

**HANDBOOK FOR**  
**MASTER OF ARTS PROGRAMS IN PSYCHOLOGY**  
**AT**  
**THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA**

**Department of Psychology**  
**Washington, D.C. 20064**

**NOTE:**

Psychology course requirements and other regulations affecting M.A. students are subject to change. The information contained in this Handbook is believed accurate, however please refer to the CUA “Graduate Studies 2008-2009 Announcements” for official University policy.

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## Overview of M.A. Programs in Psychology

The Psychology Department offers terminal M.A. Degrees in *General Psychology*, *Human Factors Psychology*, and *Psychology & Law*. All programs require 31 hours of courses and successful completion of a course-based comprehensive examination.<sup>1</sup> The *General* and the *Psychology & Law* Programs require a topic paper based on either a critical literature review or, optionally, an empirical study. The *Human Factors* Program requires a traditional empirical thesis.

Each M.A. program has a specific emphasis. The *General Psychology* Program provides a broad overview of theoretical issues in several areas of the field which can provide good preparation for doctoral training in psychology. However, students with this goal should remember that admission to doctoral programs in psychology can be very competitive, and that prior courses in the field are only one of the criteria considered by doctoral admissions committees. The *Human Factors* Program prepares students for work in research settings through its focus on research experience. It is also good preparation for experimentally oriented Ph.D. programs. *Psychology & Law* is a joint program in which students who have been admitted to The Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law earn an Master of Arts degree in conjunction with the Juris Doctor.

This handbook describes the goals and requirements of each program in detail. It also contains checklists and procedures that will be helpful to students enrolled in the programs. The following section summarizes the requirements and objectives of each program.

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<sup>1</sup> For the *Psychology & Law* Program, 9 credits are accepted from the CUA Columbus School of Law. The 22 remaining credits are taken in the Psychology Department.

## Specific Programs

### General Psychology

The *General Psychology* Program is designed for individuals who (1) want to generally broaden their understanding of the field of psychology, (2) intend to seek a doctorate in psychology but require additional academic training or research experience, (3) hope to find specific masters-level career opportunities in areas related to psychology, or (4) have academic or professional backgrounds completely outside of psychology and are interested in making a transition to a career in psychology. The *General Psychology* Program stresses breadth and is therefore a good preparation for more advanced study or direct employment in careers that require interpersonal and/or statistical skills such as human relations, research assistant, marketing, advertising, management, arbitration, and lobbying. Research psychologists (who work in academic, corporate, and industrial settings) and professional counseling and clinical psychologists (who work in academic, community, and private settings) have specialized skills gained either through graduate work at the doctoral level or from specialized M.A. programs such as our *Human Factors* program. The program does **not** offer clinical training; students can not take practica or field placements. However, the breadth of experience obtained in the program may enhance one's application to clinical or counseling doctoral programs. Also, there is a two-course sequence in Neuropsychology, which will focus on the latest concepts and advancements in brain and behavior relations. These courses will draw from clinical and basic neuroscience and will discuss the neural mechanisms for cognitive and emotional functions and how these functions are altered by injury and diseases. These courses in neuropsychology may lead to career opportunities in working as a technician in research and in some clinical settings under close supervision of a licensed psychologist.

The M.A. in General Psychology is awarded after 31 credit hours of courses, approval of a topic paper, and successful completion of a comprehensive examination. The course requirements are designed to provide broad training in psychology. There are 19 required credit hours: statistics (4 credits), research methods, Psychology Proseminar, plus at least one course in Clinical Psychology, one in Cognitive Psychology and Neuroscience, and one in Developmental and Social Psychology. There are also 12 credit hours of electives, which may include individual supervised readings and/or a research apprenticeship. Finally, there is a required topic paper and comprehensive exam.

Three credits may be taken as independent readings (Psychology 591, Readings in Psychology) supervised by a regular member of the Department. After consulting with his or her advisor, the student must indicate the content area of the readings on the approval form available in the Department office.

The 3 credit Research Apprenticeship is designed for students who wish to obtain hands-on research experience as part of their training. This experience may be especially important for those who plan to continue their studies in a doctoral program. Students interested in this option enter into an agreement with a faculty

member to carry out specified research. (See page 14 for rules about an off-campus research apprenticeship.) In most cases, this involves assisting on an ongoing project, but occasionally students conduct an original study. The faculty research advisor serves as primary reader on the topic paper. The student may sign up for 1, 2, or 3 credits in any one semester. Normally students take 1 credit (795) in the second semester of their Program and two credits (796, 797) in the third semester (the Research Apprenticeship courses are one credit each). The research interests of current faculty members are listed in Appendix B. It is important to note that all masters student may pursue research experiences in psychology *without* taking research apprenticeship credits.

<b>MA in General Psychology Program Requirements</b>	
<b>1. Statistics</b>	Educ 633 <i>Introductory Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences</i> or Psy 705 <i>Statistics I</i> (Ph.D. level)
<b>2. Research Methods</b>	Psy 811 <i>Research Methods in Psychology</i> (Ph.D. level)
<b>3 &amp; 4. Foundations</b>	Psy 709 <i>Historical and Biological Foundations</i> Psy 710 <i>Cognitive and Social Foundations</i>
<b>5. Clinical Psychology</b>	(one course)
<b>6. Cognitive Psychology and Neuroscience</b>	(one course)
<b>7. Developmental and Social Psychology</b>	(one course)
<b>8-10. Three other electives.</b>	(You may substitute a research apprenticeship and/or a readings in psychology for one of the elective courses.)  Research Apprenticeship (three credits) Readings in Psychology (three credits with content area indicated at time of approval)
<b>11. Comprehensive Exam.</b>	Before the course "Add" deadline at the beginning of the semester, submit a "Course Information" form to the Asst to the Chair
<b>12. Topic paper</b>	You must sign up for Psy 793 for each semester in which you receive guidance on your topic paper.

## Human Factors

The *Human Factors* Program prepares students for positions in applied psychological research settings by offering doctoral level training in experimental design and quantitative methods, specific content areas and hands-on research experience. Students select an area of concentration such as “Applied Cognitive Psychology,” “Human-Computer Interaction,” “Aging,” “Cognitive Disabilities,” or “Virtual Environments.” Research experience is obtained either by working in on-campus laboratories or in conjunction with an off-campus employer.

Applied psychologists can expect to find jobs as research and administrative consultants in corporate, industrial, and government settings. The expertise of Engineering Psychologists lies primarily in systems engineering and design related to the human-machine interface. Applied Cognitive Science specialists concentrate on issues in which the information processing aspects of human performance are relevant. Finally, a concentration in Research Methods prepares a student to design and analyze data in a wide variety of settings.

The M.A. in Human Factors is awarded after 31 credits (including directed readings and research experience), successful completion of a written comprehensive examination, and a successful oral defense of the thesis. Each student is required to take six credits of approved courses in their area of concentration. These requirements are summarized in the following table.

<b>Human Factors Program Requirements</b>
<p><b>1 &amp; 2. Statistics</b>            Psy 705 <i>Statistics I</i> (Ph.D. Level)            Psy 706 <i>Statistics II</i> (Ph.D. level)</p>
<p><b>3. Research Methods</b>            Psy 811 <i>Research Methods in Psychology</i> (Ph.D. level)</p>
<p><b>4 &amp; 5. Foundations</b>            Psy 709 <i>Historical and Biological Foundations</i>            Psy 710 <i>Cognitive and Social Foundations</i></p>
<p><b>6 &amp; 7. Specialty Seminars</b>            Two advanced courses in the chosen area of specialization</p>
<p><b>8 – 10. Electives</b> (Three courses. You may substitute a research apprenticeship and/or a readings in psychology for one of the elective courses.)</p> <p>Research Apprenticeship (three credits)            Readings in Psychology (three credits, with content area indicated at time of approval)</p>
<p><b>11. Thesis with Oral Defense</b>  <b>PSY 798 or 799</b> Master’s Thesis Guidance (tuition of three credits)</p>
<p><b>12. Comprehensive Exam</b> You must sign up for either Comp 598 or Comp 599. Before the course “Add” deadline at the beginning of the semester, submit a “Course Information” form to the Asst to the Chair</p>

## **Psychology & Law**

Students who have been admitted to The Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law may obtain an M.A. in Psychology in conjunction with their J.D. Through the *Psychology & Law* Program. Law School Admissions is handled through the Columbus School of Law Admissions Office (202-319-5144). There is no requirement for M.A./J.D. students to take the Graduate Record Exam; admission to the Columbus School of Law is sufficient to be admitted to the program. Knowledge of psychological theory and methods often proves useful in legal applications. Some specific areas in which psychology has an impact on the legal profession include eyewitness memory and testimony, product testing and producer liability, psychological testing, competency and the insanity defense, arbitration, juvenile and family law, and interpretation of statistical results. The M.A. is awarded in conjunction with the J.D. after completing 22 credits of Psychology courses and fulfilling the requirements of the law degree. Because 9 credits of Law classes are counted toward the Psychology MA degree and some credits of Psychology classes are counted toward the Law degree, the two degrees are granted in conjunction. That is, neither degree is granted until both degrees are completed. Getting Law School academic advising is particularly important for Psychology and Law students, to make sure all the degree requirements are met.

See next page for the table of requirements

<b>Psychology and Law Program Requirements (requires admission to the Columbus School of Law)</b>
<p><b>1. Statistics</b>  Educ 633 <i>Introductory Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences</i>  or  Psy 705 <i>Statistics I</i> (Ph.D. level)</p>
<p><b>2. Research Methods</b>   Psy 811 <i>Research Methods in Psychology</i> (Ph.D. level)</p>
<p><b>3 &amp; 4. Foundations</b>  Psy 709 <i>Historical and Biological Foundations</i>  Psy 710 <i>Cognitive and Social Foundations</i></p>
<p><b>5. Clinical Psychology</b> (one course)</p>
<p><b>6. Cognitive Psychology and Neuroscience</b> (one course)</p>
<p><b>7. Developmental and Social Psychology</b> (one course)</p>
<p><b>8-10. Three other electives</b>, usually three <b>law</b> classes (You may substitute a research apprenticeship and/or a readings in psychology for one of the elective courses.)   Research Apprenticeship (three credits)  Readings in Psychology (three credits with content area indicated at time of approval)</p>
<p><b>11. Comprehensive Exam.</b> Before the course "Add" deadline at the beginning of the semester, submit a "Course Information" form to the Asst to the Chair</p>
<p><b>12. Topic paper</b> You must sign up for Psy 793 for each semester in which you receive guidance on your topic paper.</p>
<p><b>** And fulfill all requirements of the JD degree **</b></p>

## Requirements for All Programs

### Courses

Each M.A. program has specific requirements as summarized in the previous section. All programs require the two Psychology Foundations courses and at least

one course each in statistics and research methods. Generally, students are expected to take these courses in their first two semesters. For the statistics requirement, *General Psychology* and *Psychology & Law* students may elect to take either *Introductory Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences* (Educ 633), which covers the basics of statistical theory and application in psychological research, or the doctoral-level *Statistics I* (Psy 705). Both *Statistics I* (Psy 705) and *Statistics II* (Psy 706) are required for students in the *Human Factors* Program. For the research methods requirement, students in all three programs must take Psy 811 *Research Methods in Psychology*, which is offered **only** in the Fall semester. *Research Methods in Psychology* (Psy 811) is a doctoral level research methods course. If you do not have a strong or recent background in psychology, it would be advisable to take Psy 811 in your second year in the program.

### **The Topic Paper/M.A. Thesis**

The purpose of the topic paper is to provide the student with an opportunity to demonstrate expertise in a specific area of psychology. The paper should represent an informative, in depth analysis of a particular content area and reflect the competencies developed during completion of the M.A. program. The content, format, and organization of the paper should be of such quality that an interested professional would find it useful and informative. Students in the *General Psychology* and *Psychology and Law* Programs must complete a topic paper, whereas students in the *Human Factors* Program are required to complete a traditional masters thesis. There is no thesis option in the M.A. General program.

Students are encouraged to choose a topic of personal interest consistent with the emphasis of their particular M.A. program. Topics must be timely and relevant to psychology. There should be a sufficient body of recent literature accessible in recent psychological journals and other professional sources to provide a scholarly base for the paper. Older literature and secondary sources may be used for historical and theoretical foundations, but the bulk of the paper should describe and critique empirical studies in the recent literature. Papers written for graduate courses may **not** be used to fulfill this requirement. However, it may be acceptable to develop a related topic, but in substantially greater depth. In such cases, the advisor should be presented with the previous paper which will serve as a basis for the topic paper.

For students in the *General Psychology* and *Psychology and Law* Programs the topic paper may be either theoretical or empirical. A theoretical topic paper should go beyond a simple review of the literature. The author should consider implications and extensions of the material reviewed including elaboration of controversial issues, critical analysis of opposing orientations, examination of methodological shortcomings, and specific recommendations for future work. Authors of theoretical papers may propose hypotheses and experiments as part of their presentation. An empirical topic paper reports the findings of an empirical study undertaken by the student through the Research Apprenticeship option described previously. The paper is written using the traditional American Psychological Association format for

empirical papers. The empirical topic paper is much like the traditional masters thesis described below, but without the committee and oral defense.

Having a general idea of what the topic for the paper will be, the writer should contact a faculty member in the Department of Psychology to serve as advisor. The advisor assists the student in selecting a specific topic and in organizing the paper and provides an overall evaluation and final approval of the manuscript. In the case of empirical papers, the advisor will typically recommend a specific study. Research psychologists from outside the Department may be consulted or in some cases serve as the primary advisor to a topic paper, but the official reader of the paper must be a CUA faculty member. This reader must approve the topic paper before it is submitted to the Director of the M.A. Program. Given the time required to develop an appropriate topic, students should contact an advisor long before the topic paper is due.

Students in the *Human Factors* program are expected to write a traditional masters thesis—a research oriented paper which describes an empirical study they conducted. Although the analyses reported are expected to be original to the student, the topic will typically be one assigned to the student by his or her research advisor. The thesis must be read and approved by the student's M.A. committee consisting of the advisor and a reader before being submitted to the M.A. Program Director. To complete the thesis requirement, the student and his/her advisor should arrange for an oral defense of the work. The examining committee consists of the M.A. committee and an additional faculty member selected by the research advisor.

The specific approach used to complete the topic paper/M.A. thesis requirement will depend on the arrangements made between the student and his or her advisor. However, in general the following steps are involved: (1) locate a Psychology Department faculty member with an interest in your chosen topic area. Then, obtain agreement regarding your plan and frequency of contacts expected; (2) review the literature; (3) develop an outline for the topics to be covered; (4) create a list of references used; (5) submit a first draft of paper to the advisor; (6) obtain feedback; (7) incorporate the changes; and (8) get the advisor's feedback and/or final approval. By maintaining contact with the advisor throughout this process, last minute disappointments can be prevented. Different faculty members may have different ways of negotiating and working with students on topic papers; it is crucial to carefully negotiate expectations and a timetable with your topic paper advisor well in advance. The paper must be written in accordance with the standards presented in the current *American Psychological Association Publication Manual*. In particular, the writer should refer to the *APA Manual* regarding referencing (both in the text and in the reference list), writing the abstract, using headings, and citing direct quotations. A research oriented paper will include Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion sections as specified in the *APA Manual*. A theoretical paper should be organized into logical subtopics. The general organization required for the paper is summarized in the following table.

The final approved copy is due in the Department Office at least two weeks before the end of classes in the student's final semester. See the Graduate Student Bulletin Board outside the Psychology Office for the current semester's deadlines.

You must register for the 1-credit MA Topic Paper Guidance, PSY793, each semester during which you are working on the topic paper with faculty guidance, and at a minimum you must register for this course for the semester when you will be completing the topic paper. Most students will take topic paper guidance in their third and fourth semesters. PSY793 does not count as part of the 31 credits required for your degree. Those students who are doing only comps and the topic paper in a given semester should register for PSY 793 and COMP 598, Master's Comps (with classes).

Topic paper guidance is not offered during the summer. You may however register, with your advisor's approval, for the 3-credit Psy 890 (Directed Research) in the summer.

<b>Organization of the M.A. Topic Paper or Thesis</b>	
<b>Topic Paper Approval Form (see Appendix B)</b>	This form must be signed by the student's advisor before the paper is submitted for final approval.
<b>Title Page</b>	The paper should include a title page in the exact format shown in Appendix C.
<b>Abstract (500 words)</b>	The abstract should appear on a separate single-spaced page with the title and author's name centered at the top. It should not exceed 500 words.
<b>Table of Contents</b>	The table of contents should appear on a separate page and list all section headings with their page numbers.
<b>Body</b>	The body of the paper should be typed with one inch margins on all sides and double spaced (lengthy quotations should be single spaced). Center the title of the paper on the top of the first page and number subsequent pages in the upper right corner. The paper will typically range from 25-45 pages of text exclusive of references, tables and figures.
<b>References</b>	The reference section begins on a new page with the heading References centered at the top. References should be in the APA Style, single spaced with a blank line separating each reference.

### **The Comprehensive Examination**

A course-based comprehensive examination is required of all students. The examination is generally taken in the student's last semester (when at least 25 credits have been completed **and** the student is currently completing the remaining six credits) or in the semester immediately following completion of course requirements. Students who fail to take the exam within one year of completing courses must request and receive special approval to take comprehensives by the Chair of the Department.

The comprehensive exams are offered twice a year during a two day period, usually in late October and in mid March. Check the University calendar for exact dates. A student who fails a comprehensive exam is required to retake all parts of the exam. A student who incurs two failures on comprehensive examinations is no longer eligible to receive the Master's degree.

The examination format is standard, although the specific questions are tailored to the course histories of individual students. The exams are given from 9:30-12:30 on two consecutive days. Students typically answer 3 questions on each day. On the first day, the two questions are always on the required statistics and research methods courses. Copies of exams from past years are available in the Department. Students are encouraged to look at these exams to gain familiarity with the form and expectations for the comprehensives. Requirements for taking the comprehensive examination are summarized in the following table.

<b>Requirements for Taking the Comprehensive Examination</b>	
<b>Courses</b>	The student must have completed at least 24 credits of courses and be enrolled in the remaining courses.
<b>Registration</b>	The student must have registered to take the Comprehensive Examination, either Comp 598 (if you are taking other classes) or Comp 599 (no other classes).
<b>Sign up in the Department Office</b>	The student must <b>also</b> sign up to take the examination in the Psychology Department Office during the first week of the semester. Before the course "Add" deadline at the beginning of the semester, the student must submit a "Course Information" form to the Asst to the Chair

## **Policies and Procedures**

### **Application and Admission**

Students applying to one of the M.A. programs must have a bachelor's degree. Although, an undergraduate major in psychology is not required, applicants are expected to have taken some psychology courses. Applicants to the *Psychology & Law* Program must apply to **both** the School of Arts and Sciences **and** The Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law. The materials required for application to the School of Arts and Sciences are listed in the following table.

<b>Admissions Materials Required by the School of Arts and Sciences</b>	
Completed application form and fee	
Official transcripts of undergraduate work	
Results of the Verbal, Quantitative, and Writing Graduate Record Exam. Advanced score in psychology is highly recommended for psychology majors.	
<b>Note:</b> M.A./J.D. students who have taken the LSAT and have been admitted to the Columbus School of Law are not required to additionally submit GRE scores.	
Three letters of recommendation, preferably from former professors	

## **Conditional Acceptance**

Students whose academic background, as indicated by undergraduate grades, major, or GRE scores, is below that of our typical entering student may take no more than 10 credit hours in their first semester in the program. If they receive grades of "B" or better in these courses, they will be allowed to take more than 10 credit hours in subsequent semesters. The students who do not receive grades of "B" or better in these courses will be subject to an immediate academic review by a committee of the faculty.

## **Special (nondegree) Students**

Special students are non-matriculating (i.e., they are not enrolled in any degree program), but they may take most graduate level courses in psychology. Special students may apply for acceptance into an M.A. program at any time. Simply passing courses does not guarantee acceptance into a degree program. Acceptance is based primarily on the faculty's judgment of whether or not the student will succeed at the M.A. level. If admitted as a regular student in a degree program, only three courses taken as a "special" student can be counted toward a degree.

## **Faculty Advising**

After initial advising by the M.A. Program Director, the student will be assigned a faculty advisor. The advisor assists in course selection, but it is the student's responsibility to ensure that graduation requirements are fulfilled. The M.A. Program Director will always assist in any advising needs throughout the program. The student can select any faculty member to supervise his/her topic paper. In most cases, the faculty member who advises a student about courses will not be the one who reads and approves that student's topic paper.

## **Transfer of Credit**

A maximum of six credit hours of graduate credit may be transferred from other institutions and applied toward the M.A. degree. All requests for transfer of credit must meet the conditions summarized in the following table. Once the requirements are met, students should complete a *Transfer of Credit Form* and submit it to the Chair of the Department of Psychology. Requests should include the name of the institution, course name(s) and number(s), semester and year taken, and grade(s) earned. A description of each course should be attached together with a copy of the course syllabus. If the syllabus is not available, a photocopy of the relevant pages from the graduate catalog should be attached.

<b>Conditions for Transfer of Credit</b>
The student has completed either one full semester or 12 credit hours at CUA
The transfer credits were earned within the past three years
The student obtained a grade of B or better in each course
The credits are relevant to the student's program at CUA as determined by the M.A. Program Director and/or Department Chair
An official transcript for the credits must be deposited with the Dean of Arts & Sciences
A Transfer of Credit Form must be completed and approved by the Chair of Psychology

### **Maintaining Good Academic Standing**

All graduate students must maintain a good academic record to remain enrolled. University regulations governing academic performance are detailed in the *Catholic University Announcements, Graduate Study in Arts and Sciences*. Furthermore, the Department of Psychology has specified that any student who receives (1) a grade of "F" in any course, (2) two "C" grades in any one semester, or (3) one "C" grade in each of two consecutive semesters will be subject to immediate academic review by a committee of the faculty. Upon hearing the committee's report and recommendations, the faculty may set specific conditions for the student to fulfill during a specified period of time in order to continue his or her good standing in the program. The committee may also recommend dismissal from the program.

### **Registration, Continuous Enrollment, and Leave of Absence**

Full time study requires registration for eight or more credit hours each semester. Part time study consists of registration for less than eight hours a semester. Every graduate student is required to maintain continuous enrollment from the date of first registration until a degree is granted. Students must register for at least three (3) credits of graduate study each semester until all degree requirements are completed.

An M.A. student who has finished all courses and needs only take the comprehensive exam must register for *Comprehensive Examination Only* (Comp 599, one credit hour tuition, zero course credit) for the semester in which they take the examination.

A student who fails to maintain continuous enrollment is considered to have withdrawn from the University. If the student wishes to resume graduate work a petition for readmission must be made. An applicant for readmission must pay the application fee and must, after review of the student's record of progress toward the degree, be recommended by the Department Chair. The Dean must then approve the recommendation.

## **Deadlines**

Master's degree candidates must complete all degree requirements within three years after completion of course work. An extension of up to one year may be granted upon petition to the Department Chair; the recommendation of the Chair is then transmitted to the Dean for approval. An approved Leave of Absence period is not counted in determining calendar deadlines.

## **Leave of Absence**

A leave of absence (LOA) is granted only for valid emergency reasons or circumstances causing involuntary interruption of graduate studies (generally restricted to situations such as ill health, financial crisis, required military service). Academic pressures, employment conflicts, and geographic moves are usually not sufficient reasons for granting a LOA.

Leave of absence must be requested by a letter addressed to the Chair of the Department, after first being approved by the student's advisor and the M.A. Program Director. The Chair's recommendation will then be forwarded to the Dean who makes the final decision. The letter requesting leave must be submitted before the beginning of the registration period for that semester. If granted, the leave will be for a specified period, usually not exceeding one year.

While on leave the student pays no fees, receives no credit, and the period is not counted as part of the time allowed for the completion of residence or other degree requirements. The student does not have access to University facilities or to faculty consultation during the leave.

## **Change of Program**

If a registered student desires to change from one M.A. program to another within the Psychology Department, that student should first confer with his or her advisor and the M.A. Program Director. A letter requesting the change of programs must be sent to the M.A. Program Director and Department Chair. Once approved by the Chair, the departmental Administrative Assistant will notify the Dean of the change.

## **Joint B.A./M.A. Program**

At the end of their sophomore year, undergraduates with at least a 3.5 cumulative G.P.A. may upon approval of the Undergraduate and M.A. Program Directors designate four courses to be taken for credit toward a joint B.A./M.A. degree. In the fall of their senior year, BA/MA students must formally apply for the MA program. They should submit an application, statement of purpose, GRE scores, and 2 letters of recommendation.

For B.A./M.A. students, the M.A. degree must be completed five years after matriculation of the B.A. program. All other requirements are the same as for the regular M. A. students.

### **Consortium Registration Policy**

You may be allowed to take courses at Washington Metropolitan Area universities if such courses are needed for your degree and are not offered at CUA. See the Consortium Coordinator in the Office of the Registrar for a request form.

## **Research Apprenticeships**

### **Research Apprenticeships in the Department**

We encourage all MA students to participate in research. Research experience is particularly important for those students who will eventually want to apply to Ph.D. programs in psychology.

Each research apprenticeship is worth 1 credit and requires 4 hours of research work per week. In your first semester of research apprenticeship you could take Psy 795 (4 hours per week),  
Psy 795 and 796 (8 hours per week),  
or Psy 795, 796, and 797 (12 hours per week).

If you take 3 research apprenticeships during the course of your studies, they combine to count as one course toward the MA. You do not have to take all three credits in the same semester. If you take them during three semesters, for example, you would take PSY 795 the first semester, 796 the second semester and 797 the third semester. If you wish to take more research apprenticeships after PSY 797 (although they will not count toward the degree requirements), then register again for PSY 797.

### **Off-Campus Research Apprenticeships**

You should try to obtain research experience with CUA faculty members, but you may also earn CUA credit for your research apprenticeship by working with a researcher who is not at CUA. Your off-campus supervisor must be a Ph.D. psychologist or M.D. researcher. To earn credit, you must be learning how to do research—e.g., reviewing literature, formulating hypotheses, designing measures, doing sophisticated statistical analyses, etc. Ideally, you should be doing enough to perhaps warrant a co-authorship in a poster or paper. An apprentice should not be just an “assistant” who finds references, collects and cleans data, types tables, etc.—essential work that could be probably done by a good undergraduate.

If you work with a non-CUA faculty member, you must complete two forms. One form requires you to have a CUA faculty member agree to oversee your apprenticeship. The faculty member does not necessarily need to be

knowledgeable in the specific research area, but must be willing to check to make sure that you are receiving appropriate training. The faculty member will probably call your supervisor and meet with you a few times during the semester. The faculty member who oversees your apprenticeship will not necessarily be the same person who supervises your M.A. topic paper.

The other form is for your off-campus supervisor to complete at the end of the semester, so as to indicate what training you received and how well you did in your apprenticeship. Please give this form to your off-campus supervisor at the beginning of the semester so that they know what to do for you to receive credit.

Each research apprenticeship is worth 1 credit and requires 4 hours of research work per week. You can take  
Psy 795 (4 hours per week),  
Psy 795 and 796 (8 hours per week),  
or Psy 795, 796, and 797 (12 hours per week).

If you take 3 research apprenticeships during the course of your studies, they combine to count as one course toward the MA. You do not have to take all three credits in the same semester. If you take them during three semesters, for example, you would take PSY 795 the first semester, 796 the second semester and 797 the third semester. If you wish to take more research apprenticeships after PSY 797 (although they will not count toward the degree requirements), then register again for PSY 797.

Appendix A: Department Courses by Content Area

<b>Clinical Psychology</b>		
615	Forensic Psychology	Goldberg
619	Health Psychology	Parkhurst
617	Seminar on Suicide	Jobes
714	Introduction to Neuropsychology	Fedio
715	Neuropsychological Assessment	Fedio
716	Case Studies in Neuropsychology	Fedio
733	Contemporary Psychodynamic Theory and Practice	Jobes
734	Couple and Family Interaction {double listed}	Wagner
735	Developmental Psychopathology {double listed}	Wagner
745	Cognitive and Behavior Therapy	Glass
810	Psychotherapy with Children	Achilles
812	Family Therapy: Theory and Practice	Wagner
813	Psychopathology	Arnkoff
830	Cultural Issues in Clinical Psychology {double listed}	Barrueco
840	Ethics and Professional Practice	Jobes
<b>Cognitive Psychology and Neuroscience</b>		
536	Human - Computer Interaction	Sebrechts
570	Visualization and Virtual Reality	Sebrechts
625	Cognitive Aging {double listed}	Howard
628	Psychology of Memory	Clawson
631	Sensation and Perception	Howard
679	Computer Models of Mind	Howard
720	Cognitive Rehabilitation	Clawson
759	Cognitive Neuroscience	Fuller
777	Psychology of Emotions {double listed}	Safer
780	Applied Memory Research	Safer
878	Cognitive Science	Howard
883	Applied Cognitive Psychology	Sebrechts
<b>Developmental and Social Psychology</b>		
625	Cognitive Aging {double listed}	Howard
626	Marital Conflict and Children	Goeke-Morey
627	Couples and Family Interaction	Goeke-Morey
727	Social Development	Goeke-Morey
734	Couple and Family Interaction {double listed}	Wagner
735	Developmental Psychopathology {double listed}	Wagner
777	Psychology of Emotions {double listed}	Safer
830	Cultural Issues in Clinical Psychology {double listed}	Barrueco

<b>Other Courses</b>		
705	Statistical Methods I	Clawson
706	Statistical Methods II	Safer
811	Research Methods in Psychology	Barrueco

Note: The above listing is not exhaustive and not all courses are routinely offered. A few courses satisfy requirements in more than one area. Certain courses in Education can also satisfy requirements.

## Appendix B: Faculty Research Interests

Diane B. Arnkoff, Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University.

*Professor of Psychology*

Psychotherapy process and outcome, psychotherapy integration, social and evaluative anxiety, cognitive aspects of anxiety.

email: [arnkoff@cua.edu](mailto:arnkoff@cua.edu)

Sandra Barrueco, Ph.D. University of Denver.

*Assistant Professor of Psychology*

Prevention and early intervention of developmental and mental health disorders, Cultural issues in clinical psychology,

email: [Barrueco@cua.edu](mailto:Barrueco@cua.edu)

Deborah M. Clawson, Ph.D., University of Colorado, Boulder.

*Associate Professor of Psychology*

Prospective memory, planning, long-term memory for knowledge and skills, cognitive rehabilitation.

email: [clawson@cua.edu](mailto:clawson@cua.edu)

Paul Fedio, Ph.D. The Catholic University of America.

*Visiting Professor of Psychology*

Brain injury and changes in cognitive and emotional functions, clinical neuropsychology

email: [PFedio@aol.com](mailto:PFedio@aol.com)

Rebecca Fuller, Ph.D. University College London, University of London (U.K.)

*Assistant Professor of Psychology*

Cognitive neuroscience--including attention and memory in schizophrenia, Parkinson's disease and other dopaminergic disorders.

email: [Fuller@cua.edu](mailto:Fuller@cua.edu)

Carol R. Glass, Ph.D., Indiana University.

*Professor of Psychology*

Cognitive-behavioral therapy and assessment, social anxiety, cognitive factors in anxiety, mindfulness, sports psychology, psychotherapy integration.

email: [glass@cua.edu](mailto:glass@cua.edu)

Marcie Goeke-Morey, Ph. D., University of Notre Dame (Indiana)

*Assistant Professor of Psychology*

Developmental psychopathology, marital conflict and conflict resolution, Quantitative techniques for family research

email: [goekemorey@cua.edu](mailto:goekemorey@cua.edu)

James H. Howard, Jr., Ph.D., Brown University.

*Professor of Psychology*

Cognition neuroscience of aging.

email: [howard@cua.edu](mailto:howard@cua.edu)

David A. Jobes, Ph.D., American University.  
*Professor of Psychology, Co-Director of Clinical Training*  
Suicide, clinical suicidology, crisis intervention, personality, psychodynamic theory.  
email: [jobes@cua.edu](mailto:jobes@cua.edu)

Rich, Brendan, Ph.D., University of Florida.  
*Assistant Professor of Psychology*  
Childhood psychopathology, neural mechanisms of pediatric mood disorders  
(bipolar disorder), processing of emotional stimuli, fMRI, MEG.  
email: [richb@cua.edu](mailto:richb@cua.edu)

Martin A. Safer, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison.  
*Professor of Psychology*  
Emotion and memory, personality and memory, eyewitness memory.  
email: [safer@cua.edu](mailto:safer@cua.edu)

Marc M. Sebrechts, Ph.D., Yale University.  
*Professor of Psychology, Department Chair*  
Spatial learning and virtual reality, human-computer interaction, visualization and  
problem solving, planning and memory.  
email: [sebrechts@cua.edu](mailto:sebrechts@cua.edu)

Barry M. Wagner, Ph.D., University of Vermont.  
*Professor of Psychology, Co-Director of Clinical Training*  
Adolescent suicide, parenting, family process, family therapy, stress and coping.  
email: [wagnerb@cua.edu](mailto:wagnerb@cua.edu)

James E. Youniss, Ph.D., The Catholic University of America.  
*Professor of Psychology*  
The impact of community service and ways in which youth become civically engaged.  
email: [youniss@cua.edu](mailto:youniss@cua.edu)

## Appendix C: Topic Paper Approval Form

### Topic Paper Approval

The Catholic University of America  
Department of Psychology

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

M.A. Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Paper: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Advisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
M.A. Program Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Appendix D: M.A. Topic Paper Title Page

{2.5 inches}

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

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COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION AS A TREATMENT FOR

{2 blank lines}

COMPULSIVE BEHAVIOR

{4 blank lines}

by

{2 blank lines}

GUSTAV FECHNER

{4 blank lines}

A topic paper submitted to the Department of Psychology  
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the  
Degree of  
Master of Arts degree

{18 blank lines}

Advisor: Dr. Mary Johnson

{2 blank lines}

M.A. Program Director: Dr. William Riley

(date paper submitted)



## Human Factors M.A. Tracking Sheet

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Course Requirements:

**1 & 2. Statistics** **Psy 705** \_\_\_\_\_

**Psy 706** \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Research Methods** **Psy 811** \_\_\_\_\_

**4 & 5. Foundations courses** **Psy 709** \_\_\_\_\_

**Psy 710** \_\_\_\_\_

**Area of Concentration** (e.g., Applied Cognitive Psychology, Human-Computer Interaction, Aging, Cognitive Disabilities, Virtual Environments). \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Specialty Seminar (course number and name)** \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Specialty Seminar (course number and name)** \_\_\_\_\_

**8-10. Three additional elective courses** (3 credits of Readings and/or 3 credits of Research Apprenticeship may substitute for courses). Course Numbers and Names:

**8.** \_\_\_\_\_

**9.** \_\_\_\_\_

**10.** \_\_\_\_\_

### 11. Master's Thesis: PSY 798 or 799

**At the beginning of the semester in which you will defend your thesis, submit the following forms:**

a. The "Topic for Master's Dissertation" form requires your advisor's signature and the departmental chair's signature. Note that a 1-2 paragraph summary of your METHOD needs to be typed or copied onto the back of the form. (Don't write it on a separate sheet because experience suggests it will get lost.) Turn it in to McMahon 109.

b. The "Application for Master's Degree" form requires the departmental chair's signature. Turn it in McMahon 109. Be sure to ask the Assistant to the Chair how to fill in all the blanks. If you will have completed the comprehensive exam as well: CUA Diploma application ("diploma card") needs no signatures. Turn it in to the Registrar's office (McMahon 8). *Turn it in as early as possible.*

**12. Comprehensive Exam: You must register for Comp 598 \_\_\_\_ or Comp 599 \_\_\_\_, as well as sign up in the Psychology Department Office during the first week of the semester in which you will be taking the comprehensive exam.**

## Psychology M.A. and Law Tracking Sheet

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Course Requirements:

**1. Statistics** Educ 633 \_\_\_\_ or Psy 705 \_\_\_\_

**2. Research Methods** Psy 811 \_\_\_\_

**3&4 Foundations courses** Psy 709 \_\_\_\_\_

Psy 710 \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Clinical Psychology (course number and name)** \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Cognitive Psychology and Neuroscience (course number and name)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Developmental and Social Psychology (course number and name)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**8-10. Three additional courses, usually Law classes (3 credits of Readings and/or 3 credits of Research Apprenticeship may substitute for courses) Please enter course number and name.**

**8. Law or Psy**

**9. Law or Psy**

**10. Law or Psy**

**11. Comprehensive Exam: You must sign up for either Comp 598 \_\_\_\_ or Comp 599 \_\_\_\_, as well as sign up in the Psychology Department Office during the first week of the semester in which you will be taking the comprehensive exam.**

**12. Topic Paper: You must sign up for Psy 793 for every semester that you work with a faculty member on the topic paper. The approved topic paper is due in the Psychology Department office at least two weeks before the end of classes in the student's final semester.**

**\*\* And completion of all degree requirements for J.D. degree. Note that Psychology and Law students must receive both degrees in conjunction. That is, neither degree is granted until both are completed. \*\***