



## **REQUIREMENTS FOR PH.D. IN THE SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY GRADUATE PROGRAM**

### **Course Requirements (72 total hours required):**

- a. **Core Requirement:** Four core courses (12 credits) including the Core Course in Social Psychology (847), the Core Course in Research Methods (822), and two additional courses from among the following:
  1. Core Course in Behavioral Neuroscience (809)
  2. Core Course in Cognitive Psychology (808)
  3. Core Course in Developmental Psychology (837)
  4. Core Course in History and Systems of Psychology (855)
  5. Core Course in the Principles of Learning and Behavior Theory (805)
  6. Core Course in Psychopathology (851)
  7. Core Course in Sensation and Perception (811)
  
- b. **Design and Statistics Requirement:** Five methodological courses (15 credits), which must include Graduate Statistics I (522) and Graduate Statistics II (524). Courses that will fulfill the additional three requirements in this set include, but are not limited to, the following:
  1. Survey of Multivariate Techniques (523)
  2. Factor Analysis and Scaling (525)
  3. Meta-Analysis of Research Data (647)
  4. Instrument Construction (722)
  5. Any methodological special topics course in Psychology (e.g., Survey Research)
  6. Any course in the Statistics Department (see Graduate Bulletin for listing)
  7. A methodological course offered outside of Psychology or Statistics, as long as the student's adviser and Program Director approve it.
  
- c. **Social Psychology Electives:** Four other substantive courses or seminars in Social Psychology (12 credits) should be taken within the first two years. All graduate courses in this Division are acceptable as Social Psychology electives. The course in Organizational Psychology (574) is suggested for students who want to understand and research behavior in organizational settings. Graduate courses in other departments in the College of Liberal Arts, the Fox School of Business and Management and elsewhere in the University may also be acceptable, but the student should obtain the approval of his or her advisor or the Division Director before registering for those courses. Students may not take courses outside of the Psychology Department until their third year.
  
- d. **Research Competency:** Students shall be engaged in a series of research projects from the very start of their graduate career at Temple. In the first year, students should be engaged in a "research competency" project under supervision of their advisor or an advanced graduate student (with the permission of faculty). The goal of this research project is to collaborate on a project in order to be involved in research in the first year of the program. At the end of the first year, students will submit a report to their faculty adviser  APA style, on the research they conducted in their first year. This report should include at a minimum, one experiment or other type of study, with all of the usual sections of an APA style paper (Introduction,

Methods, Results and Discussion). The student's faculty advisor will grade this paper on a pass/fail basis. A brief presentation describing your project must be given to the entire social program before the last day of classes in the spring semester  the first year.

- e. Masters' Thesis: Temple does not offer a terminal master's degree in Social Psychology. However, students are permitted to obtain a Master's degree en route to a PhD, and are required to complete and present research equivalent to a Masters thesis by the end of their second year. Students should submit a proposal for their master's thesis to their adviser by the beginning of the second year of study. The thesis proposal may be related to a student's research competency project or it may represent a new project. Formal minimal research requirements are those credits for the Master's Thesis (Psychology 960 and 961) and the research for the Doctoral Dissertation (999). Students who fail to complete a Master's thesis by the end of the second year may be placed on probation.
- f. Preliminary Examination: Students must complete and defend a written doctoral preliminary examination, by the end of the third year of study. This examination takes the form of an integrative literature review on a topic of the student's interest. The examination is written under the supervision of the student's adviser, and also be co-supervised include other faculty members when appropriate. When completed, the written preliminary examination is submitted to every faculty member in the program for evaluation and also defended orally in front of the program faculty. Students completing the preliminary examination should register for PSYCH 975. The faculty expect that all students will finish their prelim by the end of their third year, and thus should begin substantive work on this requirement by the summer preceding their third year.
- g. Doctoral Dissertation: Students should form a dissertation committee and submit a substantial proposal to this committee early in their fourth year. The composition of this committee must conform to all department, college, and university guidelines. The student should develop their proposal in close consultation with the members of their committee and particularly the chair. The proposal is an important document that must lay out the rationale for the student's research and a detailed plan of the methodology and analyses they plan to use. The passed proposal is similar to a "contract" between the committee and the student that signals to the student that if they carry out the work they propose competently, and interpret and present it satisfactorily, they should expect to pass their dissertation defense. If a detailed proposal is submitted and approved, additional studies should not be required of the student later, although they may be suggested.
- h. It is important for students to complete the research requirements (Research Competency paper, Master's Thesis, Prelim exam) by the required deadlines. Students who cannot complete these requirements by the deadlines may be placed on probation. Students may petition the faculty in writing for an extension. This petition must state the reasons for the extension and propose a new deadline for completing the requirement. The student's advisor and the Chair of the Social Program must approve this petition.

**SUGGESTED PROGRESSION**

	<b>Fall Semester</b>	<b>Spring Semester</b>
<b>First Year</b>	PSYCH 847 (Core #1)	Elective (Social #1)
	PSYCH 522 (Methods #1)	PSYCH 524 (Methods #2)
	Core (Core #2)	PSYCH 822 (Core #3)
		Research Competency paper and presentation due

<b>Second Year</b>	(Core #4)	Elective (Social #2)
	(Methods #3)	Elective (Social #3)
	PSYCH 960 (Research)	PSYCH 961* (Research)
		MA thesis written and presented.

<b>Third Year</b>	Elective (Methods #4)	Elective (Methods #5)
	Elective	Elective (Social #4)
	PSYCH 975 (Prelim)	PSYCH 975 (Prelim)
		Successful completion of the Prelim exam

<b>Fourth Year</b>	Elective	Elective
	PSYCH 899 (Pre-dissertation)	PSYCH 999 (Dissertation)
	PSYCH 899 (Pre-dissertation)	PSYCH 999 (Dissertation)

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