DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
WITH A MAJOR IN
PSYCHOLOGY

Doctor of Philosophy with a Major in Psychology (Specialization in Cognition and Brain Science)

The Cognitive and Brain Science specialty area for the Psychology PhD program trains students to develop a thorough understanding of diverse aspects of cognition. Students learn about theories of cognitive phenomena and about the neurobiological bases of cognition and behavior. Students study the major methods used to measure various components of cognition. These components include attention, sensation and perception, working memory, episodic memory, cognitive control, language, metacognition, spatial cognition, and problem solving. Faculty research interests include these areas of cognition as they exist in humans, as well as aspects of comparative psychology (animal behavior and cognition). Some faculty members’ research interests include human cognitive neuroscience, measuring brain activity during cognition with electrophysiological or imaging techniques in persons with or without neurological dysfunction. The program is closely connected to faculty with interests in the Cognitive Aging program, including an emphasis on understanding effects of aging on cognitive mechanisms and how aging influences neural functioning and cognition.

Doctor of Philosophy with a Major in Psychology (Specialization in Cognitive Aging)

The Cognitive Aging specialty area in the Psychology PhD program emphasizes training students about cognition in adulthood. Students gain an understanding of the biological, psychological, and social aspects of aging as they relate to cognitive development over the adult life span. Areas of interest of the faculty include age differences and age changes in basic cognitive mechanisms (such as working memory, episodic memory, attention, speed of processing, and language), higher-order cognition (including adult intellectual development), and practical and contextual aspects of cognition (such as knowledge acquisition, skill development, everyday problem solving, metacognition, emotion regulation, and social cognition). The program is closely connected to faculty with interests in human factors and aging (in the Engineering Psychology program), cognitive neuroscience of aging (in the Cognitive and Brain Sciences program), and aging issues in work and careers (in the Industrial/Organizational Psychology program).

Doctor of Philosophy with a Major in Psychology (Specialization in Engineering Psychology)

The Engineering Psychology PhD program focuses on understanding the capabilities and limitations of human performance from the perspective of perception, cognition, and movement control and applying this knowledge to the design of systems and environments that accommodate those capabilities and limitations.

Doctor of Philosophy with a Major in Psychology (Specialization in Industrial/Organizational Psychology)

The Industrial/Organizational Psychology (I/O) PhD program concentrates on research related to the psychology of work and the workplace. Students develop specialized I/O knowledge, skills, and experiences through an individually tailored program of seminars, elective courses, participation in laboratory- and field-based research projects, and training in local organizations.

Doctor of Philosophy with a Major in Psychology (Quantitative Psychology)

The Quantitative Psychology Program emphasizes the interface between quantitative methods and psychological issues. Graduates will be trained as quantitative specialists, with a substantial background in psychology. The exact focus of the student’s studies depends on the current interests of the faculty and the student. Current faculty interests and course offerings include psychometric methods, item response theory, structural equation modeling, multivariate statistics, factor analysis, and multilevel modeling, as well as many other topics in psychological methods and statistics.