PH.D. PROGRAM IN PSYCHOLOGY: CONSCIOUSNESS & SOCIETY
A program grounded in Critical, Transpersonal & Humanistic Psychologies
Department of Psychology
University of West Georgia

Policies and Procedures

Students
Admissions:
Students will be admitted for the fall semester only. Applicants with a Bachelor’s degree will be considered; however a graduate degree is strongly preferred. Those with degrees outside of psychology are encouraged to apply. Additional courses in the Department of Psychology at the University of West Georgia may be required due to disciplinary background or level of educational attainment (see below).

Matriculation:
Students admitted directly to the doctoral program should expect at least one year of full time attendance. After one year, students may be allowed to change to part time status. The program must be finished within 8 years.

Financial Aid and Stipends:
The Department can offer a limited number of stipends for graduate research/teaching assistantships (GRAs and GTAs). The department also offers some tuition waivers. See application form for requirements for consideration for such waivers and stipends. Further financial aid may be available through the financial aid office.

Preparation for the doctoral program:
Those with degrees in non-related fields or without a Master’s degree may be required to complete twenty hours of coursework. This may include Psych. 6000, Growth and Potential and Psych 6010, Foundations of Humanistic Psychology. Other courses can be determined in consultation with faculty. Courses taken at the 7000 level can be taken for Masters level credit or doctoral credit but not both. Those admitted under the condition of having to take additional courses typically finish the preparatory sequence before entering 8000 level courses.

Program Requirements:

1. Earn 60 credits in approved doctoral level courses.

   These requirements are in accordance with prevailing standards for psychology doctoral programs. At least 48 credits must be attained from the Psychology Department. The remaining 12 may, upon approval, be comprised of coursework from outside of the Psychology Department but within the University of West Georgia; 9 of these 12 hours can be transferred in from outside of the University, pending approval. Hours counted towards the completion of another degree will not transfer. At least 40 credits must consist of courses numbered 8000 or above. The remainder may include courses numbered 7000 or above. All required course credits are 4 hours with the exception of PYSC 9002 (which is 2 hours).

2. Earn credit for the following required courses named below. Other 8000 level courses require permission of instructor if required doctoral courses have not been completed.

3. Required 60 hours do not include dissertation hours.

4. No more than 9 credits of Independent Study (8581) can count towards the 60 required hours.
Core Courses
   _____ PSYC 8000  Consciousness and Experience
   _____ PSYC 8001  Culture & Subjectivity
   _____ PSYC 8002  Studies in Mind/Body

Foundations
   Take one of the following:
   _____ PSYC 7004 Historical Foundations of Psychology
   _____ PSYC 8007 Critical Foundations of Psychology
   _____ PSYC 8008 Humanistic Foundations of Psychology
   _____ PSYC 8009 Transpersonal Foundations of Psychology

Research Methods
   _____ PSYC 8005  Human Science Methodologies
   _____ PSYC 8006  Advanced Human Science Methodologies

Other
   _____ PSYC 9002  Doctoral Qualifying Seminar (2 hrs)
   _____ PSYC 9087  Teaching Practicum (only required for GTAs)
   _____ Fulfillment of quant/stats requirement (requires approval by Doctoral Director and Chair)

Complete the following additional requirements:

Comprehensive Examinations: Students must demonstrate readiness to advance to doctoral candidacy in accordance with Departmental standards.

Dissertation Committee:
Before beginning the dissertation proposal, the student should choose a dissertation advisor and committee. The committee should be comprised of 1) a dissertation advisor, who is primarily responsible for the direction of the dissertation and who will be a full-time member of the Department and a member of the Graduate faculty and 2) two faculty members with full-time graduate faculty credentials, one of which may be from outside the Department. The student may also request a fourth member, or external reader, from an outside Department or University. Upon forming the dissertation committee, the student must arrange an initial meeting with the advisor to establish the timetable for the proposal and dissertation. The dissertation committee will work with the student while the dissertation proposal is started, and the names of committee members and proposal title will be given to the designated department administrator. All members of the committee should be kept informed as to the progress of the proposal and of the dissertation at regular intervals. Any changes in committee membership should be followed by notification of all members and the department administrator.

Dissertation Proposal:
The nature of the dissertation proposal will reflect the type of dissertation undertaken by the student as approved by the dissertation advisor.

Dissertation Proposal Defense:
Once the proposal is finished, the dissertation committee will meet with the candidate to determine feasibility and scholarship of the proposed project. During the meeting, the committee will suggest revisions and evaluate the viability of the candidate’s dissertation project. Approved dissertation proposals will be filed with the proper administrative office. Upon approval and filing of the dissertation proposal, the student is officially admitted to candidacy. The proposal defense will be open to any interested faculty.

**Dissertation:** Approval of a doctoral dissertation by the student’s dissertation committee.

**Dissertation Defense:**
The dissertation defense will consist of an oral presentation by the student followed by a question-and-answer period led by the student’s advisor. The dissertation defense is open to the public. After the defense, the student will give a department colloquium.

**The Curriculum**

**Curricular Formats:**
The curriculum includes a variety of course formats: lectures, seminars, tutorials, independent projects, and practica. Lecture courses are larger in size (10-15 students each), and present foundational overviews. Seminars are smaller (6-10 students), more specialized discussion-oriented courses focusing on advanced topics. Tutorials are composed of 3-5 students who gather for advanced study in an area with a faculty mentor, following the tradition of associated with the Oxford model. Independent projects are individualized research projects designed by the student in collaboration with a supervising professor. These are available only to those students who have qualified for more in-depth work in a particular area. The practicum is a field placement.

**Course Descriptions**

**PSYC 8004: DEVELOPMENT TRANSFORMATION & CHANGE**  
This course explores dimensions of change at the individual and social levels. It will draw upon more traditional developmental models and integrate these with other approaches to spiritual growth, social transformation and/or psychological change. The course will be interdisciplinary and different perspectives on transformation and development will be introduced.

**PSYC 8010: THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL INQUIRY**  
Philosophy of Inquiry is the foundational course for the research sequence. The course focuses on problems and concepts with direct relevance to psychological inquiry, including a survey of historical views of science and scientific method, and competing views of what grounds the authority of science.

**PSYC 8102: PSYCHOSPIRITUALITY AND TRANSFORMATION**  
An examination of wisdom traditions and approaches to psychospiritual personality integration and how they apply to modern human problems.

**PSYC 8103: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND CONSCIOUSNESS**  
An examination of the individual and social psychological significance of living in an increasingly technological world, including implications for such issues as identity, agency, cultural change, and adaptation.

**PSYC 8185: SPECIAL TOPICS IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**  
Special series of seminars meant to explore subjects in human development which are of particular interest to students & faculty.

**PSYC 8260: PSYCHOLOGY, EPistemOLOGY, AND ETHICS**  
Often attributed to religion and perforce, confounded by differing opinions, epistemology and ethics - the study of knowledge and values, of truth and goodness, respectively are matters of the human mind. To elucidate the crisis in these two disciplines, the course provides a historical overview of them; and to offer realistic hope of addressing the crisis, the course focuses on
Lonergan's analysis of intentional consciousness and its inherent norms for correct knowledge and responsible decision.

**PSYC 8270: DEPTH PSYCHOLOGY**
Topics in depth psychological theories of the unconscious.

**PSYC 8280: HISTORY OF CONSCIOUSNESS**
Examination of the evolution of human consciousness through a focus on key historical epochs in civilization and the transformations wrought in each.

**PSYC 8290: APPROACHES TO COMMUNITY**
(Prerequisite: Doctoral Student or Permission of Instructor)
Identification of the interplay of social, individual, and other factors at work in given community issues and problems.

**PSYC 8300: EXPLORATORY METHODS IN CONSCIOUSNESS STUDIES**
(Prerequisite: Doctoral Student or Permission of Instructor)
Practice in the cultivation of methods of conscious awareness, such as meditation, yoga, and other forms of mental discipline.

**PSYC 8301: PROGRAM EVALUATION**
Advanced studies in program evaluation; applied settings are emphasized.

**PSYC 8581: INDEPENDENT PROJECT**
Independent research in a particular topic, under the supervision of a professor.

**PSYC 8584: ADVANCED SEMINARS**
These seminars will offer advanced study in special topics: Child & Youth Care, Organizational Transformation, Community Building & Generativity, Disaster Mental Health, Cultural Diversity and Community.

**PSYC 8884: PSYCHOLOGY PROSEMINAR**

**PSYC 8887: ADVANCED PRACTICUM IN PSYCHOLOGY**

**PSYC 9087: TEACHING PRACTICUM**
Development of expertise as a teacher in both academic and psycho-educational settings.

**PSYC 9187: PRACTICA**
A focused immersion into a specific psychosocial intervention, in the course of which the student is to develop a systemic understanding of the issue(s) addressed, as well as a concept of what constitutes a change in consciousness awareness or systemic transformative intervention around those issues.

**PSYC 9887 INTERNSHIP**
Internship is defined as intensive and independent fieldwork experience that can occur concurrently with dissertation research. It typically follows proposal defense and comprehensives. The internship although not required should bear a clear and articulated relationship to student's interests and doctoral program aims and teachings. It is at least one semester long. Site, hours and supervisory contract will be negotiated by the student, the internship instructor and appropriate personnel site supervisors with an appropriate memorandum of understanding.

**Electives:**
(The following are 7000 level courses, which may also include Masters level students. Electives may be taken either in tutorial or seminar formats at the 7000 level.)

**PSYC 7003: STATISTICS FOR THE SOCIAL SCIENCES**
Survey of quantitative research methods with an emphasis on mixed methodology designs.

**PSYC 7020: TRANSPERSONAL DEVELOPMENT**
An overview of the farther reaches of human development, including consideration of consciousness studies, altered states, spiritual growth, and ways of knowing.

**PSYC 7030: INTRODUCTION TO ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
Provides a working understanding of organizational development (OD) and change including the process of change, the forces (internal and external) which impact organizations, and the role of OD and intervention strategies. Students will also gain an understanding of the impact that personality and consulting style may have in an organizational environment.

**PSYC 7050: CONSCIOUSNESS STUDIES**
Examines selected topics in consciousness studies, such as the history of consciousness, the phenomenology of consciousness and society, etc.

PSYC 7250: FOUNDATIONS OF PSYCHOANALYSIS
Addresses fundamental concepts in psychoanalysis through a return to Freud's texts and exploration of the basic schools in psychoanalysis after Freud. The emphasis is on clinical practice and the relationship between psychoanalysis and psychology. Course will require clinical and/or research applications.

PSYC 7430: CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION
This course is a combination of on-campus experiences, travel to foreign countries, and other appropriate experiences, specifically designed to thematically explore cultural and ethnic dimensions in order to deepen psychological understanding. May be repeated for up to 12 hours.

PSYC 7470: ADVANCED ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
An analysis of the processes for organizational development and renewal with emphasis on individual and organizational health. Special attention will be given to effective processes for change agent in the organizational context.

PSYC 7490 PHENOMENOLOGY OF SOCIAL EXISTENCE
An exploration of the phenomenology of inter-subjectivity as a horizon of human existence.

PSYC 7500: EXISTENTIAL PSYCHOLOGY
An inquiry into the influences of selected existential themes—such as anxiety, being-in-the-world, being-for-others—with an emphasis on their appearance in psychology.

PSYC 7600: PERSONALITY AND MOTIVATION
Survey of theories of personality and motivational factors from a sampling of psychological, spiritual, and philosophical traditions.

PSYC 7650: BUDDHIST PSYCHOLOGY
An introduction to the teachings and psychospiritual methods of the major schools of Buddhism.

PSYC 7670: MUSIC AND THE MIND
An inquiry into the relationship between sound and the mind, including music and therapy.

PSYC 7895: HORIZON SEMINAR
A special series of topical seminars meant to explore subjects at the leading edge of contemporary psychology which are of interest to students and faculty.

PSYC 7810: TUTORIAL 1
Students meet in small groups with instructor once a week to discuss a research topic. Subject matter varies each semester. May be repeated for credit.

PSYC 7820: WORKSHOP 1
This course is offered over three consecutive weekends, 4.25 hours each weekend. Subject matter varies each semester. This may be repeated for credit.

PSYC 7830: INVITED LECTURES 1
Invited lectures by a visiting professor. Subject matter varies each semester. This may be repeated for credit.