

Doctor of Philosophy - Psychology [Psychological & Brain Sciences]

Plan Description

The Graduate Faculty of the Department of Psychology is comprised of a group of dedicated individuals who have received their training at outstanding graduate programs. We continue to recruit accomplished scholars who will enhance the quality and diversity of the graduate experience available to our students. The department is committed to providing graduate students in Psychological & Brain Sciences with a high quality program balanced across classrooms, laboratories, and other research settings.

The UNLV Psychological & Brain Sciences Doctoral Program trains students to become psychological scientists capable of carrying out independent research that lives up to international standards of scientific excellence. Upon completing the degree, students will be qualified to seek careers conducting research in academia and in other institutional and applied settings. Areas of psychological and brain science in which faculty supervise students are: Cognitive, Neuroscience, Developmental, and Quantitative/Experimental. The program operates on a mentor model in which students work under the supervision of an identified faculty mentor. We welcome students from diverse backgrounds and encourage research in topics related to multiculturalism and diversity.

For more information about your program, including your graduate program handbook and learning outcomes, please visit the Degree Directory.

Learning outcomes for specific subplans can be found below:

Doctor of Philosophy - Psychological & Brain Sciences

Plan Admission Requirements

Application deadlines

Applications are available on the UNLV Graduate College website.

All domestic and international applicants must review and follow the Graduate College Admission and Registration Requirements.

The Psychological & Brain Sciences areas of study currently admit only students seeking a doctoral degree. The program admits students for matriculation only in the fall semester. The application deadline is December 1st before the fall for which matriculation is being requested. Review of completed applications will continue until all positions are filled. Applicants are encouraged to submit their materials as early as possible.

A bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with a minimum GPA of 3.20 (A = 4.00) or a

master's degree or equivalent from an accredited institution with a minimum GPA of 3.50. Applicants with a bachelor's degree must have completed at least 18 hours in undergraduate psychology courses including Statistics and Research Methods or their equivalents. Post-master students entering the Quantitative/Experimental area of study that are lacking sufficient background in statistics will complete PSY 708 and PSY 709 prior to taking elective credits.

Satisfactory scores on the Verbal and Quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).

Three letters of recommendation.

A statement of purpose written by the applicant.

Admission to the program will be based on a mentoring model. Students under serious consideration for admission to the Psychological & Brain Sciences Ph.D. Program are required to have a personal interview with the sponsoring faculty member and at least two other program faculty members. If a personal interview is not financially or pragmatically feasible, a telephone interview may be substituted.

Note: Strong applicants who fail to meet one of the Psychological & Brain Sciences Program admission requirements may still be considered for admission.

Students are accepted into a degree program as described in the Graduate Catalog. The faculty and corresponding subplans within the described program are subject to change at any time.

Plan Requirements

See Subplan Requirements below.

Subplan 1: Post-Bachelor's – Quantitative/Experimental

Subplan 2: Post-Bachelor's – Cognitive

Subplan 3: Post-Bachelor's – Neuroscience

Subplan 4: Post-Bachelor's – Developmental

Subplan 5: Post-Master's – Quantitative/Experimental

Subplan 6: Post-Master's – Cognitive

Subplan 7: Post-Master's – Neuroscience

Subplan 8: Post-Master's – Developmental

Subplan 1 Requirements: Post-Bachelor's - Quantitative/Experimental

Total Credits Required: 72

Course Requirements

Required Courses – Credits: 12

PSY 707 Research Methods	3
PSY 708 Statistics for Psychologists I	3
PSY 709 Statistics for Psychologists II	3
PSY 756 Ethics, Professional Issues, and Diversity in Experimental Psychology	3

Proseminar Course – Credits: 6

Complete the following course each semester during the first two years of study.

PSY 758 Proseminar in Experimental Psychology	1 – 2
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Breadth Courses – Credits: 3

Complete one course from one of the following options:

[Before] Option 1:

PSY 704 Social Psychology	3
[Before]	

Option 2:

PSY 701 Biological Bases of Behavior	3
PSY 719 Behavioral Neuroscience	3
PSY 720 Systems and Cognitive Neuroscience	3
[Before]	

Option 3:

PSY 703 Cognitive Psychology	3
PSY 718 Cognitive Science	3
[Before]	

Option 4:

PSY 705 Developmental Psychology	3
PSY 721 Developmental Science	3

Elective Courses – Credits: 6

Complete 6 credits of 700-level Psychology courses, or 600/700-level advisor-approved courses offered by other departments.

Thesis – Credits: 6

PSY 769 Thesis
[After]

3 – 6

After successfully completing the requirements above, students are eligible to earn an MA.

Breadth Courses – Credits: 3

Complete one course from one of the following options that has not been applied to the master's degree:

[Before] Option 1:

PSY 704 Social Psychology 3
[Before]

Option 2:

PSY 701 Biological Bases of Behavior 3
PSY 719 Behavioral Neuroscience 3
PSY 720 Systems and Cognitive Neuroscience 3
[Before]

Option 3:

PSY 703 Cognitive Psychology 3
PSY 718 Cognitive Science 3
[Before]

Option 4:

PSY 705 Developmental Psychology 3
PSY 721 Developmental Science 3

Qualifying Activity - Credits: 3

Complete one of the following: write one large paper or three smaller papers, or take an oral or written comprehensive exam. Register in PSY 773 when defending the qualifying paper(s) or comprehensive exam. PSY 773: Qualifying Activity-3 Credits

Elective Courses – Credits: 21

Complete 21 credits of 700-level Psychology courses, or 600/700-level advisor-approved courses offered by other departments. Students should use their elective credits to specialize in some area of quantitative/experimental psychology. Students will construct their course structures in collaboration with their mentors. See the Psychological & Brain Sciences Ph.D. Program Handbook for potential areas of specialization and proposed course plans for these areas of specialization. One elective typically taken by students is:

Dissertation – Credits: 12

PSY 770 Dissertation

3 – 12

Degree Requirements

En route to doctoral candidacy the student must complete the requirements for a master's degree in Psychological & Brain Sciences and complete 6 credits of thesis over a minimum of 2 semesters.

In addition to a master's degree in Psychological & Brain Sciences equivalent to the one previously described (33 credits), a minimum of 39 credits in graduate coursework is required for the doctoral degree.

Student will be required to complete a Qualifying Activity before proposing a Dissertation. The purpose of the qualifying activity is for the student to acquire not only the expertise in a given area, but also the ability to explain, discuss, and debate questions within that and related areas. Students may choose, in consultation with their advisor, from the following qualifying activities: one extensive qualifying paper, three brief papers, a written examination, or an oral examination.

Students must obtain a grade of B- or better in each course taken for that course to count toward the degree. One grade below a B- (i.e., C+ or lower) will result in probation. Once a student is on probation for receiving a grade below a B-, a second grade (in the same or a different class) below a B-, will result in immediate separation from the program. If a student re-takes a course in which s/he received a grade lower than a B- (i.e., C+ or lower) and earns a B- or better, s/he will be removed from probation. A student may be on academic probation only twice during their graduate career in Psychological & Brain Sciences; a third probation will result in separation from the program. No student shall be allowed more than two simultaneous grades of incomplete, except in the case of a documented and approved medical leave.

Students must conform to all policies of the UNLV Graduate College, as stated in the UNLV Graduate Catalog, those stated in the UNLV Psychological & Brain Sciences Doctoral Program Student Handbook, and the American Psychological Association Code of Ethics. Students will be evaluated at least yearly across several professional competencies in the following three areas: (1) academic performance; (2) scholarly research activity; and (3) ethical behavior and professional conduct. If the program determines that a student is not making satisfactory progress toward the degree, it may request the Graduate Dean to separate the student from the program or place the student on probation. Failure to meet the conditions of the probation will result in separation from the program.

Students must take a minimum of four semesters of dissertation which can include summers. The dissertation must be orally proposed and defended.

Graduation Requirements

The student must submit all required forms to the Graduate College and then apply for graduation up to two semesters prior to completing his/her degree requirements for both the Master's and Doctoral portions of the program.

The student must submit and successfully defend his/her thesis by the posted deadline. The defense must be advertised and is open to the public.

After the thesis defense, the student must electronically submit a properly formatted pdf copy of their thesis to the Graduate College for format check. Once the thesis format has been approved by the Graduate College, the student will submit the approved electronic version to ProQuest. Deadlines for thesis defenses, format check submissions, and the final ProQuest submission can be found here.

The student must submit and successfully defend his/her dissertation by the posted deadline. The defense must be advertised and is open to the public.

After the dissertation defense, the student must electronically submit a properly formatted pdf copy of their dissertation to the Graduate College for format check. Once the dissertation format has been approved by the Graduate College, the student will submit the approved electronic version to ProQuest. Deadlines for dissertation defenses, format check submissions, and the final ProQuest submission can be found here.

Subplan 2 Requirements: Post-Bachelor's - Cognitive

Total Credits Required: 72

Course Requirements

Required Courses – Credits: 9

PSY 708 Statistics for Psychologists I	3
PSY 709 Statistics for Psychologists II	3
PSY 756 Ethics, Professional Issues, and Diversity in Experimental Psychology	3

Proseminar Course – Credits: 6

Complete the following course each semester during the first two years of study:

PSY 758 Proseminar in Experimental Psychology	1 – 2
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Cognitive Emphasis Courses – Credits: 6

Complete two of the following courses:

PSY 717 Cognitive Methods	3
PSY 718 Cognitive Science	3
PSY 720 Systems and Cognitive Neuroscience	3

Elective Courses – Credits: 6

Complete 6 credits of 700-level Psychology courses, or other 700-level advisor-approved courses offered by other departments. Courses at the 600-level offered by other departments require approval by the advisor and the Psychological & Brain Sciences Program Director.

Thesis – Credits: 6

PSY 769 Thesis [After]	3 – 6
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After successfully completing the requirements above, students are eligible to earn an MA.

Cognitive Emphasis Courses – Credits: 3

Complete the course that has not been applied to the master's degree:

PSY 717 Cognitive Methods	3
PSY 718 Cognitive Science	3
PSY 720 Systems and Cognitive Neuroscience	3

Cognitive Seminar Courses – Credits: 3

Complete one of the following seminar courses:

PSY 747 Topics in Perception	3
PSY 748 Topics in Memory:	3
PSY 749 Topics in Cognitive Processes:	3

Qualifying Activity - Credits: 3

Complete one of the following: write one large paper or three smaller papers, or take an oral or written comprehensive exam. Register in PSY 773 when defending the qualifying paper(s) or comprehensive exam. PSY 773: Qualifying Activity-3 Credits

Elective Courses – Credits: 18

Complete 18 credits of 700-level Psychology courses, or other 700-level advisor-approved courses offered by other departments. Courses at the 600-level offered by other departments require approval by the advisor and the Psychological & Brain Sciences Program Director.

One elective typically taken by students is:

PSY 757 Teaching of Psychology

3

Dissertation – Credits: 12

PSY 770 Dissertation

3 – 12

Degree Requirements

En route to doctoral candidacy the student must complete the requirements for a master's degree in Psychological & Brain Sciences, and complete 6 credits of thesis over a minimum of 2 semesters.

In addition to a master's degree in Psychological & Brain Sciences equivalent to the one previously described (33 credits), a minimum of 39 credits in graduate coursework is required for the doctoral degree.

Students will be required to complete a Qualifying Activity before proposing a Dissertation. The purpose of the qualifying activity is for the student to acquire not only the expertise in a given area but also the ability to explain, discuss, and debate questions within that and related areas. Students may choose, in consultation with their advisor, from the following qualifying activities: one extensive qualifying paper, three brief papers, a written examination, or an oral examination.

Students must obtain a grade of B- or better in each course taken for that course to count toward the degree. One grade below a B- (i.e., C+ or lower) will result in probation. Once a student is on probation for receiving a grade below a B-, a second grade (in the same or a different class) below a B- will result in immediate separation from the program. If a student retakes a course in which he or she received a grade lower than a B- (i.e., C+ or lower) and earns a B- or better, that student will be removed from probation. A student may be on academic probation only twice during their graduate career in Psychological & Brain Sciences; a third probation will result in separation from the program. No student shall be allowed more than two simultaneous grades of incomplete, except in the case of a documented and approved medical leave.

Students must conform to all policies of the UNLV Graduate College as stated in the UNLV Graduate Catalog, those policies stated in the UNLV Psychological & Brain Sciences Doctoral Program Student Handbook, and the American Psychological Association Code of Ethics. Students will be evaluated at least yearly across several professional competencies in the following three areas: (1) academic performance; (2) scholarly research activity; and (3) ethical behavior and professional conduct. If the program determines that a student is not making satisfactory progress toward the degree, it may request the Graduate Dean to separate the student from the program or place the student on probation. Failure to meet the conditions of the probation will

result in separation from the program.

Students must take a minimum of four semesters of dissertation, which can include summers. The dissertation must be orally proposed and defended.

Graduation Requirements

The student must submit all required forms to the Graduate College and then apply for graduation up to two semesters prior to completing his/her degree requirements for both the Master's and Doctoral portions of the program.

The student must submit and successfully defend her/his thesis by the posted deadline. The defense must be advertised and is open to the public.

After the thesis defense, the student must electronically submit a properly formatted pdf copy of their thesis to the Graduate College for format check. Once the thesis format has been approved by the Graduate College, the student will submit the approved electronic version to ProQuest. Deadlines for thesis defenses, format check submissions, and the final ProQuest submission can be found here.

The student must submit and successfully defend her/his dissertation by the posted deadline. The defense must be advertised and is open to the public.

After the dissertation defense, the student must electronically submit a properly formatted pdf copy of their dissertation to the Graduate College for format check. Once the dissertation format has been approved by the Graduate College, the student will submit the approved electronic version to ProQuest. Deadlines for dissertation defenses, format check submissions, and the final ProQuest submission can be found here.

Subplan 3 Requirements: Post-Bachelor's - Neuroscience

Total Credits Required: 72

Course Requirements

Required Courses – Credits: 15

Complete the following courses:

PSY 708 Statistics for Psychologists I	3
PSY 709 Statistics for Psychologists II	3

PSY 719 Behavioral Neuroscience	3
PSY 720 Systems and Cognitive Neuroscience	3
PSY 756 Ethics, Professional Issues, and Diversity in Experimental Psychology	3

Proseminar Course – Credits: 6

Complete the following course each semester during the first two years of study.

PSY 758 Proseminar in Experimental Psychology	1 – 2
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Elective Courses – Credits: 6

Complete 6 credits of 700-level Psychology courses, or other 700-level advisor-approved courses offered by other departments. 600-level courses offered by other departments require advisor approval and concurrence by the Psychological & Brain Sciences Program Director.

Thesis – Credits: 6

PSY 769 Thesis [After]	3 – 6
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After successfully completing the requirements above, students are eligible to earn an MA.

Qualifying Activity - Credits: 3

Complete one of the following: write one large paper or three smaller papers, or take an oral or written comprehensive exam. Register in PSY 773 when defending the qualifying paper(s) or comprehensive exam. PSY 773: Qualifying Activity-3 Credits

Elective Courses – Credits: 24

Complete 24 credits of 700-level Psychology courses, or other 700-level advisor-approved courses offered by other departments. 600-level courses offered by other departments require advisor approval and concurrence by the Psychological & Brain Sciences Program Director.

One elective typically taken by students is:

PSY 757 Teaching of Psychology	3
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Dissertation – Credits: 12

PSY 770 Dissertation

3 – 12

Degree Requirements

En route to doctoral candidacy the student must complete the requirements for a master's degree in Psychological & Brain Sciences, and complete 6 credits of thesis over a minimum of 2 semesters.

In addition to a master's degree in Psychological & Brain Sciences equivalent to the one previously described (33 credits), a minimum of 39 credits in graduate coursework is required for the doctoral degree.

Student will be required to complete a Qualifying Activity before proposing a Dissertation. The purpose of the qualifying activity is for the student to acquire not only the expertise in a given area, but also the ability to explain, discuss, and debate questions within that and related areas. Students may choose, in consultation with their advisor, from the following qualifying activities: one extensive qualifying paper, three brief papers, a written examination, or an oral examination.

Students must obtain a grade of B- or better in each course taken for that course to count toward the degree. One grade below a B- (i.e., C+ or lower) will result in probation. Once a student is on probation for receiving a grade below a B-, a second grade (in the same or a different class) below a B-, will result in immediate separation from the program. If a student re-takes a course in which s/he received a grade lower than a B- (i.e., C+ or lower) and earns a B- or better, s/he will be removed from probation. A student may be on academic probation only twice during their graduate career in Psychological & Brain Sciences; a third probation will result in separation from the program. No student shall be allowed more than two simultaneous grades of incomplete, except in the case of a documented and approved medical leave.

Students must conform to all policies of the UNLV Graduate College, as stated in the UNLV Graduate Catalog, those stated in the UNLV Psychological & Brain Sciences Doctoral Program Student Handbook, and the American Psychological Association Code of Ethics. Students will be evaluated at least yearly across several professional competencies in the following three areas: (1) academic performance; (2) scholarly research activity; and (3) ethical behavior and professional conduct. If the program determines that a student is not making satisfactory progress toward the degree, it may request the Graduate Dean to separate the student from the program or place the student on probation. Failure to meet the conditions of the probation will result in separation from the program.

Students must take a minimum of four semesters of dissertation which can include summers. The dissertation must be orally proposed and defended.

Graduation Requirements

The student must submit all required forms to the Graduate College and then apply for graduation up to two semesters prior to completing his/her degree requirements for both the Master's and Doctoral portions of the program.

The student must submit and successfully defend his/her thesis by the posted deadline. The defense must be advertised and is open to the public.

After the thesis defense, the student must electronically submit a properly formatted pdf copy of their thesis to the Graduate College for format check. Once the thesis format has been approved by the Graduate College, the student will submit the approved electronic version to ProQuest. Deadlines for thesis defenses, format check submissions, and the final ProQuest submission can be found here.

The student must submit and successfully defend his/her dissertation by the posted deadline. The defense must be advertised and is open to the public.

After the dissertation defense, the student must electronically submit a properly formatted pdf copy of their dissertation to the Graduate College for format check. Once the dissertation format has been approved by the Graduate College, the student will submit the approved electronic version to ProQuest. Deadlines for dissertation defenses, format check submissions, and the final ProQuest submission can be found here.

Subplan 4 Requirements: Post-Bachelor's - Developmental

Total Credits Required: 72

Course Requirements

Required Courses – Credits: 12

PSY 708 Statistics for Psychologists I	3
PSY 709 Statistics for Psychologists II	3
PSY 713 Developmental Research	3
PSY 756 Ethics, Professional Issues, and Diversity in Experimental Psychology	3

Proseminar Course – Credits: 6

Complete the following course each semester during the first two years of study.

PSY 758 Proseminar in Experimental Psychology	1 – 2
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Developmental Science Course – Credits: 3

Complete 3 credits of the following course:

PSY 721 Developmental Science	3
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Elective Courses – Credits: 6

Complete 6 credits of 700-level Psychology courses, or other 700-level advisor-approved courses offered by other departments. 600-level courses offered by other departments require advisor approval and concurrence by the Psychological & Brain Sciences Program Director.

Thesis – Credits: 6

PSY 769 Thesis [After]	3 – 6
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After successfully completing the requirements above, students are eligible to earn an MA.

Developmental Seminar Course – Credits: 3

Complete 3 credits of the following course:

PSY 740 Topics in Developmental Psychology	3
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Breadth Courses – Credits: 6

Complete 6 credits of courses from two different options that have not been applied to the master's degree:

[Before] Option 1)

PSY 704 Social Psychology	3
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[Before] Option 2)

PSY 701 Biological Bases of Behavior	3
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PSY 719 Behavioral Neuroscience	3
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[After] or

PSY 720 Systems and Cognitive Neuroscience	3
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[Before] Option 3)

PSY 703 Cognitive Psychology	3
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[After] or

Qualifying Activity - Credits: 3

Complete one of the following: write one large paper or three smaller papers, or take an oral or written comprehensive exam. Register in PSY 773 when defending the qualifying paper(s) or comprehensive exam. PSY 773: Qualifying Activity-3 Credits

Elective Courses – Credits: 15

Complete 15 credits of 700-level Psychology courses, or other 700-level advisor-approved courses offered by other departments. 600-level courses offered by other departments require advisor approval and concurrence by the Psychological & Brain Sciences Program Director.

One elective typically taken by students is:

PSY 757 Teaching of Psychology

3

Dissertation – Credits: 12

PSY 770 Dissertation

3 – 12

Degree Requirements

En route to doctoral candidacy the student must complete the requirements for a master's degree in Psychological & Brain Sciences, and complete 6 credits of thesis over a minimum of 2 semesters.

In addition to a master's degree in Psychological & Brain Sciences equivalent to the one previously described (33 credits), a minimum of 39 credits in graduate coursework is required for the doctoral degree.

Student will be required to complete a Qualifying Activity before proposing a Dissertation. The purpose of the qualifying activity is for the student to acquire not only the expertise in a given area, but also the ability to explain, discuss, and debate questions within that and related areas. Students may choose, in consultation with their advisor, from the following qualifying activities: one extensive qualifying paper, three brief papers, a written examination, or an oral examination.

Students must obtain a grade of B- or better in each course taken for that course to count toward the degree. One grade below a B- (i.e., C+ or lower) will result in probation. Once a student is on probation for receiving a grade below a B-, a second grade (in the same or a different class) below a B-, will result in immediate separation from the program. If a student re-takes a course in which s/he received a grade lower than a B- (i.e., C+ or lower) and earns a B- or better, s/he will be removed from probation. A student may be on academic probation only twice during their graduate career in Psychological & Brain Sciences; a third probation will result in separation from the program. No student shall be allowed more than two simultaneous grades

of incomplete, except in the case of a documented and approved medical leave.

Students must conform to all policies of the UNLV Graduate College, as stated in the UNLV Graduate Catalog, those stated in the UNLV Psychological & Brain Sciences Doctoral Program Student Handbook, and the American Psychological Association Code of Ethics. Students will be evaluated at least yearly across several professional competencies in the following three areas: (1) academic performance; (2) scholarly research activity; and (3) ethical behavior and professional conduct. If the program determines that a student is not making satisfactory progress toward the degree, it may request the Graduate Dean to separate the student from the program or place the student on probation. Failure to meet the conditions of the probation will result in separation from the program.

Students must take a minimum of four semesters of dissertation which can include summers. The dissertation must be orally proposed and defended.

Graduation Requirements

The student must submit all required forms to the Graduate College and then apply for graduation up to two semesters prior to completing his/her degree requirements for both the Master's and Doctoral portions of the program.

The student must submit and successfully defend his/her thesis by the posted deadline. The defense must be advertised and is open to the public.

After the thesis defense, the student must electronically submit a properly formatted pdf copy of their thesis to the Graduate College for format check. Once the thesis format has been approved by the Graduate College, the student will submit the approved electronic version to ProQuest. Deadlines for thesis defenses, format check submissions, and the final ProQuest submission can be found here.

The student must submit and successfully defend his/her dissertation by the posted deadline. The defense must be advertised and is open to the public.

After the dissertation defense, the student must electronically submit a properly formatted pdf copy of their dissertation to the Graduate College for format check. Once the dissertation format has been approved by the Graduate College, the student will submit the approved electronic version to ProQuest. Deadlines for dissertation defenses, format check submissions, and the final ProQuest submission can be found here.

Subplan 5 Requirements: Post-Master's - Quantitative/Experimental

Total Credits Required: 42

Course Requirements

Required Courses – Credits: 6

PSY 707 Research Methods	3
PSY 756 Ethics, Professional Issues, and Diversity in Experimental Psychology	3

Proseminar Course – Credits: 6

Complete the following course each semester during the first two years of study:

PSY 758 Proseminar in Experimental Psychology	1 – 2
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Qualifying Activity - Credits: 3

Complete one of the following: write one large paper or three smaller papers, or take an oral or written comprehensive exam. Register in PSY 773 when defending the qualifying paper(s) or comprehensive exam. PSY 773: Qualifying Activity-3 Credits

Elective Courses – Credits: 15

Complete 15 credits of 700-level Psychology courses, or 600/700-level advisor-approved courses offered by other departments. Students should use their elective credits to specialize in some area of quantitative/experimental psychology. Students will construct their course structures in collaboration with their mentors. See the Psychological & Brain Sciences courses Ph.D. Program Handbook for potential areas of specialization and proposed course plans for these areas of specialization. One elective typically taken by students is:

PSY 757 Teaching of Psychology	3
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Dissertation – Credits: 12

PSY 770 Dissertation	3 – 12
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Degree Requirements

Students must complete a minimum of 42 credit hours with a minimum GPA of 3.00. Additional credits may be required to address student deficiencies or build specialized expertise.

Students will be required to complete a Qualifying Activity before proposing a Dissertation. The purpose of the qualifying activity is for the student to acquire not only the expertise in a given area but also the ability to explain, discuss, and debate questions within that and related areas. Students may choose, in consultation with their advisor, from the following qualifying activities: one extensive qualifying paper, three brief papers, a written examination, or an oral examination.

Students must obtain a grade of B- or better in each course taken for that course to count toward the degree. One grade below a B- (i.e., C+ or lower) will result in probation. Once a student is on probation for receiving a grade below a B-, a second grade (in the same or a different class) below a B- will result in immediate separation from the program. If a student retakes a course in which he or she received a grade lower than a B- (i.e., C+ or lower) and earns a B- or better, that student will be removed from probation. A student may be on academic probation only twice during their graduate career in Psychological & Brain Sciences; a third probation will result in separation from the program. No student shall be allowed more than two simultaneous grades of incomplete, except in the case of a documented and approved medical leave.

Students must conform to all policies of the UNLV Graduate College as stated in the UNLV Graduate Catalog, those policies stated in the UNLV Psychological & Brain Sciences Doctoral Program Student Handbook, and the American Psychological Association Code of Ethics. Students will be evaluated at least yearly across several professional competencies in the following three areas: (1) academic performance; (2) scholarly research activity; and (3) ethical behavior and professional conduct. If the program determines that a student is not making satisfactory progress toward the degree, it may request the Graduate Dean to separate the student from the program or place the student on probation. Failure to meet the conditions of the probation will result in separation from the program.

Students must take a minimum of four semesters of dissertation, which can include summers. The dissertation must be orally proposed and defended.

Graduation Requirements

Students must submit all required forms to the Graduate College and then apply for graduation up to two semesters prior to completing their degree requirements.

Students must submit and successfully defend their dissertation by the posted deadline. The defense must be advertised and is open to the public.

After the dissertation defense, the student must electronically submit a properly formatted pdf copy of their dissertation to the Graduate College for format check. Once the dissertation format has been approved by the Graduate College, the student will submit the approved electronic version to ProQuest. Deadlines for dissertation defenses, format check submissions, and the final ProQuest submission can be found here.

Subplan 6 Requirements: Post-Master's - Cognitive

Total Credits Required: 42

Course Requirements

Required Courses – Credits: 9

PSY 708 Statistics for Psychologists I	3
PSY 709 Statistics for Psychologists II	3
PSY 756 Ethics, Professional Issues, and Diversity in Experimental Psychology	3

Proseminar Course – Credits: 6

Complete the following course each semester during the first two years of study:

PSY 758 Proseminar in Experimental Psychology	1 – 2
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Cognitive Emphasis Courses – Credits: 9

PSY 717 Cognitive Methods	3
PSY 718 Cognitive Science	3
PSY 720 Systems and Cognitive Neuroscience	3

Cognitive Seminar Courses – Credits: 3

Complete 3 credits from the following list of courses:

PSY 747 Topics in Perception	3
PSY 748 Topics in Memory:	3
PSY 749 Topics in Cognitive Processes:	3

Qualifying Activity – Credits: 3

Complete one of the following: write one large paper or three smaller papers, or take an oral or written comprehensive exam. Register in PSY 773 when defending the qualifying paper(s) or comprehensive exam. PSY 773: Qualifying Activity-3 Credits

Dissertation – Credits: 12

PSY 770 Dissertation	3 – 12
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Degree Requirements

Students must complete a minimum of 42 credit hours with a minimum GPA of 3.00. Additional credits may be required to address student deficiencies or build specialized expertise.

Students will be required to complete a Qualifying Activity before proposing a Dissertation. The purpose of the qualifying activity is for the student to acquire not only the expertise in a given area but also the ability to explain, discuss, and debate questions within that and related areas. Students may choose, in consultation with their advisor, from the following qualifying activities: one extensive qualifying paper, three brief papers, a written examination, or an oral examination.

Students must obtain a grade of B- or better in each course taken for that course to count toward the degree. One grade below a B- (i.e., C+ or lower) will result in probation. Once a student is on probation for receiving a grade below a B-, a second grade (in the same or a different class) below a B- will result in immediate separation from the program. If a student retakes a course in which he or she received a grade lower than a B- (i.e., C+ or lower) and earns a B- or better, that student will be removed from probation. A student may be on academic probation only twice during their graduate career in Psychological & Brain Sciences; a third probation will result in separation from the program. No student shall be allowed more than two simultaneous grades of incomplete, except in the case of a documented and approved medical leave.

Students must conform to all policies of the UNLV Graduate College as stated in the UNLV Graduate Catalog, those policies stated in the UNLV Psychological & Brain Sciences Doctoral Program Student Handbook, and the American Psychological Association Code of Ethics. Students will be evaluated at least yearly across several professional competencies in the following three areas: (1) academic performance; (2) scholarly research activity; and (3) ethical behavior and professional conduct. If the program determines that a student is not making satisfactory progress toward the degree, it may request the Graduate Dean to separate the student from the program or place the student on probation. Failure to meet the conditions of the probation will result in separation from the program.

Students must take a minimum of four semesters of dissertation, which can include summers. The dissertation must be orally proposed and defended.

Graduation Requirements

Students must submit all required forms to the Graduate College and then apply for graduation up to two semesters prior to completing their degree requirements.

Students must submit and successfully defend their dissertation by the posted deadline. The defense must be advertised and is open to the public.

After the dissertation defense, the student must electronically submit a properly formatted pdf copy of their dissertation to the Graduate College for format check. Once the dissertation format has been approved by the Graduate College, the student will submit the approved electronic version to ProQuest. Deadlines for dissertation defenses, format check submissions, and the final ProQuest submission can be found [here](#).

Subplan 7 Requirements: Post-Master's - Neuroscience

Total Credits Required: 42

Course Requirements

Required Courses – Credits: 15

PSY 708 Statistics for Psychologists I	3
PSY 709 Statistics for Psychologists II	3
PSY 719 Behavioral Neuroscience [Right] *	3
PSY 720 Systems and Cognitive Neuroscience [Right] *	3
PSY 756 Ethics, Professional Issues, and Diversity in Experimental Psychology	3

Proseminar Course – Credits: 6

Complete the following course each semester during the first two years of study:

PSY 758 Proseminar in Experimental Psychology	1 – 2
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Qualifying Activity - Credits: 3

Complete one of the following: write one large paper or three smaller papers, or take an oral or written comprehensive exam. Register in PSY 773 when defending the qualifying paper(s) or comprehensive exam. PSY 773: Qualifying Activity-3 Credits

Elective Courses – Credits: 6

Complete 6 credits of 700-level Psychology courses, or other 700-level advisor-approved courses offered by other departments. 600-level courses offered by other departments require advisor approval and concurrence by the Psychological & Brain Sciences Program Director.

One elective typically taken by students is:

PSY 757 Teaching of Psychology	3
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Dissertation – Credits: 12

PSY 770 Dissertation

3 – 12

Degree Requirements

Students must complete a minimum of 42 credit hours with a minimum GPA of 3.00. Additional credits may be required to address student deficiencies or build specialized expertise.

Students will be required to complete a Qualifying Activity before proposing a Dissertation. The purpose of the qualifying activity is for the student to acquire not only the expertise in a given area, but also the ability to explain, discuss, and debate questions within that and related areas. Students may choose, in consultation with their advisor, from the following qualifying activities: one extensive qualifying paper, three brief papers, a written examination, or an oral examination.

Students must obtain a grade of B- or better in each course taken for that course to count toward the degree. One grade below a B- (i.e., C+ or lower) will result in probation. Once a student is on probation for receiving a grade below a B-, a second grade (in the same or a different class) below a B- will result in immediate separation from the program. If a student retakes a course in which he or she received a grade lower than a B- (i.e., C+ or lower) and earns a B- or better, he or she will be removed from probation. A student may be on academic probation only twice during their graduate career in Psychological & Brain Sciences; a third probation will result in separation from the program. No student shall be allowed more than two simultaneous grades of incomplete, except in the case of a documented and approved medical leave.

Students must conform to all policies of the UNLV Graduate College as stated in the UNLV Graduate Catalog, those policies stated in the UNLV Psychological & Brain Sciences Doctoral Program Student Handbook, and the American Psychological Association Code of Ethics. Students will be evaluated at least yearly across several professional competencies in the following three areas: (1) academic performance; (2) scholarly research activity; and (3) ethical behavior and professional conduct. If the program determines that a student is not making satisfactory progress toward the degree, it may request the Graduate Dean to separate the student from the program or place the student on probation. Failure to meet the conditions of the probation will result in separation from the program.

Students must take a minimum of four semesters of dissertation, which can include summers. The dissertation must be orally proposed and defended.

Graduation Requirements

Students must submit all required forms to the Graduate College and then apply for graduation up to two semesters prior to completing their degree requirements for the doctoral portions of the program.

Students must submit and successfully defend their dissertation by the posted deadline. The defense must be advertised and is open to the public.

After the dissertation defense, the student must electronically submit a properly formatted pdf copy of their dissertation to the Graduate College for format check. Once the dissertation format has been approved by the Graduate College, the student will submit the approved electronic version to ProQuest. Deadlines for dissertation defenses, format check submissions, and the final ProQuest submission can be found here.

Subplan 8 Requirements: Post-Master's - Developmental

Total Credits Required: 42

Course Requirements

Required Courses – Credits: 12

Complete 12 credits from the following list of courses:

PSY 708 Statistics for Psychologists I	3
PSY 709 Statistics for Psychologists II	3
PSY 713 Developmental Research	3
PSY 756 Ethics, Professional Issues, and Diversity in Experimental Psychology	3

Proseminar Course – Credits: 6

Complete the following course each semester during the first two years of study.

PSY 758 Proseminar in Experimental Psychology	1 – 2
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Developmental Science Course – Credits: 3

Complete 3 credits of the following course:

PSY 721 Developmental Science	3
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Developmental Seminar Course – Credits: 3

Complete 3 credits of the following course:

PSY 740 Topics in Developmental Psychology	3
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Qualifying Activity - Credits: 3

Complete one of the following: write one large paper or three smaller papers, or take an oral or written comprehensive exam. Register in PSY 773 when defending the qualifying paper(s) or comprehensive exam. PSY 773: Qualifying Activity-3 Credits

Breadth Course – Credits: 3

Complete one course from one of the following options:

[Before] Option 1)

PSY 704 Social Psychology	3
[Before]	

Option 2)

PSY 701 Biological Bases of Behavior	3
PSY 719 Behavioral Neuroscience	3
[After] or	

PSY 720 Systems and Cognitive Neuroscience	3
[Before] Option 3)	

PSY 703 Cognitive Psychology	3
[After] or	

PSY 718 Cognitive Science	3
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Dissertation – Credits: 12

PSY 770 Dissertation	3 – 12
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Degree Requirements

Students must complete a minimum of 42 credit hours with a minimum GPA of 3.00. Additional credits may be required to address student deficiencies or build specialized expertise.

Student will be required to complete a Qualifying Activity before proposing a Dissertation. The purpose of the qualifying activity is for the student to acquire not only the expertise in a given area, but also the ability to explain, discuss, and debate questions within that and related areas. Students may choose, in consultation with their advisor, from the following qualifying activities: one extensive qualifying paper, three brief papers, a written examination, or an oral examination.

Students must obtain a grade of B- or better in each course taken for that course to count toward the degree. One grade below a B- (i.e., C+ or lower) will result in probation. Once a student is on probation for receiving a grade below a B-, a second grade (in the same or a

different class) below a B-, will result in immediate separation from the program. If a student re-takes a course in which s/he received a grade lower than a B- (i.e., C+ or lower) and earns a B- or better, s/he will be removed from probation. A student may be on academic probation only twice during their graduate career in Psychological & Brain Sciences; a third probation will result in separation from the program. No student shall be allowed more than two simultaneous grades of incomplete, except in the case of a documented and approved medical leave.

Students must conform to all policies of the UNLV Graduate College, as stated in the UNLV Graduate Catalog, those stated in the UNLV Psychological & Brain Sciences Doctoral Program Student Handbook, and the American Psychological Association Code of Ethics. Students will be evaluated at least yearly across several professional competencies in the following three areas: (1) academic performance; (2) scholarly research activity; and (3) ethical behavior and professional conduct. If the program determines that a student is not making satisfactory progress toward the degree, it may request the Graduate Dean to separate the student from the program or place the student on probation. Failure to meet the conditions of the probation will result in separation from the program.

Students must take a minimum of four semesters of dissertation which can include summers. The dissertation must be orally proposed and defended.

Graduation Requirements

Students must submit all required forms to the Graduate College and then apply for graduation up to two semesters prior to completing their degree requirements. Students must submit and successfully defend their dissertation by the posted deadline. The defense must be advertised and is open to the public. After the dissertation defense, the student must electronically submit a properly formatted pdf copy of their dissertation to the Graduate College for format check. Once the dissertation format has been approved by the Graduate College, the student will submit the approved electronic version to ProQuest. Deadlines for dissertation defenses, format check submissions, and the final ProQuest submission can be found here.

Plan Graduation Requirements

Refer to your subplan for Graduation Requirements.

- Subplan 1: Post-Bachelor's – Quantitative/Experimental
- Subplan 2: Post-Bachelor's – Cognitive
- Subplan 3: Post-Bachelor's – Neuroscience
- Subplan 4: Post-Bachelor's – Developmental
- Subplan 5: Post-Master's – Quantitative/Experimental
- Subplan 6: Post-Master's – Cognitive
- Subplan 7: Post-Master's – Neuroscience
- Subplan 8: Post-Master's – Developmental