

## The BA/MA program in Psychology

The BA/MA program in psychology is a highly selective and demanding option for Psychology majors. It provides psychology majors with an opportunity to complete the BA and MA in psychology in five years, rather than the usual six years. Applicants must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.3, and a minimum GPA of 3.0 in the four relevant courses described in their statement of purpose. Students interested in this accelerated program option should consult with the Academic Advising office before their junior year.

### The Basics

The MA degree program at the New School for Social Research (NSSR) is a 30-credit sequence of 10 courses that normally takes two years to complete. For students in the BA/MA program, up to four of the MA-level courses (12 credits) taken during the four-year BA can be counted toward the requirements of both the BA and the MA degrees (i.e., swing credits). The remaining 18 credits are taken in the year following the completion of the BA degree. Importantly, students are permitted to take additional graduate courses during the four-year BA degree, provided that the courses have been approved as cross-listed courses and thus are applicable to the requirements for the psychology major. Although the credits from these courses can be applied to the BA requirements, they cannot be applied to the MA degree requirements (only the 12 swing credits chosen can be applied to both the BA and MA).

### The MA Tracks and Concentrations

All students who are admitted to graduate study in psychology at the NSSR enter into what is referred to as the General M.A program. However, within the General M.A, there are two non-mutually exclusive tracks/concentrations that students can pursue:

#### **A. Research MA track**

Students who maintain at least a 3.70 GPA during their first 18 credits in the MA program are eligible to apply to the Research MA track. Students in the Research MA track must complete a Masters thesis, but are exempt from taking an MA-level research methods course and the comprehensive exam.

#### **B. Concentration in Mental Health and Substance Abuse (MHSAC)**

Students can apply for enrollment in this concentration on their application for admission to the general MA program. They can also enroll after admission. The concentration provides academic and practical training for students who aspire to work in the mental health and addiction fields but may not be interested in pursuing a doctoral degree. Completion of the concentration requirements (including a one-credit ethics course) satisfies the academic eligibility requirements for certification as an Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC). In addition to elevating their employability, students in this concentration can also apply to the research M.A program and are not in any way precluded from applying to the doctoral programs.

### The Ph.D. programs

The Psychology Department has two doctoral programs: (1) Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology and (2) Ph.D. in Cognitive Social and Developmental (CSD) Psychology. As a long-standing policy, the department does not permit direct admission into its doctoral programs. Any and all students admitted into the doctoral program must first complete the MA degree requirements at the NSSR. Admission to the doctoral program is determined on the basis of a wide range of factors, including GPA, faculty interviews, research experience and performance on the comprehensive exam. Furthermore, students who intend to apply to the doctoral program must take a number of prescribed courses in order to be considered eligible. Consequently, **BA/MA students who intend to apply to the doctoral program (or are not sure) should strive to ensure that their first 12 graduate credits are selected from the list of required courses below (depending on which PhD program one plans to apply to), and only after meeting with an NSSR psychology Student Advisor to discuss course selection. The list identifies the courses that are consistent with the requirements associated with any and all of the Ph.D./M.A programs, tracks and concentrations.**

**For a total of 4 courses, BA/MA students should select their first 12 credits from the courses below.**

**A-level Courses [Max =3]**

Introduction to Cognitive Psychology  
Introduction to Cognitive Neuroscience (clinical track requirement)  
History and Systems (clinical track requirement)  
Visual Perception and Cognition  
Language & Thought

**B-level Courses [Max = 3]:**

Adult Psychopathology (clinical track requirement)  
Social Psychology (clinical track requirement, except for MHSAC track)  
Developmental Psychology or Development and Psychopathology (clinical track requirement, except for MHSAC track)  
Assessment of Individual Differences (clinical track requirement)

**Statistics Course [Max = 1]**

Introduction to Statistics and Research Design

Important: BA/MA

BA/MA students are *strongly advised* to consult with the NSSR Psychology student adviser responsible for undergraduate psychology majors (Martin Fagin) before registering for graduate courses. Students are also *strongly encouraged* to review the NSSR Psychology Student handbook, which can be downloaded here: <http://www.newschool.edu/nssr/psychology-links/>, before speaking with an adviser and/or applying to the BA/MA program.

The application procedures to the BA/MA program are described elsewhere (<http://www.newschool.edu/bachelors-masters/>) and students are advised to consult with a representative from Student Advising at Eugene Lang College or The New School for Public Engagement before applying.

