



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
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Faculty of Humanities

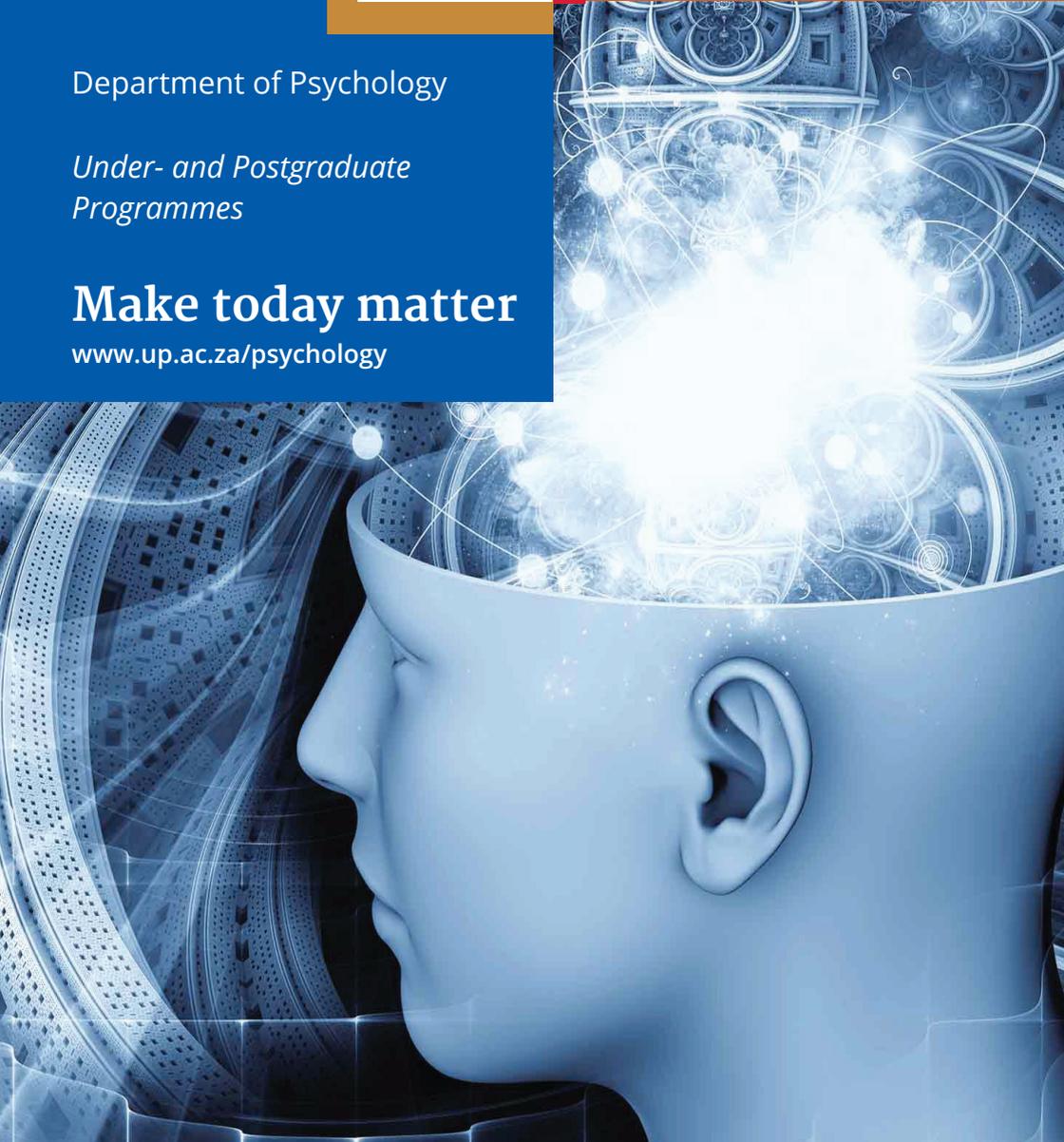
Fakulteit Geesteswetenskappe
Lefapha la Bomotho

Department of Psychology

*Under- and Postgraduate
Programmes*

Make today matter

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About the Department of Psychology

The courses offered by the Department of Psychology aim to provide extensive academic training focused on developing critical conceptual skills and an in-depth understanding of the discipline. The purpose of receiving training in psychology is ultimately not only to gain insight into the fascinating field of human behaviour, but also to learn how this knowledge can be applied in different personal and professional contexts. In this booklet, we include information regarding the undergraduate modules in Psychology, as well as the honours and different master's and doctoral study programmes.

Overview

The first-, second- and third-year Psychology modules that are currently being presented by the Department at the undergraduate level can be combined with various study programmes within the Faculty. In order to gain entrance into our BSocSci (Honours) in Psychology study programme, students should structure their study programmes in such a way that they can take Psychology as one of their majors up to third-year level.

When applying for admission to a specific degree programme, students should ensure that they choose elective modules, including Psychology, up to third-year level. Programmes that usually work well with Psychology as an elective/major are the BA (General/Humanities), BA(Law) or a BSc (Human Physiology, Genetics and Psychology) degree. In addition to the honours programme, we also present four master's programmes, namely Clinical, Counselling and Research Psychology (all coursework), and MA Psychology (research by dissertation only), and one doctoral programme, namely PhD Psychology.

Psychology as a science

The discipline of psychology focuses not only on helping people in their different life situations, but is also widely accepted as a science. As a science, psychology seeks to understand human behaviour in different contexts. However, this in itself would not be enough; it is also essential to apply this knowledge to the practical problems of daily life. Therefore, in its professional application, psychology aims to improve people's quality of life in the wide variety of contexts in which they might find themselves.

Prerequisites

No specific school subjects are required for studying psychology, but in order to qualify for admission, students need to comply with the minimum requirements of the study programme for which they apply, as well as the admission requirements as stipulated by the University of Pretoria, and should ensure that their chosen degree allows them to take Psychology as a major up to their third year of study.

Students who want to major in psychology at postgraduate level must take all the Psychology (SLK modules) and certain research modules (RES modules) up to third-year level.

When and where to apply

Applications open in March and close either on 30 June (selection courses) or 30 September (non-selection courses), depending on the degree programme applied for. Applications may be completed online at www.up.ac.za/apply. Once a student has been accepted, registration will take place during January of the following year.

Undergraduate Psychology Modules

The modules below are presented in the different year levels and should all be taken by students who plan to apply for selection into the BSocSci Honours degree in Psychology.

First-year modules

SLK 110: Psychological Perspectives and Personology

This module is a general orientation in psychology. Various theoretical approaches in psychology are introduced and the development of psychology as a science is discussed. Selected themes from everyday life are explored and integrated with psychological principles. The module also focuses on major personality theories. An introduction is given to the various paradigmatic approaches in psychology.

SLK 120: Biological and Cognitive Processes

This module introduces the student to a basic knowledge and understanding of the biological and cognitive basis of human behaviour. The module addresses the key concepts and terminology related to the biological and cognitive subsystems, the rules and principles guiding biological psychology, and identification of the interrelatedness of different biological systems and subsystems. Various cognitive processes are studied, including perception, memory, thinking, intelligence and creativity. Illustrations are given of various thought processes, such as critical, analytic and integrative thinking.

Second-year modules

SLK 210: Developmental Psychology

In this module, human development, from conception through to adolescence and adulthood, is discussed with reference to various psychological theories. Incorporated are the developmental changes related to the cognitive, physical, emotional and social functioning of the individual and the context of work. Traditional and contemporary theories regarding human development are studied in order to address the key issues relating to development across a human lifespan.

SLK 220: Social Psychology

This module gives a social-psychological perspective on interpersonal and group processes. Themes that are covered include communication, pro-social behaviour, social influence and persuasion, political transformation, violence and group behaviour.

Third-year modules

SLK 310: Psychopathology

This module deals with the identification of abnormal behaviour in children based on knowledge of normal childhood development. It offers an introduction to the study of various models pertaining to abnormal behaviour, how it is understood, and the application of basic concepts in child psychopathology. This module also provides an introduction to the psychopathology and symptomatology of adult abnormal behaviour. Terminology, definitions of abnormal behaviour, problems with regard to diagnosis, labelling and myths regarding abnormal behaviour are discussed. Neurosis as a specific mental disorder is studied critically from a multidimensional perspective, including intrapsychic, interpersonal and social-cultural explanations.

SLK 320 – Community and Critical Psychology

This module deals with a community psychological perspective on human behaviour and psychological interventions. It focuses on themes such as definitions of key concepts, principles and aims of community psychology. The application of these principles within South African society, including social change and psychological problems, are investigated from a cross-cultural perspective. It also critically explores the contribution of various perspectives in psychology. The impact of earlier theoretical frameworks on contemporary perspectives is discussed, as are the implications of these ideas for practical initiatives while focusing on mental health in communities.

Undergraduate Social Research Modules

Students who want to major in Psychology at postgraduate level must register for the social research modules (RES), mentioned below.

Second-year module

RES 210: Social Research: Introductory Methodology

The module introduces methods of inquiry in the social sciences and humanities. The purpose of this module is to introduce students to the research process in order to equip them with the necessary competence to; identify social problems, formulate research questions and hypotheses; have a basic understanding of writing the literature review and research proposal; know and select relevant methods of inquiry; be aware of the necessity of conducting ethically sound research; and interpret and present data graphically.

Third-year module

RES 320: Social Research: Methodological Thinking

The module addresses assumptions and processes underpinning methodological choices in the social sciences and humanities. The purpose of this module is to equip students with the necessary competence to; understand ontological and epistemological debates; identify different approaches to research in the social sciences and humanities; discuss basic statistical decision-making and analyses; and describe elementary principles of qualitative data analysis.

Additional Information

Assessment structure

Full-time modules at the first-, second- and third-year levels are presented in both English and Afrikaans. Although computer-based testing is done, no telematic training is offered. Each module is presented over a period of 14 weeks, with two classes per week, two tests and/or an assignment and a written examination in June/November.

Possible module combinations with Psychology

Numerous disciplines combine well with psychology, from the first to the third year. Disciplines that can be effectively combined with psychology are criminology, drama, educational psychology, history, languages, philosophy, social work and/or sociology. Students who intend to apply for admission to the Higher Diploma in Education with a view to becoming educators should consider taking a school language, such as English, and/or history as one of their electives.

What can I do with psychology?

The undergraduate modules we offer can contribute to building meaningful careers in areas where knowledge of psychology and research is valued. Most first degrees are viewed as formative degrees. This means that they are not designed for specific careers, but rather to provide students with skills that can be used across different fields. These skills include (but are not limited to) expressing oneself through writing, fundamental research and critical thinking. Once students have completed their degrees, they can choose to either study in a specific but different direction, or continue with psychology. They can use their third year of studying psychology to enrich or complement a degree, other training, or employment in many other areas, such as social research, education and political science. Students may also apply for selection to complete an honours degree in psychology, provided they comply with the selection criteria. Careers could include, but are not limited to, community and social development, health and welfare assistance, education (e.g. teaching), social research (e.g. marketing research, monitoring and evaluation), human resources and employee wellness, services for the disabled and the ageing, government, non-governmental and non-profit organisations, to name but a few.

WHAT'S
NEXT STEP **MY** **?**

BSocSci Honours Psychology Programme

The degree BSocSci Honours in Psychology provides advanced academic and research training in psychology and equips students to proceed with their master's programmes in any of the structured (professional) or academic programmes while transferring their skills to a variety of work contexts and making a contribution to society. Some practical training is offered as part of certain modules.

Prerequisites and duration

In order to apply for the BSocSci Honours in Psychology, students should have a first degree with Psychology as a major or core component, and above-average marks (70% and higher) for their Psychology modules. The higher the marks, the better a student's chances are of being selected. The honours programme in psychology is a full-time one-year programme. Lectures are presented during daytime and in English only, and attendance is compulsory. Please note that these prerequisites could change at any time, in line with the changing policies of UP.

When and where to apply

Applications open annually in March and close on 30 September, and must be completed online at www.up.ac.za/apply. No departmental forms are used and students should email their final academic records to the Department for selection purposes.

South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)

All international students must have their qualifications evaluated by SAQA before applying to the University of Pretoria. Please visit www.saqa.org.za for more information.

Programme content

This degree is a general honours degree in psychology and students can apply for any one of the master's psychology programmes (including Clinical, Counselling, Research or Academic). The following honours modules (three core and six elective modules) are presented:

Core Modules

SLK 751: Theories and paradigms

In this module five dominant paradigms in psychology are discussed, including (neo) behaviouristic, (neuro) cognitivist, psycho-analytic, humanist and ecosystemic, as well as typical theories emanating from these paradigms. The philosophical underpinnings of these paradigms and theories are explored, specifically with reference to modernism and postmodernism. Emphasis is placed on the praxis of quantitative and qualitative theory-building against the background of the five dominant paradigms.

SLK 761: Research essay

The research essay constitutes an integrated assessment of all knowledge offered in this learning programme. Students will be required to write a research essay on an approved topic within a specific context, selected as an elective component.

SLK 764: Research methodology

The focus is on gaining the knowledge and skills that are required to understand the empirical research process as applied in psychology. The following aspects are included: theoretical and epistemological assumptions in psychological research; problem and hypothesis formulation; basics of measurement; control in research; threats to validity and research designs. The module also incorporates statistical methods applicable in research, as well as the skills that are necessary to analyse qualitative data – all of which is aimed at providing students with greater skills within the realm of research.

Elective modules (Choose any 5)

SLK 752: Social psychology

Selected themes are explored, including social cognition, attitudes, persuasive communication, social influence and the role of culture in human behaviour. These themes are applied to problems in the contemporary South African scene.

SLK 753: Community psychology

This module focuses on the nature of community psychology, theoretical approaches, community settings, consultation, interventions and the design and management of effective programmes. It includes the planning, coordination and facilitation of workshops and a practical component based in the community.

SLK 755: Psychological assessment

This is a theoretical module that deals with the assessment of human behaviour within various contexts. It does not include the professional training that will qualify students as psychometrists, but includes topics such as the multidimensional nature, purpose, and characteristics of assessment; critical issues in psychological assessment within the South African context; the reasons for statutory control of psychological assessment and the ethics of assessment; the appropriate use of different kinds of psychometric and assessment methods and instruments; and the process of integration of assessment results and report writing.

SLK 756: Psychopathology

The module deals with abnormal behaviour and symptomatology related to various mental disorders, including intrapsychic, interpersonal and sociocultural dysfunctions and pathology. The DSM-V classification system and multidimensional perspectives are critically discussed with regard to specific disorders.

SLK 760: Neuropsychology

The module examines brain-behaviour relationships to develop an understanding of the components of complex psychological processes. Various neuropsychological assessment techniques are also introduced.

SLK 762: Cognitive psychology

This module addresses intermediate, well-formed and systematic knowledge and understanding of cognitive processes in order to provide evidence-based solutions for topical issues related to cognitive psychology. The module includes an evaluation of current scholarly debates and discourses in cognitive psychology, an analysis of contemporary contexts, and a critical evaluation of topical issues relating to cognitive functioning.

I have my honours?

WHAT NOW?

What can I do with my honours degree in Psychology?

Students may register for a practicum in psychometry or counselling, but will need to consult with the HPCSA regarding additional modules that may be needed to meet the requirements for a chosen area of training. Students may also apply for admission to the coursework Master's in Clinical, Counselling or Research Psychology or the Academic Master's in Psychology.

Students may make use of their knowledge of psychology and research to follow careers in areas such as community and social development, health and welfare assistance, education (e.g. teaching), social research (e.g. marketing research, monitoring and evaluation), human resources and employee wellness, services for the disabled and the ageing, government, non-governmental and non-profit organisations, to name but a few.

Professional Master's Programmes

(Coursework: Clinical, Counselling or Research Psychology)

The Department of Psychology offers professional master's programmes, which are currently presented over a period of one year (full-time study). Admission to these courses is subject to a selection process. The Department consists of a number of dedicated professionals who are all experts in their fields. They have extensive experience in training and offer comprehensive theoretical and practical programmes aimed at equipping students to function effectively as psychologists in the South African context.

Prerequisites: Master's programmes in Psychology

Students are required to have obtained a minimum average mark of 65% for their honours degrees in Psychology and must have practical experience in the field of psychology.

Programme information

- The Clinical Psychology Programme provides training in different therapeutic approaches, emphasising assessment, community engagement and clinical practice.
- The Counselling Psychology Programme focuses on psychological research, assessment, counselling, community engagement programmes, and professional development. The programme has a developmental and preventative focus. It aims at developing human potential and promoting social transformation.
- The Research Psychology Programme provides in-depth training in quantitative and qualitative research methods which are applied in various contexts, such as market and environmental research, as well as community, cognitive and media psychology.

When and where to apply

Online admission to the University of Pretoria at www.up.ac.za/apply, as well as the departmental application process, open in March of each year and close on the last working day (office hours) of May. The Departmental Application Package (compulsory) is available on the psychology website at www.up.ac.za/psychology. Please read the instructions carefully and take note of the various selection dates.

South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)

All international students must have their qualifications evaluated by SAQA before applying to the University of Pretoria. Please visit www.saqa.org.za for more information.

**MAKE YOUR
CHOICE**

MA Clinical Psychology

The programme in clinical psychology aims to reflect the vital link between a changing society and the broad therapeutic needs of our communities, while reconciling the South African context with international development. The content, method of teaching and practical opportunities offered in the course reflect the Department's intention to respond to these demands.

Overview

In the first year, training involves full-time theoretical lectures, practical work and research. For the research area, students are expected to conceptualise a research idea, write a research proposal and produce a mini-dissertation, which must be submitted together with a concept article. The completion of the first year of study is followed by a 12-month internship at an accredited site, after which they complete one year of community service as a requirement of the National Department of Health. Clinical psychology graduates are expected to write the National Board exam set by the HPCSA's Board for Psychology, which leads to registration as an independent practitioner.

Expectations of the programme

The programme expects students to be active participants in the learning process. Continuous assessment takes place, which includes practical presentations.

Programme content

KLS 803: Psychodiagnostics

The primary aim of the module is the coding, interpretation and administration of various psychometric tests to enable the student to make a DSM IV diagnosis as well as a psychodiagnosis of a client/patient. The secondary aim is to apply psychodiagnostics in disciplines such as forensic and neuropsychology.

KLS 871: Psychotherapy: Theory

In this module various psychotherapeutic models and their underlying principles are studied. These paradigms do not only deal with the individual as an isolated being, but give insight and understanding with regard to family, group and social contexts. The module KLS 872 deals with the application of the theory and principles.

KLS 872: Psychotherapy Practice

This module is interdependent on modules KLS 871 and KLS 803, namely as the application of psychotherapeutic paradigms and psychometric tests at various clinical/psychological institutions under supervision of senior clinical psychologists. The module also deals with analysis/diagnosis and the description of the applied processes. Critical evaluation of the psychotherapeutic process forms part of a scientific approach to the practice of psychotherapy. Professional and ethical principles are also addressed in this module.

KLS 874: Psychopathology

This module is an investigation of behaviour in context. It trains the student towards a sensitive understanding of human action which exceeds the boundaries of culturally and socially accepted behaviour. Behaviour, which is usually defined as normal/abnormal, is critically discussed and studied from various paradigms. Behaviour influenced by genetic and neurological processes are also studied.

Theoretical and practical training

This training aims to ensure that students receive adequate theoretical and practical training for the work done by a clinical psychologist. The course focuses on individual, group and community processes within specific contexts and covers both intrapsychic and systemic processes from various theoretical perspectives. The Department encourages a complex multicontextual and multicultural approach to the understanding of human problems. Intensive psychodiagnostic and psychometric training is also an important aspect of the course.

Focus:

- Psychopathology is approached from various perspectives, including the traditional intrapsychic and postmodern systemic perspectives. Cultural issues in the field are also addressed.
- Psychological assessment includes training in and the application of various psychological tests, including neuropsychological testing.
- Psychotherapy orientations include psychodynamic, postmodern and ecosystemic/family therapy models for working with children, individuals, groups and families.
- In addition, the Department offers introductory courses in research methodology, neuropsychology, professional ethics and multicultural perspectives, and community mental health. Students are also given opportunities for involvement in community projects.

Practical work:

During the year, students do practical work at specific institutions in the Gauteng area. These placements may include psychiatric hospitals, the Itsoseng Clinic and other community sites. All work is conducted under the supervision of clinical personnel. As an integral part of the practical training, weekly supervision is undertaken with all students.

Research/mini-dissertation:

Apart from attending theoretical and practical training and workshops, students are required to complete a research project / mini-dissertation under the guidance of a supervisor before they can graduate. The mini-dissertation constitutes 50% towards the final mark for the degree. The mini-dissertation must be submitted together with a concept article for publication. Please refer to page 16 "Dissertation and thesis procedures" for more information.

Memorandum of Understanding

Students enter into a formal relationship with the University and their supervisors. This relationship is formalised in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). All students need to complete the MoU for Academic Supervision when they register, or no later than two months after registration.

Internship

The internship commences once students have completed the academic programme. Students are personally responsible for obtaining and completing a 12-month internship at an institution accredited by the HPCSA (Board for Psychology). It is highly recommended that students complete the mini-dissertation before commencing with their internship.

Community service

Graduates are required to complete 12 months of community service prior to registering as independent practitioners. Candidates have to apply with the Department of Health for community service posts, which are available at various government hospitals and institutions nationally. Community service may commence once the 12-month internship has been successfully completed.

Work opportunities

Registered clinical psychologists work in a variety of settings, including private practice and various government departments, such as the Departments of Health and Correctional Services, or may choose to work as psychologists in hospitals, mental health clinics, industries and university departments.

MA Counselling Psychology

Counselling psychologists play a crucial role in the development and improvement of the psychological well-being of people. The counselling psychology training process emphasises researcher and practitioner training, with a focus on psychological research, psychological assessment, psychological counselling, psychological community psychology and professional development. Please note that only the community psychology option is available at the moment.

Overview

The first year of training involves full-time theoretical lectures, practical work and research. For the research area, students are expected to conceptualise a research idea, write a research proposal and produce a mini-dissertation, which must be submitted together with a concept article. After completion of the first year of study, students complete a 12-month internship at an accredited site. Counselling psychology graduates are expected to write the National Board exam set by the HPCSA's Board for Psychology, which leads to registration as an independent practitioner.

Focus

- Conducting psychological assessments in various contexts
- Facilitating psychological counselling at various organisations
- Developing and implementing psychological community programmes in various contexts
- Self-awareness and a willingness to be introspective

Programme content

SLK 801: Fundamental Psychology

In this module students will encounter the fundamental principles underlying human behaviour. Themes related to, inter alia, developmental psychology, personality psychology, neuropsychology, psychopathology, social psychology and professional practice are included.

SLK 802: Counselling Psychology

In this module students will be exposed to various models for doing psychological counselling. The objective of this module is to enable students to interpret the role of a therapist.

SLK 804: Community Psychology

In this module students will develop skills to implement psychological programmes (eg life skills programmes) within social communities that will enable them to interpret the role of a community consultant.

SLK 805: Psychological Assessment

This module focuses on the administration, marking and interpretation of psychological assessment techniques within various contexts. Report-writing based on the results, which were obtained during an assessment, is also dealt with in this module.

Theoretical and practical training

The training constitutes 50% of the degree and includes theoretical work, practical training and professional development.

Theoretical work:

- Fundamentals of psychology
- Psychological assessment
- Counselling psychology
- Community psychology

Practical training:

During this programme, students do practical work, for example at Itsoseng Clinic, Mamelodi, and Student Services (UP and TUT).

Professional development:

Besides the researcher and practitioner training, the professional development of the students is addressed on a continuous basis in all modules. Professional development entails professional practice and professional identity development. The professional practice component focuses on the ethical and legal framework within which counselling psychologists practise, while professional identity development focuses on the person of the prospective counselling psychologist.

Research/mini-dissertation:

In addition to receiving theoretical and practical training and participating in workshops, the student has to successfully complete a project / mini-dissertation under the guidance of a supervisor, after which graduation can take place. The mini-dissertation constitutes 50% towards the final mark for the degree. A concept article for publication must be submitted together with the mini-dissertation. Please refer to page 18 “Dissertation and thesis procedures” for more information.

Memorandum of Understanding

Students enter into a formal relationship with the University and their supervisors. This relationship is formalised in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). All students need to complete the MoU for Academic Supervision when they register, or no later than two months after registration.

Internship

The completion of the degree must be followed by an internship of 12 months at an internship institution approved by the HPCSA, after which the student may register as a counselling psychologist.

Work opportunities

Counselling psychologists work in settings such as state and semi-state organisations, hospitals, clinics, private sector, academic institutions, or private practice.

MA Research Psychology

The many challenges that the South African society presents require the expertise, social responsibility and creativity of researchers. The knowledge and skills needed to make a difference to our society through the implementation of workable solutions are taught in this course and graduates will be able to make valuable contributions within a multidisciplinary context. Topical themes, such as media research, conflict, intergroup relations, community development, neuropsychology, the research process and research methods are investigated.

Overview

The first year of training involves full-time theoretical lectures, practical work, web and contact modules, and research. For the research area, students are expected to conceptualise a research idea, write a research proposal and produce a mini-dissertation, which must be accompanied by a concept article. After completion of the first year of study, students complete a 12-month internship at an accredited site. Research psychology graduates are expected to write the National Board exam set by the HPCSA's Board for Psychology, which leads to registration as an independent practitioner.

Programme content

NSK 801: Research Methodology (Qualitative Research)

Themes on the philosophy of science, research design, validity in research, test development, ethics, and appropriate statistical methods are addressed in this module.

NSK 802: Research Methodology (Quantitative Research)

A number of issues relating to qualitative research are addressed. At the end of the module, students should be able to engage critically with the paradigm both from a theoretical and practical perspective.

NSK 804: Social and Environmental Psychology

This module consists of themes with regard to social psychology studied critically from theoretical perspectives such as systems theory and social cognitive psychology.

NSK 805: Capita Selecta

Students are exposed to various themes such as media research, market research, community psychology and cross-cultural psychology.

NSK 806: Cognitive Psychology

The module consists of themes in cognitive psychology (such as memory and perception), practical applications of cognitive psychology and neuropsychology.

Theoretical and practical training

This training constitutes 50% of the degree and includes theoretical work and practical work.

Theoretical work:

- Research methodology and theory
 - Qualitative and quantitative methods
 - Research procedures
 - Computer applications
 - Systems theory
- Fields of application
 - Community psychology
 - Social psychology
 - Cross-cultural psychology
 - Cognitive psychology
 - Media/marketing research
 - Interpersonal/group
 - Neuropsychology processes

Practical experience:

- Practical experience of effective project management is obtained through participation in several individual and group projects, which include the following:
 - Project proposals
 - Budget planning
 - Data-gathering techniques and procedures

- Data capturing, analysis and interpretation
- Report writing, presentation skills and public speaking

Research/mini-dissertation:

In addition to the theoretical work and practical training, and participation in workshops, a research project/mini-dissertation completed under the guidance of a supervisor and a draft article for publication must be submitted, after which graduation can take place. The mini-dissertation constitutes 50% of the final mark for the degree. Please refer to page 16 “Dissertation and thesis procedures” for more information.

Memorandum of Understanding

Students enter into a formal relationship with the University and their supervisors. This relationship is formalised in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). All students need to complete the MoU for Academic Supervision when they register, or no later than two months after registration.

Internship

The successful completion of the degree programme must be followed by an internship of 12 months, after which the student may register as a research psychologist. Internships are offered at various institutions, such as the Military Psychological Institute (MPI), private-sector market-research organisations and other institutions.

Work opportunities

Research psychologists are employed in a variety of sectors and industries, including government and semi-government institutions, the private sector, marketing research organisations, research institutions, academic institutions and privately conducted research undertakings and consultancies.

Academic Master’s and PhD programmes

The Academic master’s and doctoral degrees (research only) offer an adaptable form of study that enables students to focus on completing a research dissertation. An approved topic is chosen within the Department and an academic staff member is appointed as the supervisor.

Admission requirements

For the MA (Psychology) degree, students are required to have obtained an honours degree with a minimum average mark of 60%, or honours status (awarded based on merit) in psychology before registration for this degree can proceed. The master’s degree is awarded upon the successful completion of a full-length dissertation. The maximum period for the completion of a master’s degree is four years. For the PhD (Psychology) degree, students are required to have a recognised master’s degree in psychology with a minimum mark of 65% for the research component of the degree. The doctoral degree is awarded upon successful completion of a full-length thesis and its oral defence. The maximum period for the completion of a doctoral degree is five years. Please note that these requirements could change at any time in line with the changing policies of the university.

When and where to apply

Applications open in March and close 30 September annually. Prospective students are required to apply for admission to the University of Pretoria at www.up.ac.za/apply, current UP students need complete the Internal Application via the Student Centre. Both groups of students need to complete the departmental application process at www.up.ac.za/psychology.

The Department meets once a year (in November) to evaluate these applications and to assign supervisors to students who have been accepted. Once accepted, students need to register early in the following year and commence working on a formal research proposal together with the assigned supervisor. Once the formal proposal has been officially approved by the Departmental Research Committee and the Faculty Postgraduate and Ethics Committees, the student may conduct the research. Master's and doctoral students are required to work on specific topics that fall within the Research Focus Areas of the Department (a topic can only be approved if a supervisor with the necessary expertise is available). Furthermore, the Department will evaluate research potential according to criteria such as the ability of candidates to prepare a concept research proposal.

South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)

All international students must have their qualifications evaluated by SAQA before applying to the University of Pretoria. Please visit www.saqa.org.za for more information.

Dissertation and thesis procedure

Once master's and doctoral students have been accepted by the Department, have been allocated a supervisor to work with and have registered, a formal proposal must be prepared. Certain procedures need to be followed for the proposal and the title of the study to be approved by the University.

It is important to note that the previous paragraph applies to all of the master's programmes as well as the PhD programme. The flowchart document for supervisors and students for the approval of research for a dissertation/thesis explains the steps that should be followed in order to obtain such approval. The flowchart is available on the Department of Psychology's website.

Memorandum of Understanding

Students enter into a formal relationship with the University and their supervisors. This relationship is formalised in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). All students need to complete the MoU for Academic Supervision when they register, or no later than two months after registration.

Faculty clearance of research proposals and ethics

Once the Department has approved a research proposal, it has to be approved by the Faculty Postgraduate Committee. An application for ethical clearance also has to be made to the Faculty Research Ethics Committee through the Research Ethics Application (RIMS) System on <https://rims.up.ac.za>.

Frequently Asked Questions

I would like to become a psychologist. What should I do next?

Students should have completed a master's degree in any one of the professional master's programmes in Clinical, Counselling or Research Psychology, and will have to register with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA), write the HPCSA board exam, complete an internship and write a mini-dissertation. Students who have completed an MA (Clinical Psychology) will also be required to complete a year of community service.

Could I become a psychologist with my bachelor's, honours or academic master's degree?

No (refer to the paragraph above).

Do I need to take certain subjects in Grade 12 if I want to study psychology?

No, but potential students need to comply with the AP Score of the chosen degree and the University's admission requirements.

I would like to become an industrial psychologist/educational psychologist. What should I do?

Contact the Department of Human Resource Management in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences for information on the Industrial/Organisational Psychology degree at www.up.ac.za/human-resource-management and the Department of Educational Psychology in the Faculty of Education at www.up.ac.za/educational-psychology for more information.

What could I do if I am not selected for one of the professional master's programmes (such as the MA in Clinical, Counselling or Research Psychology)?

Students should not allow this to discourage them from exploring the numerous other options that are available after the completion of a bachelor's and/or honours degree as they have already learned many skills that are relevant to different work environments.

I studied at another university and have already passed certain modules. Do I get credit for those modules?

In order to receive credits (where applicable), students from other universities will need to present their academic records, details of the content of the curriculum they studied (in a yearbook or study guide), and consult with the undergraduate coordinator in the Department. No credits for postgraduate modules are given e.g honours etc.

I would like to become a neurologist/neuropsychiatrist/neuropsychologist/ criminal profiler/crime-scene investigator/child psychologist. What should I do?

The professional master's programmes offered by this Department do not qualify students to register as any of the above. A student may complete the MA degree in Clinical Psychology and specialise as a child psychologist. However, since this registration category does not exist at the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA), a student will not be able to register as a child psychologist, but may register as a clinical psychologist.

When may I start practising in the field?

Registration with the HPCSA is compulsory before a person will be allowed to practise in the field. The minimum qualification required to qualify for an internship in any field of

psychology is an honours degree in psychology. After that, students need to liaise with the HPCSA to ensure that they complete internships that will enable them to register as psychometrists. The honours programme does not automatically lead to registration. Only the directed master's degrees offered at the University of Pretoria qualify graduates to apply for registration with the HPCSA.

I am an international student and would like to study psychology at the University of Pretoria.

Please contact the international student office at international.office@up.ac.za.

Is it easy to become a psychologist?

University entrance is governed by various rules and regulations. A student who has been admitted to a bachelor's programme will be subjected to a selection procedure should he/she wish to gain entry into an honours programme. Subsequent professional master's programme (Clinical, Counselling and Research Psychology) proceed on the basis of selections. There is no automatic entry into these programmes and only a limited number of places are available in the postgraduate programmes.

The reason why we select only a limited number of students for the professional master's programmes in psychology:

These programmes require intensive training that can only be provided by suitably qualified academic staff. Since the Department does not have unlimited resources in terms of staff, only a few students are selected each year to ensure that they can receive quality training and supervision.

Will I be allowed to attend selected master's-level modules in Psychology if I am not registered for a master's degree in the Department?

Unfortunately not. Only those candidates selected for the master's programmes are allowed to attend the modules.

How many years in total does it take to become a psychologist?

This depends on whether a student is selected every time he/she applies for admission to a programme:

- Three years are required for a bachelor's degree.
- One year is required to complete an honours degree.
- One year is required for the MA Clinical Psychology degree, a one-year internship and another year of community work.
- One year is required for the MA in Counselling and Research and a one-year internship.

I completed some components of my degree a few years ago and would now like to continue with the degree. What should I do?

The last time the student studied in the field of psychology (undergraduate level) should not be more than five years ago. If more than five years have passed, the student will have to register for the Humanities Special (for non-degree purposes) and complete the two third-year Psychology modules, as well as certain research modules, in order to apply for admission to an honours programme in psychology.

Students who want to become child psychologists and/or work in the area of play therapy may find the following guidelines useful. The context in which individuals would like to work with children is an important consideration.

- Educational psychologists deal mostly with the problems encountered by children in the education context. Their tasks range from testing learners' intelligence, aptitude, interests and personality to assisting them with learning problems and providing career guidance. They may also help teachers to develop greater awareness of the social factors that influence learners and provide guidance to parents.
- Clinical psychologists work directly with individuals at all developmental levels (including children) using a wide range of assessment and intervention methods to promote mental health and alleviate discomfort and maladjustment. Interventions in clinical psychology are directed at preventing, treating and correcting emotional conflicts, personality disturbances, psychopathology and the skills deficits underlying human distress or dysfunction.

While graduates who wish to work with children cannot register as child psychologists, they may specialise in either of the above two fields.

- The Department of Social Work offers a master's degree in social work, specialising in play therapy. For more information about this programme, minimum requirements and selection criteria, please contact Dr Liana le Roux at liana.leroux@up.ac.za.

Would I be able to practise as a counsellor/psychologist in another country?

Education systems differ from country to country and even regions and provinces within countries - have different requirements for individuals wishing to practise as counsellors and psychologists. Whereas in some countries a person will need a doctorate to practise as a psychologist, a master's degree is sufficient in others. The professional board of a country will be able to provide details on such requirements.

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MA & PhD programmes in Psychology:

The Research Committee (ResCom)

Email: psychology.rescom@up.ac.za

For more information please refer to the web links below:

Online application link:

www.up.ac.za/apply

Study information:

www.up.ac.za/en/new-students-undergraduate/article/256353/study-information

National Benchmark Test:

www.nbt.ac.za