



Experimental Psychology

MS Program

www.shu.edu/ms-psych

Preparing Students for Ph.D. Programs and Research-Intensive Jobs

Why Seton Hall?

- Degree concentrations in:
 - **Behavioral Neuroscience**
 - **Cognitive Neuroscience**
 - **Behavioral Sciences**
 - **Data Visualization and Analysis**
- Individualized one-on-one research training and mentoring
- State-of-the-art research facilities, including animal and eye-tracking laboratories
- Research-intensive, thesis-based degree
- [Faculty expertise](#) in behavioral neuroscience, developmental, cognitive, social, cultural, and clinical psychology.
- Optional specialist certificate in [Data Visualization and Analysis](#).

Program Overview

All students complete 36 hours of coursework, or 3 classes per semester, for two years. Our program is organized like most doctoral programs with a small number of graduate students who work one-on-one with faculty. All students begin working with a faculty member by the end of their first semester. Students pursuing a thesis degree develop a thesis proposal in their second semester, and collect data and defend their thesis by the end of their second year. Students pursuing the non-thesis degree work in one or more faculty laboratories as part of their research coursework, developing skills in data collection, data management and analysis. This work culminates either in a literature review or data visualization project at the end of their second year. The non-thesis option with the Data Visualization and Analysis concentration leads to conferral of the MS, plus the specialist certificate in Data Visualization and Analysis. See below for additional information for all options.

What Our Graduates Do

Recent graduates have been admitted to Ph.D. programs in Integrative Neuroscience, Behavioral Neuroscience, Cognitive Science, Perception and Cognition, Social Psychology, and Communication at schools such as Brandeis University, the University of Florida, Northwestern University, SUNY Stony Brook, Rutgers University, the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, New York University, American University, Temple University, University of California (Davis), University of California (Los Angeles), University of Oregon, Ohio State University and the University of Connecticut. Other recent graduates have used their Master's degree to pursue research positions in the pharmaceutical industry and to teach at the community college level. See below for additional information on our recent graduates.

Admissions Deadline and Requirements

- Applications are evaluated on a rolling basis. Apply as early as possible for maximal consideration.
- Admittance requirements:
 - Official transcripts of all previous academic work. Minimum requirements:
 - Bachelor's degree with a minimum of 18 credits of Psychology coursework.
 - Minimum 3.0 undergraduate GPA.
 - Required undergraduate courses: Introduction to Psychology, Psychological Statistics, and Psychological Research Methods (by the time of enrollment).
 - Students considering the Behavioral Neuroscience concentration must have completed a course in Biological Psychology or its equivalent.
 - Official scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).
 - We have no hard-and-fast minimums for GREs scores, but the average GRE scores of students enrolled in recent years has been in the 60th to 70th percentiles for Verbal and for Analytical Writing, and the 40th to 60th percentiles for Quantitative.
 - Personal statement/statement of academic interests
 - A statement of 500 to 700 words that indicates your qualifications for the program, your research interests as related to research interests of the current faculty, an indication of one or more of the faculty members in the department with whom you would be interested in working with for research, and your career goals. To the extent that you can provide detail on how your research interests match those of one or more of the faculty members in the Psychology Department at Seton Hall, it will improve the attractiveness of your application.
 - Three letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with your academic and research abilities
 - CV or resume
 - For international applicants whose first language is not English we require the TOEFL (school code is 2811).
- Apply online: <https://www.shu.edu/graduate-affairs/apply.cfm>

Funding

- All accepted students are encouraged to apply for assistantships offered in various units at Seton Hall. The assistantships vary in amount (full tuition coverage, half tuition coverage, hourly pay, etc.) as well as the type of work to be conducted for assistantship (teaching assistantship, graduate assistantship, administrative duties, etc.). These openings are posted on a rolling basis in the Seton Hall [Assistantship database](#) (select "View Open Positions" for Students). Psychology MS students have a strong track record of successfully securing assistantships in units such as Nursing, The Institute of Neuroimmunology and Pharmacology, and Department of Mathematics.

Our Faculty Research Specialties

Faculty members and their research interests are listed below, ordered by sub-field. For more information, see [faculty profiles](#).

BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE

- **Dr. Amy S. Hunter** amy.hunter@shu.edu
REM sleep and learning, spatial memory
- **Dr. Michael Vigorito** michael.vigorito@shu.edu
influence of immune activation on learning and motivation, learning in HIV

COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

- **Dr. Kelly M. Goedert** kelly.goedert@shu.edu, [lab website](#)
causal learning, visuomotor learning, spatial attention, embodied thinking
- **Dr. Marianne E. Lloyd** marianne.lloyd@shu.edu
memory and memory errors, development of memory, mindfulness

DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

- **Dr. Amy S. Joh** amy.joh@shu.edu, [lab website](#)
cognitive, perceptual, and motor development in children and adults, spatial problem solving

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

- **Dr. Paige H. Fisher** paige.fisher@shu.edu
mental health and college adjustment, preschool social and academic development
- **Dr. Susan A. Nolan** susan.nolan@shu.edu
international psychology, perceptions of individuals with mental illness, gender and STEM fields

CULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY

- **Dr. Fanli Jia** fanli.jia@shu.edu [lab website](#)
cross-cultural differences and multiculturalism among Easterners, Westerners and immigrants with regard to their identity development and bilingualism

ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

- **Dr. Andrew Simon** andrew.simon@shu.edu
sports psychology, organizational dynamics

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

- **Dr. Susan Teague** susan.teague@shu.edu
helping behavior, attitude formation and change, interpersonal conflict

Faculty and students enjoy research partnerships with these colleagues in other departments and in the community:

Dr. Sulie Chang, [Institute of NeuroImmune Pharmacology](#), Seton Hall University

Dr. A.M. Barrett and Dr. Peggy Chen, [Stroke Research](#), Kessler Foundation, West Orange, NJ

Location, Location, Location!

Seton Hall University is that it is located in the Village of South Orange, 14 miles west of New York City. This location uniquely affords the chance to take advantage of all the things that the city has to offer, while also providing proximity to beach communities, mountains and parks.

Find Out More About Us

If you are in the area and would like to come for an informal visit on your own, we'd love to meet you. An interview is not required, but members of the faculty would be happy to meet with you to talk about our program, as would some of our current grad students. You are welcome to sit in on a graduate class, and tour the campus. However, if you don't have the time to come in person, faculty members are available to speak with you over the phone or communicate via e-mail.

If you have more questions, please contact the Director of Graduate Studies, Dr. Amy Joh, at amy.joh@shu.edu or 973-275-2709.

Sample Thesis & DAVA Project Titles of Recent Graduates (click links to go to thesis)

Behavioral Neuroscience

- [Do Rats Consume Ethanol to Regulate a Negative Emotion Induced by a Successive Negative Contrast Procedure?](#) Andrew Dieterich, MS 2016
- [The Immediate and Long-lasting Cognitive Consequences of Adolescent Chronic Sleep Restriction](#) Kerry Howard, MS 2018

Cognitive Psychology

- [The Revelation Effect in Autobiographical Memory](#) Vincent Medina, MS 2019
- [Cognitive Demand and the Outcome Density Effect](#) Ciara Willett, MS 2017

Developmental Psychology

- [The Effect of Peer Collaboration on Kinematic Problem Solving](#) Alyssa DeRonda, MS 2019
- [Preschoolers' Use of Verbal and Musical Strategies for Solving a Spatial Reasoning Task](#) Alyssa Iulianetti, MS 2016

Clinical Psychology

- [Examining the Effect of Education Type on Common Misconceptions of Traumatic Brain Injury](#) Monica Delorio, MS 2015
- [The Use of Celebrity and Non-celebrity Examples to Reduce Stigma in University Students](#) Tyrus McCartney, MS 2019

Organizational Psychology

- [Computer Monitoring in the Workplace: Performance Effects and Perceptions](#) Kimberly Rubenstein, MS 2016

Social Psychology

- [The Effects of Counterfactual Priming on Belief in Fake News](#) Sean Bogart, MS 2019
- [Ethnicity, qualifications, and peer influence: Relative effects in a simulated hiring decision](#) Victoria Kerns, MS 2015

Data Visualization and Analysis Project

- Bayesian and Frequentist Methods of Model Fitting for Longitudinal MLM, Raymond Blattner, MS 2017

Placement of Graduates**Student/Graduation Date****Where They are Now**

Soniya Assudani, MS 2014

PhD student, Perception, Action & Cognition, University of Connecticut

Christopher Cagna, MS 2013

PhD student, Behavioral Neuroscience, Rutgers University

Shannon Callahan, MS 2009

PhD student, Social Psychology, University of California, Davis, CA

Ciara Willett, MS 2017

PhD student, Cognitive Psychology, University of Pittsburgh

Brent Costleigh, MS 2007

Faculty member, Brookdale Community College

Monica De Iorio, MS 2015

PhD student, Clinical Psychology, Wayne State University

Michele Barry, MS 2016

Research Assistant, Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation, Saddle Brook, NJ

Megan Daly, MS 2016

Program Manager, IPS Labs, Somerset, NJ

Sharon Fernbach, MS 2011

PsyD student, Alliant International University, San Diego, CA

Katherine Moen, MS 2014

PhD student, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA

Dina Mattern, MS 2016

Learning and Decision Making Lab Manager, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

Kimberly Rubenstein, MS 2016

PhD student, Industrial/Organizational Psychology, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY

Abigail Lashomb, MS 2007

Medical Editor, The Westfield Group

Marjorie Levinstein, MS 2013

Research scientist, Affective Disorders Laboratory, Columbia University Medical Center, New York State Psychiatric Institute

Andrew Dieterich, MS 2016

PhD student, Cellular Biology and Neuroscience, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

Junaid Merchant, MS 2010

PhD student, Developmental Social Neuroscience, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR

Chi Ngo, MS 2013

PhD student, Cognitive Psychology, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA

Chloe Shearer, 2017

Research Assistant, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

Shannon, Haas, MS 2014

Clinical Research Coordinator at the MS Comprehensive Care Center at NYU Langone, New York NY

Chelsea Reichert, MS 2012

Research Support Assistant, Nathan Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research, Orangeburg, NY

Raymond Blattner, 2017

Clinical Data Management, MedAvante-ProPhase

David Root, MS 2006, PhD 2012

Assistant Professor, University of Colorado, Boulder

Daniela Sacchetti, MS 2012

Research Specialist, Laboratory for Cognition & Neural Stimulation, University of Pennsylvania

Curriculum

The Department of Psychology offers the Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Experimental Psychology that is typically completed in two years of full-time enrollment (9 credits per semester). The program trains students in the scientific methods of psychology in preparation for entry into a Ph.D. program or for direct entry into research-intensive careers (e.g., pharmaceutical or market research, science writing, data analytics). The program offers five areas of concentration across two separate tracks for admission: 1) the MS in Experimental Psychology, which requires 36 credits of coursework and 2) the MS in Experimental Psychology-Thesis, which requires 36 credits of coursework plus completion of an empirical thesis. While students must indicate a track and concentration at the time of admission, students may move between concentrations within a track after speaking with their faculty advisor.

M.S. in Experimental Psychology

- A. Data Visualization and Analysis Concentration
- B. Psychological Science, General Concentration

M.S. in Experimental Psychology-Thesis

- A. Behavioral Neuroscience Concentration
- B. Cognitive Neuroscience Concentration
- C. Behavioral Sciences Concentration

MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY - THESIS

This program is particularly geared towards preparing students for admission to doctoral programs in the field of psychology, including all aspects of experimental psychology (biological, social, developmental, cognitive, perception) and neuroscience, as well as scientist/practitioner programs in clinical psychology. Degree conferral requires successful completion of 12 courses (36 total credits) and successful defense of an empirical thesis project. For the thesis, students design, execute, analyze, and write up an empirical study. The project culminates with an oral defense.

Students must select a concentration:

- A. Behavioral Neuroscience Concentration
- B. Cognitive Neuroscience Concentration
- C. Behavioral Sciences Concentration

Regardless of concentration, students complete the following two sets of requirements:

| <u>Essentials of Research Requirement (9 credits)</u> | | <u>Credits</u> |
|---|---------------------------------|----------------|
| PSYC 7200 | Graduate Seminar | 3 |
| PSYC 6100 | Research Design and Analysis I | 3 |
| PSYC 6200 | Research Design and Analysis II | 3 |

| <u>Thesis Research Requirement (9 credits)</u> | | <u>Credits</u> |
|--|--------------------------|----------------|
| PSYC 7202 | Independent Research II | 3 |
| PSYC 7203 | Independent Research III | 3 |
| PSYC 8001 | Thesis | 3 |

The concentrations involve selections among sets of elective courses:

| <u>Behavioral Neuroscience Concentration</u> | <u>Credits</u> |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose two of the following three courses (6 credits): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSYC 7102 Cognition PSYC 7103 Perception PSYC 7106 Cognitive Neuroscience • Complete all of the following courses (9 credits): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSYC 7101 Conditioning and Behavior PSYC 7104 Psychopharmacology PSYC 7105 Behavioral Neuroscience • Complete one elective course from the list of Experimental Psychology Electives below (3 credits). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 3 3 3 3 3 |

| <u>Cognitive Neuroscience Concentration</u> | <u>Credits</u> |
|--|----------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose one of the following two courses (3 credits): | |

- | | |
|--|---|
| PSYC 7101 Conditioning and Behavior | 3 |
| PSYC 7104 Psychopharmacology | 3 |
| • Complete all of the following courses (12 credits): | |
| PSYC 7102 Cognition | 3 |
| PSYC 7103 Perception | 3 |
| PSYC 7105 Behavioral Neuroscience | 3 |
| PSYC 7106 Cognitive Neuroscience | 3 |
| • Complete one elective course from the list of Experimental Psychology Electives below (3 credits). | |

Behavioral Sciences Concentration**Credits**

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Choose one of the following two courses (3 credits): | |
| PSYC 7102 Cognition | 3 |
| PSYC 7106 Cognitive Neuroscience | 3 |
| • Choose one of the following three courses (3 credits): | |
| CPSY 6102 Developmental | 3 |
| CPSY 6103 Abnormal | 3 |
| CPSY 7515 Social | 3 |
| • Complete four elective courses from the list of Experimental Psychology Electives below (12 credits). | |
| • A maximum of 9 CPSY credits may be applied towards the degree. | |

MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

This program is particularly geared towards preparing students for direct entry into fields requiring strong data analysis and research skills. Degree conferral requires successful completion of 12 courses (36 total credits).

Students must select a concentration:

- A. Data Visualization and Analysis Concentration
- B. Psychological Science, General Concentration

Concentration: Data Visualization and Analysis (DAVA)

By fulfilling this concentration, students satisfy the requirements for the DAVA certificate

Essentials of Research Requirement (12 credits)**Credits**

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|---|
| PSYC 7200 | Graduate Seminar | 3 |
| PSYC 6100 | Research Design and Analysis I | 3 |
| PSYC 6200 | Research Design and Analysis II | 3 |
| PSYC 7111 | Independent Laboratory Research I | 3 |

Data Visualization and Analysis Requirements (9 credits)**Credits**

| | | |
|-----------|------------------------------|---|
| DAVA 6010 | Data Mining | 3 |
| DAVA 7000 | Data Visualization | 3 |
| PSYC 7214 | Cognition for Visualization* | 3 |

*PSYC 7103 Perception may be substituted for PSYC 7214 for students admitted to the MS program with an undergraduate survey course in cognitive psychology.

Choose One Presentation Course (3 credits)**Credits**

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------------|---|
| COGR 6323 | Presentation Graphics | 3 |
| COST 7220 | Effective Presentations | 3 |

Choose One Scientific Writing Course (3 credits)**Credits**

| | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|---|
| GMHS 7503 | Scientific Writing | 3 |
| GMHS 7507 | Scientific Inquiry | 3 |
| ENGL 6414 | Scientific and Technical Writing | 3 |

Choose One DAVA Experiential Requirement (3 credits)**Credits**

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------------------|---|
| DAVA 8011 | Intern in Visual Analytics | 3 |
| DAVA 8021 | Project in Visual Analytics | 3 |

Choose Two Electives from the Experimental Psychology Electives Listed Below (6 credits)**At least one of these electives must be a PSYC course.****Concentration: Psychological Science, General**

| <u>Essentials of Research Requirement (12 credits)</u> | | <u>Credits</u> |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| PSYC 7200 | Graduate Seminar | 3 |
| PSYC 6100 | Research Design and Analysis I | 3 |
| PSYC 6200 | Research Design and Analysis II | 3 |
| PSYC 8002 | Literature Review Writing | 3 |

Research and Writing Requirement (6 credits)

Choose Option A or Option B for fulfilling this requirement:

Option A: Choose Two Research Courses

| | | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|---|
| PSYC 7111 | Independent Laboratory Research I | 3 |
| PSYC 7112 | Independent Laboratory Research II | 3 |
| PSYC 7202 | Independent Research II | 3 |
| PSYC 7203 | Independent Research III | 3 |

Option B: Complete One Research Course and One Writing Course**Research Courses**

| | | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|---|
| PSYC 7111 | Independent Laboratory Research I | 3 |
| PSYC 7112 | Independent Laboratory Research II | 3 |
| PSYC 7202 | Independent Research II | 3 |
| PSYC 7203 | Independent Research III | 3 |

Writing Courses

| | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|---|
| GMHS 7503 | Scientific Writing | 3 |
| GMHS 7507 | Scientific Inquiry | 3 |
| ENGL 6414 | Scientific and Technical Writing | 3 |

Choose Six Electives from the Experimental Psychology Electives List Below (18 credits)**A maximum of 9 CPSY credits may be applied towards the degree.**

| <u>EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY ELECTIVES</u> | | <u>CREDITS</u> |
|---|--|-----------------------|
| CPSY 6001 | Tests and Measurement | 3 |
| CPSY 6101 | Personality Theory | 3 |
| CPSY 6102 | Developmental Psychology | 3 |
| CPSY 6103 | Abnormal Psychology | 3 |
| CPSY 7515 | Social Psychology | 3 |
| CPSY 8521 | Foundations of Neuropsychology | 3 |
| DAVA 6010 | Data Mining | 3 |
| DAVA 7000 | Data Visualization | 3 |
| DAVA 8011 | Intern in Visual Analytics | 3 |
| DAVA 8021 | Project in Visual Analytics | 3 |
| PSYC 6211/CPSY 6505 | Principles of Learning and Behavior Modification | 3 |
| PSYC 7101 | Conditioning and Behavior | 3 |
| PSYC 7102 | Cognition | 3 |
| PSYC 7103 | Perception | 3 |
| PSYC 7104 | Psychopharmacology | 3 |
| PSYC 7105 | Behavioral Neuroscience | 3 |
| or CPSY 6105 | Biological Bases of Behavior | 3 |
| PSYC 7106 | Cognitive Neuroscience | 3 |
| PSYC 7214 | Cognition for Visualization | 3 |

**Students may apply either PSYC 7105 or CPSY 6105 to their degree, but not both. Choice of which one to take should be made in consultation with the student's advisor.*