is agreeing to carry out the work as proposed. There should be no major changes to the project after approval of the proposal, unless agreed to by all parties.

*You should hold the proposal meeting before you collect any data*! If you start data collection before the meeting and then your committee recommends a change to the methodology, you could have to start data collection all over again. You must apply for and receive Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval before collecting data.

Some paperwork needs to be filed at the conclusion of your proposal meeting:

* [**Appointment of Master's Thesis Committee**](http://graduateschool.uncc.edu/current-students/forms#Appointment of Master's Thesis Committee)
* [**Proposal Defense for Doctoral Dissertation and/or Master's Thesis**](http://graduateschool.uncc.edu/current-students/forms#Defense Proposal for Doctoral Dissertation and/or Master's Thesis/Project)

***The Thesis Defense***

When you have completed work on your thesis document, have gone through revisions of the document with your chair, and your chair says that you are ready, it is time for your thesis defense. The thesis defense is an evaluation of your thesis work. The committee decides if you pass or if you fail.

Usually, you will be asked to give a brief presentation of your project to the committee. Then, anyone in the audience can ask you questions about your work. The committee will ask you to step out of the room while they decide whether or not you have passed the defense.

You should give the thesis document to your committee at least two weeks prior to the defense meeting (note that committee members are not under any obligation to meet during the summer).

Should you fail your thesis defense, you will be given detailed feedback as to why you failed. You will be given a second chance to prepare and defend your thesis document. Of course, you should work closely with your chair and committee members to ensure that the revision of your document is ready for defense. Should you fail the second defense, you will not be allowed to continue in the program.

***Final Forms and Submitting the Thesis***

Your work does not end after a successful defense. First, there are likely to be revisions to be made to your thesis document. You will likely work with your thesis chair to make these revisions. Second, there are two forms which will need to be completed and turned in. You should bring the thesis defense report form with you so that your committee members can sign them.

* [**Defense Report for Doctoral Dissertation and/or Master's Thesis**](http://graduateschool.uncc.edu/current-students/forms#Defense Report for Doctoral Dissertation and/or Master's thesis/project)
* **Application for Graduation**

Third, you will need to prepare your thesis document to be turned into the Graduate School. The Graduate School has very strict formats which you have to meet; if you fail to meet some of the formatting regulations they won’t accept your thesis. Check with the Graduate School for the most up-to-date requirements. They require you to have a formatting meeting with them in person.

***Some Additional Thoughts***

*Watch deadlines.* Many students find themselves fighting deadlines, wanting to get their thesis completed just in time for graduation. **Make note of the deadlines for submitting the finished thesis to the Graduate School,** then plan on a defense allowing plenty of time for last-minute revisions. The Graduate School is really not flexible with these dates and if you miss the date, you won’t be allowed to graduate. Likewise, faculty members are often quite busy at the end of the semesters and may not be able to respond quickly. Trying to rush things through is generally not a good idea, so be sure to allow yourself plenty of time. Recognize that doing it well is more important than doing it quickly. Even with valiant efforts, you may miss a deadline and have to take more time. Start planning your thesis with your advisor from the beginning of your training.

Along this line, make sure you are aware of the **Graduate School’s deadline to apply to graduate**. It is always earlier than people expect it to be.

***Professional Development***

As with any program, the knowledge, skills, and professional development that will occur as you progress through your courses can be supplemented with professional development outside the classroom, and we encourage you to do so as time allows.

During your time as a student in the program, there are a number of ways you can get involved in professional development. You can attend local networking events, meetings and talks, local or regional conferences, or join and/or attend conferences sponsored by national professional societies. Work with your advisor to develop presentations of your research at local, national or international professional conferences. Consider getting a student membership in a professional organization relevant to your research. Your advisor can direct you on which to investigate.

Attend any relevant research presentations on campus or in the area. Network! When job candidates are brought in by the department, attend their research talks, even if it is outside your area.

Write a lot and consider working in more than one lab. The better your writing skills, and the more research skills you have, the more you have to offer when you apply to a PhD program or for a job.

***Appendix***

**Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to behave in a considerate, ethical, and respectful manner with other members of the university community. The university’s academic integrity code can be found at <https://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-407>. This code is enforced! Information about student conduct can be found at <https://scai.uncc.edu/student-conduct>.

**Whom do I contact?**

Program Director (Dr. Gaultney) 704-687-1331 or [Jane.Gaultney@uncc.edu](mailto:Jane.Gaultney@uncc.edu)

The Graduate School (Admissions) <https://gradadmissions.uncc.edu/>

Center for Graduate Life <https://gradlife.uncc.edu/>

Funding for Graduate Education

<https://graduateschool.uncc.edu/funding/funding-graduate-education>

Psychology Department Chair (Dr. Eric Heggestad) [edhegges@uncc.edu](mailto:edhegges@uncc.edu)

Psychology Office Staff 704-687-1315

Community Psychology (Dr. Cook) [jcook@uncc.edu](mailto:jcook@uncc.edu)

Cognitive Science (Dr. Markant) [dmarkant@uncc.edu](mailto:dmarkant@uncc.edu)

Title IX Office (sexual assault or harassment) <https://titleix.uncc.edu/>

Center for Counseling and Psychological Services <https://caps.uncc.edu/> Disability Services <https://ds.uncc.edu/>

Graduate Catalog <https://catalog.uncc.edu/>

Ombudsperson (conflict resolution) <https://ombuds.uncc.edu/>

Academic Petitions

<https://graduateschool.uncc.edu/current-students/academic-petitions>

Resources for Graduate Students

<https://graduateschool.uncc.edu/current-students/current-student-resources>

Religious Holidays <https://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-409>

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

<https://legal.uncc.edu/legal-topics/ferpa>

Human Subjects in Research

<https://research.uncc.edu/departments/office-research-compliance-orc/human-subjects>

***Frequently Asked Questions***

*Will this degree allow me to work as a counselor, therapist, psychologist or sit for a licensing board exam?*

No. This program emphasizes research but offers no clinical training. While you can use it to strengthen your research credentials, it will not shorten the time it takes to become a licensed clinical psychologist. You have several options. You can read about the Health Psychology PhD Program at <https://healthpsych.uncc.edu/>. Alternatively you can consider a PsyD Program (programs that emphasize practice rather than research; view accredited PsyD programs at <https://apps.apa.org/accredsearch/?_ga=2.214846047.914259181.1556045281-1503728580.1553114117>). You can consider an MA or PhD in Counseling (e.g., <https://counseling.uncc.edu/>) or an MS in Clinical Social Work (e.g. <https://socialwork.uncc.edu/>).

*Do I have to have a faculty member who agrees to work with me in order to be admitted?*

Yes. Students who have already had conversations with a faculty member are more likely to be admitted. We don’t want to admit someone unless we’re sure a faculty member will take responsibility for that person’s research and thesis.

*Must I have undergraduate research experience to apply?*

Not necessarily, but if you have research skills to “sell,” you are more likely to find someone interested in serving as your advisor.

*Must I have Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores to apply? How high do the scores need to be? How about my GPA?*

The GRE is required. The graduate school sets a minimum of 30th percentile. In rare cases students with lower scores have been accepted. If this applies to you, discuss reasons (for example, taking the test in your non-native language, or being a first generation college student) for the low GRE scores with your potential advisor. The minimum undergraduate or graduate grade point average is 3.0.