

Goals and Principles

The Department of Psychology considers the training of competent and independent researchers to be the primary goal of its graduate program. The program of studies within the Department will reflect this fundamental goal. With respect to this commitment, the Department adopts the following principles that will guide the development of its graduate program.

Principle 1. The Department considers the Doctor of Philosophy to be the primary degree program.

- Admission to the PhD program can be achieved by students who possess either a baccalaureate or Master's degree. The Department should give priority to the admission of students who, according to the assessment of the departmental Graduate Selection Committee, are best qualified to complete a PhD.
- The Master's program should be designed as a component of a program of study leading to a PhD.

Principle 2. A doctoral degree in psychology requires early and sustained involvement in research.

- Research experiences should be designed so that a student is involved in research during all years of the program.
- Formal research requirements include a first-year research project, a second-year research project or Master's thesis, and the student's dissertation.

Principle 3. Training in the graduate program should ensure that a student possesses sufficient knowledge of focal and related domains.

- The department offers survey courses in major areas in psychology at least on a biennial basis.
- Students must demonstrate knowledge pertinent to their area(s) of expertise by taking an Oral Candidacy Exam and by writing a dissertation proposal.

Principle 4. The graduate program should permit sufficient flexibility to accommodate differing training objectives and requirements.

- Course requirements permit students considerable flexibility in the selection of courses that will advance the student's training in research, and the supervisory committee has considerable flexibility in the determination of appropriate courses.

- The specific components of the graduate program should be established so that they can be accomplished within four years by a student admitted to the program after a baccalaureate degree.

Principle 5. The departmental staff are responsible for the quality of a student's program.

- Supervisory committees are actively involved with both setting goals and evaluating performance; these functions should be discharged through annual meetings with the student.
- The staff receives a report from the supervisory committee at the annual evaluation meeting to determine whether a student is making adequate progress towards the doctoral degree.

Revision History

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