



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
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Faculty of Humanities

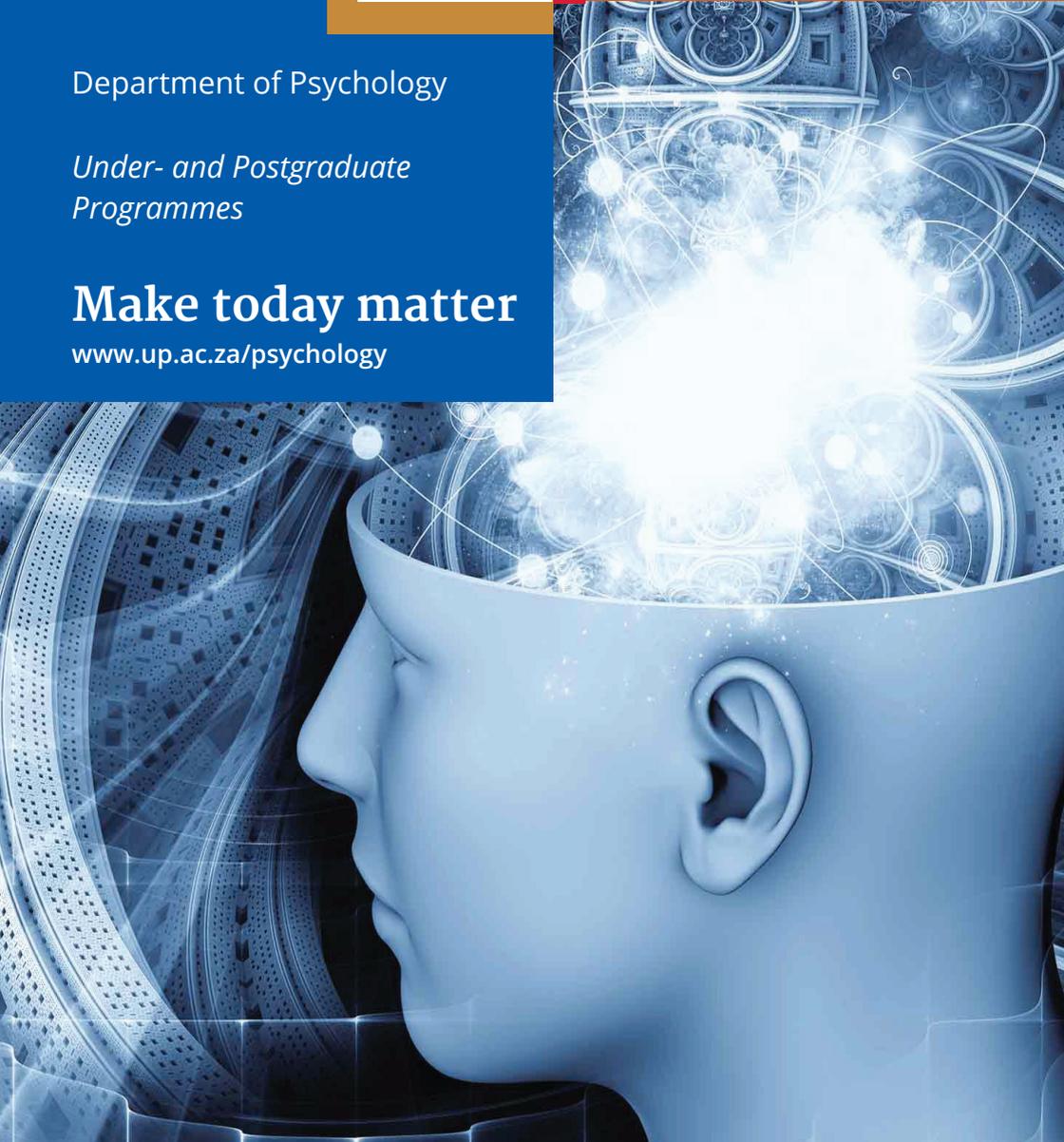
Fakulteit Geesteswetenskappe
Lefapha la Bomotho

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 during which we focus on developing critical conceptual skills and 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 brochure, we include information regarding the undergraduate modules in psychology, as well as the honours and different master's and doctoral study programmes.

Overview

The Department currently presents first-, second- and third-year Psychology modules at the undergraduate level which can be combined with various study programmes within the Faculty. In order to gain entrance into our BSocSci(Hons) 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 a specific degree, students should ensure that they choose elective modules, including Psychology, up to third-year level. A study programme that usually works well with Psychology is a BA (General) and BA(Law) with Psychology as a major, 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), MA Psychology (research by dissertation only), and two doctoral programmes namely DPhil Psychology and PhD.

Psychology as a Science

The discipline of psychology not only focuses 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

There are no specific school subjects that are required to study psychology, but students need to adhere to the minimum requirements of the study programme for which they apply. Students should adhere to the admission requirements as stipulated by the University of Pretoria to qualify for admission while ensuring 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 (BA General), this depends on the degree applied for. Applications may be completed online at www.up.ac.za/apply.

Students may register for modules at any point during their studies, except where other requirements prevent them from doing so. Students may take one or all of the modules presented in each year level, or choose only those modules prescribed by their training programme (if applicable).

The modules below are presented in the different year levels and should all be taken if the student is planning to apply for selection into the BSocSci Honours in Psychology during their third year.

Undergraduate Psychology Modules

First-year:

12 credits each

SLK 110: Psychological Perspectives and Personology

This module is a general orientation of 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:

20 credits each

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:

30 credits each

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:

20 credits

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:

30 credits

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. No telematic training is offered, although computer-based testing is done. 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 first to third year. Disciplines that can be effectively combined with psychology is educational psychology, criminology, sociology, social work, languages, drama, philosophy and history. Students who intend to apply for the Higher Diploma in Education with the view to become an educator, should consider taking a school language such as English and/or history as one of their electives.

What can I do with psychology?

Most first degrees are known as formative degrees. This means that they are not designed for a specific career, but rather to provide learners with skills that can be used across many different fields. These skills include (but are not limited to) expressing oneself through writing, fundamental research and critical thinking. Once students complete their degree they can choose to either study in a specific but different direction, or continue with psychology. Students can use their third year of studying psychology to enrich or complement a degree, other training or employment in areas such as journalism, social research, education, political science and many others. Students may also apply for selection to complete an honours degree in psychology, provided they comply with the selection criteria.

**WHAT'S YOUR
NEXT STEP?**

Honours Programme:

BSocSci(Hons) Psychology

BSocSci(Hons) in Psychology provides advanced academic and research training in psychology, equipping 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.

Prerequisites and duration

In order to apply for the BSocSci(Hons) in Psychology, students should have a first degree with Psychology as a major or core component, and above-average marks (70% and higher). The honours programme in psychology is a full-time one-year programme and lectures are presented during daytime only in English.

When and where to apply

Applications open annually in August and close 30 September and can be completed online at www.up.ac.za/apply. No departmental forms will be used from 2017 - students should email their final academic records to jean.pretorius@up.ac.za for selection.

South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)

All international students need to have their qualifications evaluated by SAQA before applying to the University of Pretoria for any of the postgraduate study programmes. 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 programmes (including MA Clinical, Counselling, Research or the Academic MA). Students can apply for selection for professional or academic training at master's level with the following honours modules (three core and five elective modules) namely:

Core Modules

(Compulsory)

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, amongst others social cognition, attitudes, persuasive communication and social influence, as well as the role of culture in human behaviour. These themes are applied to problems in the contemporary South African scene.

SLK 753: Community Psychology

The 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.

What can I do with my honours 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 the MA (Clinical Psychology), MA (Counselling Psychology), MA (Research Psychology) or MA (Psychology) degrees once they have obtained the honours degree.

Master's Coursework Programmes: (Clinical, Counselling or Research Psychology)

The Department of Psychology offers three directed master's courses. Admittance to any one of these courses depends on a selection process and is currently presented over a period of one-year (full-time). The Department consists of a number of dedicated professionals – all experts in their fields and with extensive experience in training – who 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

- MA (Clinical) and MA (Counselling Psychology): a minimum average student grade of 65% for their honours in psychology and practical experience in the field of psychology
- MA Research Psychology: a minimum average student grade of 65% for their honours in psychology

When and where to apply

Applications open in March and close on the last work day (office hours) of May. Initially students should only apply by completing the Departmental Application Form, available on the psychology website. Further information will be released, please read the instructions carefully.

South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)

All international students must have their qualifications evaluated by SAQA before applying to the University of Pretoria for any programme on the postgraduate level. 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 this course reflect the Department's intention to respond to these demands. On completion of the course, and after passing the national board examination at the required level, graduates may register as clinical psychologists with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA).

Overview

The training involves full-time theoretical lectures and practical work. During this time students write a research proposal and mini-dissertation. A concept article need to be submitted with the mini-dissertation. Students also need to complete a 12-month internship, after which students write the Professional Board examination is written to register as clinical psychologists with the HPCS. Clinical psychology graduates are also expected to complete one year of community service as a requirement of the National Department of Health before they are allowed to register as independent practitioners.

Expectations of the study programme

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

Theoretical and practical training

The training aims to give students 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, covering 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 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 and neuropsychology. Students are given the opportunity to get involved in community projects.

*Please note: Courses may change from year to year

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 the clinical personnel. Weekly supervision is undertaken with all students as an integral part of the practical training.

Research/Mini-dissertation:

Apart from the theoretical and practical training as well as workshops, the student must complete a dissertation, after which graduation can take place. Students are expected to complete a research project/mini-dissertation under the guidance of a supervisor. The mini-dissertation count 50% towards the final mark of the degree. A concept article for publication must be submitted with the mini-dissertation.

Internship

Students themselves are responsible for obtaining and completing an accredited 12-month internship (institution must be registered/approved by the HPCSA) once they have completed the academic programme and the mini-dissertation.

Community service

Graduates are required to complete 12-months of community service prior to registering as independent practitioners. Candidates can apply at the Department of Health for positions available throughout the country. Community service may begin once the requirements are met (by successfully completing the 12-month internship).

Work opportunities

Registered psychologists can move into private practice or choose to work as psychologists in hospitals, mental health clinics, industries and university departments.

MA Counselling Psychology

(Options: Community or Sport Psychology)

Counselling psychologists play a crucial role in the development and improvement of the psychological well-being of people. The counselling psychology training process focuses on researcher and practitioner training with a focus on psychological research, psychological assessment, psychological counselling, psychological education and professional development.

Overview

The training involves basic and advanced academic education and practical training. During this time students also write a research proposal, conduct a research project and write a mini-dissertation. A concept article need to be submitted with the mini-dissertation. Students also need to complete a 12-month internship, after which the Professional Board of Psychology examination is written to register as counselling psychologists with the HPCSA.

Focus

- Conducting psychological assessment in various contexts
- Facilitate psychological counselling at various organisations
- Developing and implementing psychological educational programmes in various contexts
- Self-awareness and a willingness to be introspective

Theoretical and practical training

The training entails 50% of the degree and theoretical work, practical training and professional development are dealt with.

Theoretical work:

- Fundamentals of Psychology (core module)
- Psychological Assessment (core module)
- Counselling Psychology (core module)
- Community Psychology (elective module)
- Sport Psychology (elective module)

Practical training:

During this programme students do practical work, for example at Student Services (UP and TUT), Stabilis and TuksSport (Pty) Ltd.

Professional development:

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

Research/Mini-dissertation:

Apart from theoretical and practical training as well as workshops, the student must complete a dissertation, after which graduation can take place. Students are expected to complete a research project/mini-dissertation under the guidance of a supervisor. The mini-dissertation count 50% towards the final mark of the degree. A concept article for publication must be submitted with the mini-dissertation.

Internship

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

Work opportunities

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

MA Research Psychology

South African society presents many challenges which 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. On completion of the course, which includes a mini-dissertation, and the internship, candidates are eligible to register as research psychologists with the HPCSA.

Overview

The degree is available as a web- and a contact-based course and covers one-year of full-time study. Internet access and advanced computer skills are a prerequisite. Online lectures, contact sessions, workshops and practical training will be conducted. Students also need to write a mini-dissertation and submit a concept article for publication.

Theoretical and practical training

The training entails 50% of the degree and theoretical work and practical experience are dealt with.

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 by participation in several individual and group projects, which include the following:

- project proposals
- budget planning
- data-gathering techniques
- data-gathering procedures
- data capturing
- data analysis/interpretation
- report writing, presentation skills and public speaking

Research/Mini-Dissertation:

Apart from the theoretical work and practical training as well as workshops, a mini-dissertation and draft article for publication must be completed, after which graduation can take place. Students are expected to complete a research project/mini-dissertation under the guidance of a supervisor. The mini-dissertation count 50% towards the final mark of the degree. A concept article for publication must be submitted with the mini-dissertation.

Internship

The completion of the degree must be followed by an internship of 12 months, after which the student may register as a research psychologist. This internship in research psychology is offered at various institutions, such as the Military Psychological Institute (MPI), private-sector market-research organisations (e.g. AskAfrica) and other institutions such as Khulisa Management Services.

Work opportunities

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

Master's and Doctoral Programmes:

(Academic MA, PhD and DPhil in Psychology)

The Academic MA, PhD & DPhil (research only), is an adaptable form of study enabling students to focus on completing a research dissertation. An approved topic is chosen within the department and an academic staff member is 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 completion of a master's degree is four years. For the doctoral degree, DPhil or PhD (Psychology), 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 the successful completion of a full-length thesis and its oral defence. The maximum period for completion of a doctoral degree is five years.

Departmental admission requirements

Prospective students are required to apply to the Department for selection prior to officially applying to the University. The Department meets twice a year to evaluate such applications and to assign supervisors to students that have been accepted. Students should then apply for admission on www.up.ac/apply. Once accepted students may start to work 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 register for the degree. Master's and doctoral students are required to work on specific topics that fall within the Research Focus Areas of the Department (topics can only be approved if a supervisor with the necessary expertise is available). Furthermore, the Department will evaluate research potential according to such criteria as the ability of candidates to prepare a concept research proposal.

When and where to apply

Application deadlines are currently at the end of September and mid-January annually, but should be confirmed on the psychology website.

South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)

All international students must have their qualifications evaluated by SAQA before applying to the University of Pretoria for either the academic MA or doctoral programmes. 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.

This applied to all dissertations and theses, including MA (Psychology), MA Clinical, Counselling and Research (Psychology), DPhil and PhD. The flowchart document for supervisors and students for approval of research for dissertation/thesis explains the steps that students should follow to get their research proposals approved. The flowchart is available on the Department of Psychology's website.

Additional information

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.

The MoU can be obtained from the psychology website.

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. The required formats/forms are available in the flowchart. More information is available on the Faculty Research webpage on www.up.ac.za/psych.

Appendix A: Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I find more information (application forms, closing dates, etc) on the undergraduate, honours and masters' programmes in psychology?

Students should contact the Administrative Programme Coordinator, Mr V. Brown via email at psychinfo@up.ac.za or telephone on 012 420 4144 for more details. General information is also available on the psychology website.

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

The student should have completed a master's degree in any one of the directed programmes in Clinical, Counselling or Research Psychology. The student 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. In addition, a student who has completed an MA (Clinical Psychology) will be required to complete a year of community service (refer to Appendix A).

Can 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 and the University's admission requirements.

I want to become an industrial psychologist/educational psych-ologist. What do I do?

Contact the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences (Industrial Psychology) and the Faculty of Education (Educational Psychology) for more information.

What could I do if I do not get selected for a professional training programme (such as the MA (Clinical 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?

Students from another university will need to present their academic record, the content of the curriculum they studied (in a yearbook or study guide), and consult with the undergraduate coordinator in the Department to receive credits (where applicable).

I want to become a neurologist/neuropsychiatrist/neuropsychologist/criminal profiler/crime-scene investigator (CSI)/child therapist/child psychologist. What should I do?

The directed MA degree 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, this registration category does not exist at the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA), so a student will not be able to register as a child psychologist – only as clinical psychologist.

When can I start practising in the field?

Registration with the HPCSA is required before practising in the field. The minimum qualification 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: 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 bachelor's programme will be subjected to a selection procedure should he/she wish to gain entry into an honours programme. Subsequent MA courses (Clinical, Counselling and Research) 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 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 so that they can receive quality training and supervision.

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 degrees in Counselling and Research (plus a one-year internship).

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

I have a calling: I feel the need to help people. Should I become a psychologist?

A prospective student should carefully consider his/her options before deciding to become a psychologist and excluding other possibilities, since entry into the postgraduate courses is based on selection procedures. There are other avenues and other careers that offer opportunities for helping people.

For example, a student may use his/her counselling and communication skills to facilitate youth groups in discussing issues that confront them in their communities. Volunteering offers people excellent opportunities for developing practical skills and for networking with other organisations and people who might recognise their skills and offer them opportunities to work in areas that they had not previously considered.

The reason why we select only a limited number of students for the professional 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 so that they can receive quality training and supervision.

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 learners 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. Graduates cannot register as child psychologists, but may specialise in the above two fields to work with children.
- 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: liana.leroux@up.ac.za.

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

Educational systems differ and each country – and even regions and provinces within a country – has different requirements for individuals wanting 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.

Where can I complete my internship year (clinical, counselling and research)?

Students apply for their internship through the Department of Psychology or by applying posts that are advertised in the media. The Department of Psychology has contact with various approved centres, but students are free to complete their internships at institutions of their own choice. Applications will be dealt with on merit. Any organisation offering an internship related to a student's particular field of study must be approved.

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 selected candidates in the master's programmes are allowed to attend the modules.

Departmental Contact Details

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**To obtain the University regulations and
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