PROGRAM PROFILE

The Department of Psychology supports high standards of scholarship to inform and improve a changing world. The graduate programs are distinguished by an emphasis on basic research and the application of research to solving practical problems in families, schools, industry, government, and health care settings.

Research by faculty and students in George Mason’s Department of Psychology has earned national respect and awards, and over the past several years has resulted in greater than $5.5 million in grants, over 185 conference presentations, and more than 180 articles and book chapters annually. Among the faculty are editors and associate editors for 11 different journals.

PROGRAMS AND CONCENTRATIONS

Applied Developmental Psychology
The master’s and doctoral concentrations in applied developmental psychology provide basic knowledge about normal development, skills for assessing developmental level, and techniques for planning and evaluating programs that foster development. Both programs prepare students for employment at agencies concerned with educational and health programs for children, enrichment programs for infants and preschoolers, and education programs for parents. In addition, the doctoral concentration prepares students for teaching and research positions in laboratories that study intervention strategies, program evaluation, and the developmental consequences of early experience.

Biopsychology
The master’s and doctoral concentrations in biopsychology emphasize training in the neurobiological bases of behavior in animals and humans. Students are prepared for work in research settings such as academic, government or industrial labs. The department, together with the Krasnow Institute for Advanced Study and the Center for Biomedical Genomic and Informatics on the Prince William Campus, provides a wide range of current genetic, neurobiological, and behavior measurement techniques.

Clinical Psychology (PhD only)
The APA-accredited doctoral program in clinical psychology is committed to the scientist-practitioner model. The program is unique in approaching clinical psychology from social psychological and community perspectives. Graduates have the flexibility to take on the evolving functions of clinical psychologists, including research, direct provision of clinical services, supervision, program development and evaluation, and consultation. They are prepared to work in a diverse and changing society by integrating multicultural perspectives into coursework, clinical training, and research.

Human Factors/Applied Cognition
The master’s and doctoral concentrations in human factors/applied cognition train students to apply theories and research from cognitive psychology, cognitive neuroscience, and human factors engineering to real world problems. Students develop expertise in human factors, visual attention, control of cognition, cognitive aging, human interaction with automation and robots, aviation and air traffic control, neuroimaging, workload, cognitive task analysis, computational cognitive modeling, and usability evaluation methods. The program emphasizes the development and application of theoretical and quantitative skills.

Industrial/Organizational Psychology
The master’s and doctoral concentrations in industrial/organizational psychology train students in theories and research methods and their applications in such work settings as industry and government. The program, consistently ranked in the top ten in the country, develops psychologists capable of working in either applied or academic settings. Faculty members have expertise in team functioning, leadership, selection and training, performance appraisal, occupational health psychology, and several other areas.

School Psychology (MA only)
The School Psychology Training Program is fully approved by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) for Specialist Level training and is designed to meet Virginia licensure requirements. The program philosophy emphasizes
competency in the delivery of services to a wide range of exceptional students in diverse learning environments. The curriculum focuses on foundational knowledge in psychology, education, intervention and problem solving, statistics and research methodology, and professional school psychology. In addition to providing students with expertise in evaluation and intervention for exceptional children, the program emphasizes methods to improve the educational outcomes for all school children including pre-referral intervention, consultative and counseling roles.

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATES**

**Aviation Psychology**
Focuses on the application of human factors theories and methods to the analysis and design of aviation systems including cockpit design, aviation safety, air traffic control, and crew selection and training.

**Usability**
Focuses on the use of human factors methods to assess the usability of computer systems and related technologies including cognitive task analysis, usability methods, web design, and human-computer interaction.

**Cognitive Neuroscience**
Focuses on the use of brain imaging and other neuroscience techniques to understand the neural basis of human cognitive functions, including neuroimaging (fMRI and ERP) methods, introduction to cognitive neuroscience, neuropsychology, and advanced topics in cognitive science.

**JOINT PROGRAMS**

**The Applied Research in Cognition and Human Factors (ARCH) Laboratory**
Current projects of the ARCH Lab include scientific reasoning, cognitive workload, the training of commercial airline pilots, and strategies used by submarine commanders. It encourages collaborative research among the faculty and students.

**The Center for Behavioral and Cognitive Development**
The center assists school system personnel and school psychologists with issues involving exceptional children. It has parallel missions to conduct applied research, engage in workshops, and provide direct services to children and families.

**The Krasnow Institute for Advanced Study**
The institute supports empirical and theoretical work in the neurosciences to advance the understanding of neural functions and human cognition. Faculty with joint appointments in the Department of Psychology and the Krasnow Institute pursue research in neuroanatomy, neurochemistry, neurophysiology, and behavior.

**The Center for Psychological Services**
The center is the main training facility for the Clinical and School Psychology Programs. It provides psychological services to children and adults in the Northern Virginia area and serves as a research facility for faculty and students.

**WHY PSYCHOLOGY AT GEORGE MASON?**
George Mason’s Department of Psychology is the recipient of the Culture of Service departmental award from the American Psychological Association in recognition of faculty and student service to the profession, university, and community. *U.S. News & World Report* ranked the master’s degree in industrial-organizational psychology 4th, and the doctoral degree 6th, in the nation. The doctoral program in clinical psychology is one of the three most competitive programs in the university. George Mason’s location in the thriving suburbs of Washington, D.C., offers many employment opportunities in research, academia, and consulting within government, public, and private settings.

Named the #1 national university to watch by *U.S. News & World Report*, George Mason University is an innovative, entrepreneurial institution with global distinction in a range of academic fields. Located in the heart of Northern Virginia’s technology corridor near Washington, D.C., Mason prepares its students to succeed in the work force and meet the needs of the region and the world.

See gmu.edu/depts/psychology for a complete listing of faculty, courses, and degree requirements.

See chss.gmu.edu/howtoapply for complete details on the application process.