TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY®
Psychological Research

Master of Arts in Psychological Research

Student Handbook 2026-2027

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Welcome!

Welcome to the Master of Arts in Psychological Research at Texas State University. This handbook is designed as a guide for current students, outlining basic policies and facts about the Program. It also provides timelines and survival tips for graduate school. Please feel free to use the contact information and links throughout the handbook to help you answer any specific questions about the program or Texas State. You can also ask the Graduate Director and other faculty members if you have questions concerning program requirements and about your progress in the program.

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Master's program in Psychological Research at Texas State University to foster competence in the methodological foundations and conduct of psychological research across a wide variety of settings. Students will gain expertise regarding the relationship of biological, social, emotional, cognitive, and behavioral factors to psychological phenomena. Focus is placed on learning interpersonal/research skills and statistical competencies relevant to the responsible and ethical conduct of both basic and applied psychological research.

Revisions to Handbook

The Master's program in Psychological Research at Texas State University reserves the right to make changes to the requirements in this handbook. If changes are considered necessary, they will become effective immediately and will apply to both prospective students and those already enrolled. Current students should not use old handbooks. All requirements in this handbook must be met.

Keeping Contact Information Current

All e-mail correspondence will be via your Texas State e-mail (no other e- mail will be used) or by the address or telephone number listed in our database. Updated information must be provided as quickly as possible to Mrs. Reyes and to the University. You will be responsible for any important information you fail to receive due to old and/or inaccurate contact information. Similarly, you are responsible for keeping abreast of all information sent to your Texas State inbox.

General Information

The Master's program in Psychological Research is designed to be a full-time program of study in which students complete 38 credit hours, including a capstone project. The program has a strong empirical orientation and is designed to foster competence in the methodological foundations and conduct of psychological research. Specifically, the program will emphasize the relationship of biological, social, emotional, and behavioral factors to psychological phenomena. Focus will be placed on learning research skills and statistical competencies relevant to the responsible and ethical conduct of research in Psychology. Individuals with a Master's degree in Psychological Research will be able to work in a variety of settings, including academic, clinical, community, corporate, and government settings. The competencies obtained as a result of the degree plan will also enable individuals to pursue PhDs in clinical- and research-based fields of Psychology. Graduates will learn skills that will enable them to perform a variety of tasks, including the ethical conduct of research, manuscript writing, and program implementation and evaluation.

Psychology Department Personnel

Title	Phone	Office	Email	Duties
Department Chair: Dr. Natalie Ceballos	512-245-2526	THH 253J	nc18@txstate.edu	Final signature on all thesis proposals, defenses, travel fund requests, etc.
Graduate Program Director & Advisor: Dr. Kate Warnell	512-245-5564	THH 253G	warnell@txstate.edu	Meets with students about career goals, approves thesis proposals, defenses, individual study requests, etc.
Program Coordinator: Mrs. Olivia Reyes	512-408-5321	THH 253A	ogr1@txstate.edu	Assists with applications, assistantships, course overrides, capstone presentation scheduling, travel requests, etc.
Administrative Assistant III: Mrs. Kim Burns	512-245-8144	THH 253E	kjb168@txstate.edu	Handles GIA/GTA/GRA/GA hiring process, etc.
Systems Support Specialist II: Mr. Nick Postrano	512-245-4859	THH 253K	nickolus@txstate.edu	Handles IT related issues, software installations, etc.

Faculty

For a complete list of faculty, please visit:
https://www.psych.txst.edu/faculty/psydirectory.html

Recommended Course Sequence

Recommended First Year Schedule	
Fall (10 credit hours)	Spring (10 credit hours)
PSY 5311: Univariate and Bivariate Statistics (3 credit hours)	PSY 5321: Multivariate statistics (3 credit hours)
PSY 5198: Graduate Research Seminar – First Semester (1 credit hour)	PSY 5198: Graduate Research Seminar – Second Semester (1 credit hour)
PSY 5391: Research Design (3 credit hours)	PSY 5324: Biological Bases of Behavior (3 credit hours)
Elective (3 credit hours)	Elective (3 credit hours)
Note: electives are to be chosen from available courses based on individual interests]	
Recommended Second Year Schedule	
Fall (9 credit hours)	Spring (9 credit hours)
Capstone — Thesis: PSY 5399A (3 credit hours) OR Manuscript/Poster: PSY 5388 (3 credit hours)	Capstone — Thesis: PSY 5399B (3 credit hours) OR Manuscript/Poster: PSY 5388 (3 credit hours)
Elective (3 credit hours)	Elective (3 credit hours)
Elective (3 credit hours)	Elective (3 credit hours)
Note: electives are to be chosen from available courses based on individual interests	

Relevant Information Regarding Course Scheduling

- Students must take 18 hours of graduate-level (i.e., 5000-level or higher) electives, corresponding to six 3-credit course electives. **At least 4 of these 6 elective courses must be regular content courses in the psychology department.** Two of the electives can be a combination of an Individual Study (PSY 5366) or a course outside of the department (i.e., two semesters of PSY5366 OR two courses outside the department OR one semester of PSY5366 and one course outside the department). However, the Program Director (Dr. Kate Warnell) must approve the students' request.
- If a student wishes to take a second semester of Individual Study (PSY5366), special approval is required from the full Graduate Committee.
- Given the rigor of graduate curriculum, we recommend not exceeding 9 hours of core classes a semester (i.e., 3 three-credit classes)
- PSY5311 must be taken before PSY5321. PSY5311 is only offered in the Fall and PSY5321 is only offered in the Spring.
- PSY5391 is only offered in the fall, and PSY5324 is only offered in the spring.
- No required MAPR courses are offered in the summer. It may be possible to take an elective course in the summer, but only 2 of the 6 elective

classes can be taken in the summer.

- PSY5391 is a prerequisite for PSY5388 and PSY5366
- PSY5321 is a prerequisite for PSY5399
- The maximum number of credit hours allowed a semester by the Graduate College is 15 hours.

General Capstone Information

The capstone project is a key requirement of the program. As such, the Department of Psychology has high standards for capstone research projects. These are reports of original empirical research conducted by students. Capstone projects submitted as theses must conform to Graduate College formatting guidelines. Capstone projects submitted as manuscripts or posters (i.e., non-thesis capstones) should follow journal or conference guidelines.

Students must begin planning for their capstone in the first semester and take a total of six capstone credits while in the program. Typically, students complete these six credits during their final two semesters in the program.

Faculty Mentors

You will be assigned to a faculty mentor upon acceptance to the program. Mentors are resources to advise and guide you through various aspects of the program, including capstone development and implementation, general adjustment to graduate work, and career trajectories after graduation. Although you may switch mentors at any time, late switches are not recommended because mentors are integral in capstone development and implementation

Developing a Research Idea & Selecting a Capstone Committee

Students should begin thinking about capstone topics during their first semester in the program. Below are the sequenced steps students should take:

- Schedule regular meetings with your faculty mentor to discuss mutual research interests and potential directions for your capstone. Some faculty members have students work on existing projects or datasets, some faculty members have students collect new data on a project closely related to the faculty member's interests, and other faculty members have students pursue a direction entirely of the student's choosing. All of these are valid paths for the capstone project, and students are encouraged to develop clear expectations with their faculty member.
- Work with your faculty member to develop a reading list to gain further information on capstone topic(s).
- Consult with your capstone supervisor to select two additional committee members with expertise in areas of research closely related to your capstone topic.
- Consult with your capstone supervisor to select two additional committee members with expertise in areas of research closely

Committee members must be on Texas State's graduate faculty list, which automatically includes tenure track, tenured, and non-tenure track faculty with terminal degrees.

Professionals who are external to the university can be added if they meet the Graduate College criteria. If you decide to include a member on your committee who is NOT a faculty member at the university, this person must be designated by the university as an adjunct faculty member before they can be approved to serve on your committee. Please contact the Graduate Director for more information about adding external members.

Once the chair and committee members are selected, students should work closely with their committee on their capstone project. The capstone committee is recommended to be chosen by the end of the student's second semester in the program.

IRB Approval Process

Before submitting a proposal to the IRB, students are required to complete human participants training. At this time, Texas State University requires the training course of the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI). Information about this training is available at: https://www.research.txst.edu/orc/irb-resources/training.html

As with any research involving data from human participants, students must obtain IRB approval or exemption before beginning their capstone research. This is required, even if a student intends to use archival data (i.e., perform secondary analysis on a database previously collected for a different purpose). It is possible for a capstone to be conducted under an existing IRB. The graduate student should be formally added to this IRB. Students should work closely with their capstone chair to determine if a new IRB needs to be submitted and to complete IRB materials and forms: https://www.research.txst.edu/orc/irb-resources/resources.html

Particularly for projects requiring new data collection, students are encouraged to receive preliminary approval from their committees as quickly as possible in order to expedite IRB submission and the start of data collection

Practical Considerations for Capstone Projects

Keep in mind that there are limited resources available for collecting data:

- Be mindful about the costs of your project (e.g., supplies, participant payments, specialist software or equipment)
- Consider the practicality of your project with respect to the source(s) of your participants and the number of participants that you will need (this is especially important if you plan to collect your data during the summer or at off-campus sites or if you are collecting data from non- student populations).
- Most students recruit participants via the Psychology Department Human Subjects Pool. More information about the subject pool can be found athttps://www.psych.txst.edu/research/research-participation/subjects-pool.html

- University and departmental funding for equipment and participant payment are only available for thesis-track students (see linked section for more information about funding).

As you work through the capstone process, it is important to remember that faculty members have many responsibilities. Consider their schedules while planning yours (especially in the summer – many faculty are unavailable during this time, and capstone presentations during this time may not always be possible). Remember that because of other responsibilities, professors may require more time to read over and edit drafts, especially at the end of the semester.

Capstone Coursework Requirements

Students completing a capstone thesis must enroll in PSY 5399A (Thesis A) the first semester they begin systematic work on their thesis and must remain continuously enrolled in PSY5399B (Thesis B) each semester thereafter until completion. In the event that students take more than two semesters to finish their thesis, they are able to take a one-credit version of the thesis class (PSY5199B). At least six thesis credits are needed to graduate on the thesis track, and students must be enrolled in thesis credits during the semester in which their degrees are conferred. The only grades assigned for these courses are PR (progress), CR (credit), W (withdrawn), and F (if failing).

Students completing a capstone poster or manuscript must take two semesters of PSY5388. Conventional grades (A-F) are assigned for these courses. The department's recommendation is that the two semesters of PSY5338 are taken in the students' last two semesters of the program. They may not be taken in the same semester.

General Capstone Proposal Process

- A formal written proposal is required for students completing a thesis project for their capstone (see Thesis Proposal section for more detail). For students completing a poster or manuscript, no formal proposal is required, but students are strongly encouraged to keep their committee posted on their project's progress.
- An oral presentation of the proposed project to the full committee is not required but is often very helpful and may be requested by faculty. This can be at a preliminary stage (e.g., to receive approval about study design) or once a full proposal draft is completed (note that this full written document is only required for the thesis). Such an oral presentation may be required by the committee even in the case of a non-thesis capstone
- Sometimes issues will arise during the IRB approval process and/or the pre-testing of the study, which will necessitate further changes in the study. If this is the case, committee members should be consulted for their approval of these changes. Committee members should also be kept informed of a student's progress on the capstone project through regular updates by the student.

General Capstone Presentation Process

All students are required to orally present their capstone projects to their committees. These are typically 20-30 minute presentations, followed by committee questions. Presentations must occur by all relevant Graduate College deadlines (thesis deadline for thesis students and Comprehensive Exam deadline for non-thesis students). Additionally, in advance of this presentation, students must circulate their capstone project to their committee (two weeks for thesis students; one week for non-thesis students). If the student does not pass their presentation, they will need to repeat the process in the following semester and enroll in the relevant course.

Suggested Capstone Timeline

First Fall semester:

- Discuss with your advisor whether the thesis or non-thesis track makes more sense for your goals
- Formulate a potential capstone topic
- Select a committee chair and members
- Begin to review the literature in your selected topic area
- Complete Human Subjects Protection Training

First Spring semester:

- Continue to review the literature relevant to your capstone topic.
- Finalize research question(s) and outline methods
- Project should ideally be developed in tandem with committee member input
- Submit IRB

Second Fall semester:

- Enroll in the relevant capstone course (PSY 5399A or PSY 5388).
- If thesis: Formally propose (see section on thesis proposal)
- https://www.gradcollege.txst.edu/docs/thesis-proposal.pdf
- Begin writing and editing the introduction (including literature review) and methods sections of the thesis (Second Fall Semester). If you have written a thorough proposal, the majority of this should already be done.
- Plan to start data collection as soon as your capstone design is approved by your capstone committee (this can be a formal thesis proposal or informal conversations for the non-thesis option).
- For non-thesis capstone: Select conference or journal

Second Spring Semester

- Finish all data collection and analyses
- Apply for graduation

- Submit first-author manuscript, present first-author poster, OR finalized thesis document
- Present thesis or non-thesis project to capstone committee
    - Thesis must be sent to committee two weeks before defense and non-thesis document/poster must be sent one week before
- Note that deadlines for a thesis defense are typically several weeks before the deadlines for a non-thesis presentation, and both are before graduation.
    - The non-thesis presentation must occur by the comprehensive exam deadline.
    - https://www.gradcollege.txst.edu/students/deadlines.html
- Submit thesis to ProQuest (if thesis-track)

Thesis versus Manuscript/Poster Capstone

All students are typically enrolled in the thesis track upon admission to the program, but a non-thesis track is available. Students should make the thesis versus non-thesis decision based on discussions with their advisor. Both the thesis and non-thesis capstones represent rigorous research projects and require a capstone committee and IRB approval. However, there are some key differences outlined in the table below.

Capstone Thesis Option	Similarities	Capstone Non-Thesis Option
• Only capstone thesis students have research funding opportunities. • Students must take six thesis credits (PSY5399A & 5399B). • Students must propose their thesis at least **1** semester before they intend to defend (usually their Fall semester before Spring commencement). • The thesis must be given to the committee **two** weeks before the defense. • Students will write and produce a formal proposal filed with the Graduate College. • After the thesis presentation, the thesis document is formally submitted to the Graduate College.	• Both **must** have IRB approval for their project. • Both require an oral presentation to a graduate committee, consisting of 3 faculty members (approval for professionals outside of the Texas State University Faculty is required). • The committee will also conduct an oral examination after the presentation.	• Capstone non-thesis students are not eligible for research funding opportunities. • Students must take two semesters of PSY5388 (cannot be taken concurrently). • Students will produce either a first-author manuscript or first-author poster • The manuscript must be **submitted** by the comprehensive exam deadline. • The poster must be **presented** at a conference by the comprehensive exam deadline. • The manuscript or poster must be shared with the committee **one week** before the presentation.

Thesis-Specific Capstone Policies

N.B.: The proposed thesis project must be approved by all committee members and submitted to the Dean of the Graduate College for approval prior to starting data collection for your thesis research. If extenuating circumstances prevent this (e.g., using secondary data), please inform your capstone committee as soon as possible.

The Thesis Proposal Process

Students who are completing a thesis project for their capstone will need to formally propose their project to the Graduate College. The student will work with the chair and committee members to develop and design a thesis research project, submit a proposal to the Institutional Review Board (IRB), and prepare a thesis proposal (ideally by the end of the second semester). **At the very latest, the thesis proposal must be completed the semester before a student plans on graduating. Completion entails formally submitting all components to the Graduate Program Coordinator (written proposal, IRB approval letter, signed proposal form).**

The steps involved in this process are described in further detail below.

- Students should work closely with their thesis supervisors to develop their research proposals. During this process, it may be necessary to consult with other committee members in addition to your thesis supervisor.
- The written thesis proposal does not have a specific length required by the department, but students are responsible for learning the expectations of their committee. At a minimum, the draft should include:
    - review of relevant literature
    - research questions and hypotheses
    - description of methods including analytic strategy
    - relevance of results to the field
- After reviewing the written document, the committee must approve the completed thesis research proposal, and sign a Thesis Proposal Form https://www.gradcollege.txst.edu/docs/Thesis_Proposal_Form.pdf
- After the Thesis Proposal Form is signed by the student and committee, the student or committee chair should email the Graduate Program Coordinator three items: (1) the signed Thesis Proposal Form, (2) the IRB approval letter, and (3) the thesis proposal document. The Program Specialist will obtain the signatures of the Department Chair and Graduate Director and file all paperwork with the Graduate College. Students should be able to track the receipt of this form by the Graduate College on their Degree Audit.

- Note that the IRB approval letter must explicitly contain the student's name. Students operating under an existing proposal should work with their committee chair and IRB office to add their name.
- Thesis workshops are offered every semester and provide valuable assistance and tools in the process. Information on the current semester's workshops can be found here: https://www.gradcollege.txst.edu/events/shoptalks.html

The Thesis Defense

Students should work with their thesis committee chairs to create a final copy of their thesis. This document may have to be revised many times with the thesis chair before it is determined to be acceptable for presentation to the committee members and to the department chair.

It is the thesis chair's job to determine that the student is ready and able to defend the thesis, and they should not allow the student to schedule a meeting until this is the case. Once approved by the committee chair, the thesis should be forwarded to other committee members for comment. Students MUST distribute the final version of the thesis to committee members **two weeks** before their defense date and defend by the date listed on the Graduate College website. Any exceptions to this two-week deadline must be requested by the committee chair and approved by the Graduate Director in consultation with the Graduate Committee. Delayed circulation of the thesis may result in a delayed defense date**. Failure to meet the Graduate College deadlines will result in delays in graduation, requiring you to register for at least an additional semester to complete the thesis requirement.**

Keep in mind that theses always take longer than expected and that it can be extremely difficult to organize your thesis defense during the summer. Finishing a thesis becomes even more difficult after you are out of an academic environment.

When you are ready to defend the following steps are necessary before during and after your defense:

Before the defense:

- Make sure that you have applied for graduation: https://tim.txstate.edu/studentgraduationapplication/Home/Standard-Authentication
- Ensure that the format of the thesis conforms to Graduate College guidelines at: https://www.gradcollege.txst.edu/students/research-thesis-dissertation/thesis-dissertation.html

    - Examples of successful theses: https://digital.library.txstate.edu
- Improper formatting prior to submission to the Graduate College could result in graduation delays and unnecessary tuition fees.
- Consult with the Thesis Chair and committee to schedule the date/time of defense. Deadlines can be found at: https://www.gradcollege.txst.edu/students/deadlines.html
    - Note that the final deadline for a defense is several weeks before the end of the semester
- Thesis defenses can occur via videoconferencing (e.g., Teams, Zoom) or in-person. For in-person defenses, complete a room reservation request by emailing Mrs. Reyes.
- Special presentation needs beyond standard computer/projector needs (e.g., tele-/video-conferencing ability) should be specified in the request. Advance notice in such circumstances is required.
- After thesis is approved by thesis chair, distribute thesis to committee members for review at least two weeks before defense.
- Note: Psychology department theses must contain an abstract.
- Prepare a 20–30-minute oral presentation of your research.

Day of the defense:

- Ensure that the Thesis Chair has copies of the Learning Outcomes (available from Mrs. Reyes) and Comprehensive Exam forms (the oral portion of the thesis defense is the comprehensive exam).
    - https://www.gradcollege.txst.edu/docs/Master's_Comprehensive_Examination_Report_Form.pdf
- Provide Thesis Submission Approval From. https://www.gradcollege.txst.edu/docs/Thesis_Submission_Approval_Form.pdf
- The defense consists of 2 phases: an open oral presentation (open to the public) and a closed question period/defense (candidate and committee members only).
- Thesis students will have their Comprehensive Examination administered orally as part of their thesis defense.

After the defense & online submission:

- Edit thesis to address committee concerns (if applicable).
    - If the thesis is acceptable as written, all members may sign the forms that day.
    - If minor edits are required, it is common for committee members to sign and for the committee chair to ensure that edits are completed.
    - Committee members are welcome to ask to see any edits before signing the form.

- Ensure that all committee members sign off on the thesis/sign the Committee Approval Form before the Graduate College deadline.
- The thesis committee chair should send the Program Specialist three items; (1) Learning Outcomes; (2) Comprehensive Exam Form; (3) Thesis
- The student should submit one copy of the thesis via ProQuest to the Graduate College for review by the final posted deadline. The thesis MUST follow Graduate College guidelines. More information is available here: https://www.gradcollege.txst.edu/students/research-thesis-dissertation/thesis-dissertation.html
    - Using the template available at the bottom of the website can be a helpful starting point.
- There will likely be several rounds of back-and-forth in the ProQuest system. Their requested edits are mandatory. Be sure to have the final draft approved by the deadline listed by the Graduate College. If the Graduate College does not approve the final draft by the deadline, you will not be able to graduate that semester.
- When you receive an email in ProQuest that states “your document has been approved”, you do not need to take any further action.
- Optional: Take an additional printed copy plus any for personal use on thesis quality paper to the circulation desk in the Alkek Library. Pay the binding fee.

Change in Thesis Committee Composition After Proposal Stage

The thesis defense and public presentation are to be scheduled in accordance with policies and timelines of the Graduate College. All thesis committee members are expected to attend the thesis defense. However, there are times when a member may not be present.

In these situations, the following options are available (pending approval by the thesis chair):

1. Replace the absent member(s). This would require the Committee Chair to submit a written request (e-mail request is acceptable) via the Department Chair to the Dean of the Graduate College for approval. If the member to be replaced is the Committee Chair, a new Thesis Proposal Form must be completed and routed to the Dean of the Graduate College for approval.

2. The absent member(s) may participate via Zoom, Teams or other videoconferencing programs or via conference call.
   Any other options must be approved by the Graduate Director and the Department Chair. With the written permission (e-mail is acceptable) of the absent committee member, the Department

Chair or designee may sign the absent committee member's name followed by his or her own initials on the Thesis Signature Page and the Master's Comprehensive Examination Form.

Any other options must be approved by the Graduate Director and the Department Chair. With the written permission (e-mail is acceptable) of the absent committee member, the Department Chair or designee may sign the absent committee member's name followed by his or her own initials on the Thesis Signature Page and the Master's Comprehensive Examination Form.

Non-thesis Capstone Policies

The non-thesis capstone may take two forms: (1) a submitted first-author journal manuscript OR (2) a first-author conference presentation (poster or oral presentation). The conference presentation can occur at an international, national, regional, state, or local venue.

The non-thesis capstone project must be completed and presented by the Comprehensive Exam deadline for the semester in which the student plans to graduate. That is, the manuscript must be submitted to the journal, and the conference presentation must have occurred. The non-thesis output (poster or manuscript) must be circulated to the capstone committee one week before the presentation.

Students should consult with their capstone committee to select a day and time for the presentation. Presentations can occur via videoconferencing (e.g., Teams, Zoom) or in-person. For in-person defenses, complete a room reservation request by emailing Mrs. Reyes. Special presentation needs beyond standard computer/projector needs (e.g., tele-/video-conferencing ability) should be specified in the request. Advance notice in such circumstances is required.

The presentation of the project to the capstone committee will entail the student preparing a 20-30 minute presentation of their project, followed by an oral examination by the committee. As with a thesis defense, guests are invited to the student's presentation, but the committee questions occur in a closed-door session.

The student's primary mentor should ensure that the Learning Outcomes Form and Comprehensive Exam form are completed after the presentation. Unlike for the thesis process, the non-thesis document is not submitted to the Graduate College. The Learning Outcomes Form and Comprehensive Exam Form should be emailed to the Program Coordinator by the student's primary mentor.

Unlike with the thesis, it is not possible to request formal revisions of the non-thesis capstone since the work has already been submitted or presented. However, committee members are welcome to give input about the project and potential future directions or refinements.

Graduation

Students who wish to participate in commencement ceremonies must carefully plan ahead. Important deadlines for application for graduation, and dates for completion of the Comprehensive Examination and/or Thesis are listed on the Graduate College Web page at:

Graduation Application Deadline:
https://www.gradcollege.txst.edu/students/deadlines.html

It is the **student's responsibility to apply for graduation** at:
https://tim.txstate.edu/studentgraduationapplication/Home/Standard- Authentication

Graduate Assistantships

The Psychology Department has a limited number of graduate assistantships and the number may vary each year. Out-of-state students with 20hr/week positions are eligible for in-state tuition. Incoming students will be contacted if they are eligible for a graduate instructional assistantship. For returning students, a webform will be circulated in October (for Spring semester) and April (for Summer and Fall semester) to ask about interest in graduate instruction (GIA) and graduate teaching (GTA) positions. GIA and GTA positions are assigned by the department. Graduate research assistants (GRA) are hired at the discretion of the particular faculty member providing the funds.

Students who receive a graduate assistantship must maintain an average GPA of 3.0. They must also enroll in PSY 5105 Teaching Psychology for which they will receive tuition reimbursement. This course must be taken each semester that a student is a GIA/GTA, up to 3 times. For example, a student who is a GIA in their first and second semesters, who then goes on to become a GTA in their third and fourth semesters, does not have to take PSY 5105 during their fourth semester. All students selected for these positions must complete required employment paperwork within 10 days after the semester begins so that they can be included on the payroll. Paperwork should be obtained from and returned to Mrs. Burns.

These are employment positions, and students receiving assistantships should conduct themselves in a professional manner with faculty, students, staff, and other student workers. Retention and renewal of a graduate assistantship is contingent on performance as well as timely completion of annual mandatory online employee training. Students with a GIA appointment are required to complete all mandatory training before the deadline. For example, if the deadline is March 3rd, training must be completed by March 2nd. Failure to complete any mandatory training may result in the termination of your graduate assistant position mid semester and/or the loss of any future graduate assistant opportunities.

To set up office hours, all GIA's and GTA's must reach out to either the Administrative Assistant (Miss Ryley Mullen) or the Program Coordinator (Mrs. Olivia Reyes) to set up and schedule their office hours, which are held in THH 264 and THH 269

Additionally, graduate assistantships may be available outside of the Psychology Department. The rules and policies of those positions are determined by their home department.

Scholarships

Students are encouraged to apply for graduate scholarships, which typically have Spring application deadlines. Scholarships are available both through the department and the Graduate College, as well as external sources. The central repository of university scholarships is the BOSS system https://onestop.txst.edu/financial-aid/scholarships/boss.html and additional information is available here: https://www.psych.txst.edu/graduate/funding-assistantships.html

Graduate College Thesis Research Support Fellowship

The Graduate College Thesis Research Support Fellowship Application is available here: https://www.gradcollege.txst.edu/funding/scholarships/thesis-research.html.

Please note that, for the 2026-2027 year, the Graduate College Thesis Supplement Fellowship has two application periods: the fall semester round is from April 15-June 15, and the spring semester round is from September 15-November 15. In order to apply for this award, **your thesis proposal (which includes IRB approval) must be formally approved by the Graduate College a minimum of one week prior to the close of the application period.**

Graduate Thesis Supplement Award - Departmental

Depending on funding availability, thesis supplements will be awarded to support graduate thesis research. Students must first apply for the Graduate College Thesis Supplement Fellowship (see above), and provide documentation of the application decision (i.e., funded or not funded) prior to applying for the MAPR Thesis Supplement. MAPR thesis supplement applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Supplements will be in the form of supplies and equipment that are necessary for thesis completion (these will be retained by the department after thesis completion). In special cases, funds may be used for participant payment, but additional justification is required. Funds may not be used for travel, graduate or undergraduate wages, or conference fees.

- Supplements are available to currently enrolled graduate students in the MAPR program, who have received proposal approval and expect to graduate according to the requirements of the Graduate College and the
- Department of Psychology. Students are eligible for the Department supplemental funds after applying for and receiving notification about the Graduate College Thesis Research Support Fellowship.
- Applicants must demonstrate academic competence and maintain a semester grade point average of at least 3.3 or above.
- In addition to the online application form, applicants are required to submit a 500-word abstract describing how the supplement is necessary for the proposed research. If funds are required for participant payment, additional justification (200 words max) and consent of the thesis supervisor are required.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Only completed applications will be considered. https://www.psych.txst.edu/graduate/funding-assistantships/mapr-thesis-support.html

Completed proposals will be evaluated by the Graduate Committee, who will make recommendations re: the appropriation of funds for final approval by the Department Chair.

Belonging & Cohesion Thesis Award

A new department thesis award of up to $500 was introduced in the 2023-2024 academic year focused on projects that are "relevant to belonging/cohesion or has a positive impact on a community." This award does not require previous applications for Graduate College funding or IRB approval in hand (approval is necessary to receive funds after award). Deadlines are July 15 and September 1. To see applications guidelines and application webform, visit https://www.psych.txst.edu/graduate/funding-assistantships/rfp-mapr-support.html

Graduate Travel Funds

Graduate students are encouraged to attend conferences. Limited departmental funding and other sources of university funding are available to supplement student conference travel. Even if a student is not asking for reimbursement, they still must inform the department of all conference travel

Student Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for this award, students must be the first-author of the poster or talk, and must provide documented proof of abstract acceptance at the time of application. If the student is not the first author but will be the presenting author, they should contact the Graduate Director as soon as possible to determine eligibility for travel funds. Students must demonstrate academic competence and maintain a semester grade point average of at least 3.3 or above. Students must **not** be on academic probation.

Eligible Expenses

Funds will be used to reimburse eligible travel expenses (e.g., registration, flight or mileage, hotel, per diem for food costs, transit) and will be awarded as a reimbursement upon submission of receipts **after** the student returns from the conference or meeting. The one exception to this is that flights can be purchased before student travel. Please contact Mrs. Reyes to coordinate flight purchases.

Note that meals are reimbursed via a per diem, so individual meal receipts need not be retained. If the conference provides a meal, that will be deducted from the per diem.

Students should also consider ways to defray conference costs (e.g., some conference fees if students volunteer at the conference).

Society membership fees are not eligible for reimbursement.

Separate funds are available for printing costs related to poster presentations (see Poster Printing section below).

Step-by-Step Guide for Travel

Step 1: As soon as a student submits an abstract/conference proposal, they must immediately complete the new **E.A.S.Y. form** (Encumbered at Submission, Yes!). This is available under student services. **Failure to complete the E.A.S.Y. form within 1 week of conference submission may result in a loss of travel funding.**

Step 2: Submit a Travel Funding Request. Students whose abstracts have been approved will then need to submit a Graduate Student Travel Funding Request (This is also available under student services). This application **must** be submitted **no later than 3 weeks before the date of travel.** If the conference abstract was rejected and/or the student decided not to travel, the student must also inform Mrs. Reyes no later than 3 weeks before the date of the conference

Step 3: After submitting their travel request, Mrs. Reyes will inform the student of their next steps, including how to apply for additional funding.

Step 4: Within 2 weeks of returning from travel, the student must submit all receipts to Mrs. Reyes. Failure to submit receipts in a timely fashion may preclude reimbursement. If the student is requesting funds for out-of-state or international travel, they must provide documentation that they also applied to the STAR grant in order to receive departmental reimbursement. (If the STAR grant has run out of funds more than 3 weeks before the conference, the student can provide documentation to Mrs. Reyes and the Graduate Director to waive this requirement).

Travel Reimbursement Amounts Available

- Students presenting at TXST conferences (Psych Day, IDEA Center, Undergrad Research Conference, etc.) are *not eligible* for travel funding.
- The *maximum* travel allowance per student will be $400 per fiscal year; however, the amount of travel funding awarded will vary depending on the modality and physical location of the conference.
- Students who present as part of an **online conference** will be eligible to receive funding for conference registration fees only, not to exceed $200. (Note: This does not mean that each student will automatically receive $200. If their conference registration is $35, then they are only eligible to request $35).
- Students presenting at a non-TXST, **in-state conference that is *less than* 90 miles** from the San Marcos campus will be eligible to receive funding for conference registration fees only, not to exceed $200. (Note: This does not mean that each student will automatically receive $200. If their conference registration is $35, then they are only eligible to request $35).
- Students presenting at an **in-state conference that is *more than* 90 miles** from the San Marcos campus will be eligible to receive up to $250 in travel funding. (Note: This does not mean that they will receive an *additional* $250, it means that the total amount that they're eligible to receive for registration plus all other expenses combined will not exceed $250).
- Students presenting at an **out-of-state or out-of-country conference** are eligible to receive up to $400 in travel funds. (Note: This does **not** mean that they will receive an *additional* $400; it means that the total amount that they're eligible to receive for registration plus all other expenses combined will not exceed $400).
- **Students traveling to an out-of-state or out-of-country conference must apply for the STAR Grant in order to be eligible for departmental funding.** (If the STAR grant has run out of funds more than 3 weeks before the meeting, the student can provide documentation to Mrs. Reyes and the Graduate Director to waive this requirement).

- Applications for funding from the STAR Grant, the Graduate College, and the College of Liberal Arts require students to list the conference that they will be attending. Funds from these mechanisms must be used only for the conference that was referred to in the application form; leftovers will not “roll over” to a second conference. Students are only allowed to apply for funds from the aforementioned mechanisms once per fiscal year (Sept 1 - Aug 31). Students should plan to apply these funds to out-of-state or out-of-country travel, since it is more expensive.

In addition to the E.A.S.Y. form, the traditional Travel Requests are still required. This is also available under student services.

Additional Travel Information

• Faculty and students must comply with Texas State Travel Office policies and the State of Texas Travel Allowance Guide (http://www.txstate.edu/gao/ap/travel/).

• Faculty and students may attend multiple conferences and divide the allocation, as long as the total amount awarded per fiscal year does not exceed their total travel allowance.

> **Example:** In October 2026, Carl (a MAPR student) will present a poster at the Research Society on Whatever (RSoW) conference in New Braunfels, Texas. The RSW conference registration fee is $250. Since this is an in-state conference *less than* 90 miles from San Marcos, Carl is eligible to have $200 of that conference fee paid from his travel allowance. Later in the fiscal year, Carl is unexpectedly invited to give an oral presentation at the Southwest Regional Conference on Stuff and Things (SWS&T) in Shreveport, Louisiana. Carl’s total expenses (registration, airfare, hotel, etc.) for the out-of-state SWS&T meeting will be $635. Since this is an out-of-state meeting, Carl is eligible to request that $200 of his SWS&T conference expenses be paid for by the travel allowance. In this scenario, Carl’s total travel funding for the fiscal year will not exceed $400.

• All reimbursable travel-related expenses (e.g., transportation, lodging, per diem, registration, printing, abstract fees, etc.) are subject to the funding limits above.

• The Psychology Department will not be responsible for paying fees or other additional expenses incurred due to traveler-initiated deviations from the originally established travel itinerary. Reimbursable travel expenses must remain within the funding limits described above.

• State law prohibits the use of state funds for seat upgrades, early boarding upgrades, meal upgrades, etc. These costs will not be reimbursed.

• Reimbursement for travel-related expenses occurs following completion of travel

• Travel allocation time frame is based on the University fiscal year – September 1st to August 31st.

• The Psychology Department chair shall notify faculty members if deviation from this policy is needed to address unusual budgetary circumstances.

Poster Printing

The program will pay for student posters to be presented at on-campus and off-campus conferences. To be eligible, students must submit a Poster Printing Request form no later than 5 days before the event. However, students should not be waiting until the last minute to get their posters printed. If a student submits a poster request later than the 5th business day before their event, the program will not pay for an outside vendor to print their poster. For example, if a student has their event on Friday, March 17th, and submits their poster printing request on Tuesday, March 14th, and the Alkek Print Shop printer goes down and is unable to print their poster, the student will need to pay out-of-pocket to get their poster printed elsewhere. On the other hand, if the same student submits their poster to be printed on Thursday, March 9th and the Alkek Print Shop printer goes down and is still not up and running by the following week, the student will need to get with either Mrs. Reyes who can work on getting their poster printed and paid form.

Students who fail to meet deadlines will NOT be eligible for travel reimbursement.

Graduate Lounge Policies

All MAPR students are expected to keep the graduate lounge clean and clutter free. The refrigerator **must be maintained by all MAPR students**. If there are items left in the refrigerator at the end of the fall and spring semesters, the program coordinator will send **1 email** to all MAPR students with a description of the items. If the items are not claimed and picked up within a week of the email, all items will be disposed of.

Lockers

Students who wish to reserve a graduate lounge locker while in the program must reach out to the program coordinator (Olivia Reyes). Mrs. Reyes will then send you a *Key Issuance (agreement) Form* for you to fill out and return. The agreement states:

> "*I UNDERSTAND AND AGREE THAT:*
>
> 1. *I am responsible for the university key(s) issued to me and for immediately reporting their loss or theft to the University Police Department as well as to the Graduate Program Director.*
> 2. *I may not transfer or loan my key(s) to another person. I understand that unauthorized duplication, use, or possession of university keys is not allowed.*
> 3. *I know that Texas State Access Services may duplicate university keys.*
> 4. *I understand that should my key get lost or stolen,* ***I will be charged a $15 replacement fee****.*
> 5. *I will return all keys immediately to either the Graduate Program Coordinator or the Psychology System Supports Specialist upon completion of research, end of teaching, or instructional assistance, completion of coursework, withdrawal from the university, or when the use of the key(s) becomes unnecessary or unauthorized.* ***I understand that failure to return kays may result in academic holds placed on my record.***

Students may keep their locker during their time in the program and do not need to return their key before winter/summer break(s). However, locker keys **must be returned** 1 week before the student attends commencement.

Department Policies, Procedures, and Expectations

General Expectations of Graduate Students

Please be aware that expectations for graduate students are substantially higher than those for undergraduates.

Graduate students can expect to put in significantly more hours of studying and research than they did as undergraduates. To complete course and thesis requirements in a timely manner, students should be in full-time attendance of the program.

Graduate students are expected to be active members of the department. This means seeking a well-rounded education by going above and beyond course and thesis requirements.

Students should actively participate in department activities, including colloquia, graduate brown bag seminars, and other scheduled talks.

Students should also develop an active program of research with faculty members that is reflected in publications and presentations at research conferences.

Graduate students often make presentations at regional and national conferences such as the Southwestern Psychological Association (SWPA), Texas Psychological Association (TPA), the American Psychological Association (APA), and the American Psychological Society (APS). Talk with your thesis chair and/or Graduate Director or Designee about other appropriate venues for your research.

It is also expected that graduate students will become active members of the psychological community. Consider joining APA, APS, TPA, SWPA, and/or other professional organizations. Talk to your committee chair and/or the Graduate Director for further information on appropriate societies.

Organization newsletters and professional contacts can be a valuable source of information and opportunities for students. There are several excellent student-run organizations, such as the American Psychological Association's Graduate Student Organization (APAGS), the Texas Psychological Association Student Division, and the American Psychological Society's Student Caucus, which were developed to provide graduate students with helpful tips, contacts, and funding/grant information.

In general, the more time and effort students put into their graduate studies, the more competitive and successful they will be on the job market or in admissions to doctoral programs. Faculty members are here to help in students' professional development, so do not hesitate to consult them.

Students enrolled in all academic programs in the Graduate College must maintain high scholastic standards and develop a mastery of the knowledge and methods of their respective discipline. Students are expected to demonstrate emotional and mental fitness

in their interactions with others, use skills and methods that are generally accepted by others in the profession, and conform to the code of ethics of their respective discipline, and the university's honor code. A student's acceptance in any program does not guarantee the student's fitness to remain in that program. The faculty is responsible for verifying that only those students who continue to meet program standards are allowed to continue in any program.

Policy on Grades

The University expects graduate students in degree programs to maintain high academic standards. The minimum University standards and consequences for unsatisfactory performances are specified in the Probation and Suspension section of the 2026-2027 Graduate Catalog. Students who fall below a 3.0 GPA will be placed on Academic Probation by the Graduate College:
https://mycatalog.txstate.edu/graduate/academic-grading-policies/probation-and-suspension/

In addition to meeting the University standards, students are required to follow department policies. The policy of the department on grades is that a student must complete all required courses (PSY5198, PSY5311, PSY5321, PSY5324, PSY5391) with a grade of B or above. Students who make a grade of C or lower in a required course will be required to retake the course. A student will be placed on internal departmental probation for receiving two grades of C or lower in the program. A student whose current degree audit reflects 3 Cs in required courses will be dismissed.

At the midpoint of each semester, faculty will be asked to provide information to the Graduate Director regarding any students having potential problems with grades. The Graduate Director or Designee will meet with students in danger of making Cs or lower in their program courses.

The Graduate Director or Designee will review all students' grades at the end of each semester and send written notifications to students who make grades of C or lower explaining their status and any required actions.

The Student Grade Appeals Procedures for Liberal Arts Courses can be found at
https://mycatalog.txstate.edu/graduate/academic-grading-policies/

Academic and Professional Ethics

The purpose of the MA program in Psychological Research is to prepare students for careers in research across a wide variety of contexts. The professional practice of psychology is guided by the American Psychological Association's (APA) "Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct" (APA, 2010). Because students in our graduate program are preparing for professional roles in psychology, they are expected to be knowledgeable about the APA ethical principles and behave according to the ethical principles and code of conduct in their academic and professional activities (e.g., coursework, research, class, and public presentations and writing, take home or in-class

tests). The complete “Ethical Principles” can be found at https://www.apa.org/ethics/code. It is the student’s responsibility to consult with faculty members if he or she should have any questions about these principles or about her/his behavior in relation to them. Students in Psychology are held to a higher standard of professional conduct than is required by the university’s regulations.

Because the master’s thesis and other written work constitute a substantial portion of the requirements toward the M.A. degree, students must clearly understand that academic honesty is expected. The Texas State University Honor Code is published in the 2020-2021 Graduate Catalog at https://mycatalog.txstate.edu/graduate/academic-grading-policies/honor-code/. The APA “ethical principles” further state that “psychologists do not present substantial portions or elements of another’s work or data as their own, even if the other work or data source is cited occasionally” (standard 8.11, p. 11; APA, 2010).

It is the student’s responsibility to cite reference sources in accordance with the discipline’s, University’s, and course instructor’s/thesis chair’s expectations and to seek clarification from the thesis chair, course instructor, etc. on what constitutes appropriate citation if there are any questions. Pleading ignorance of proper citation methods or lack of intent to violate accepted standards is/will not be an acceptable defense. There is no such thing as “accidental plagiarism” on the part of a graduate student. Again, if you are unsure of what constitutes plagiarism, check with a faculty member.

Beyond ensuring that their own conduct is consistent with the University’s regulations and with the APA “Ethical Principles,” graduate students in the MAPR Program have a responsibility to help uphold professional standards of conduct in the graduate program as a whole. Principle B of the APA “Ethical Principles” states that “Psychologists are concerned about the ethical compliance of their colleagues’ scientific and professional conduct” (p. 3; APA, 2010). Consistent with Principle B and with articles 1.04 and 1.05 of the “Ethical Principles” regarding the reporting of ethical violations (p. 4; APA, 2010), graduate students who are aware of ethical violations on the part of other students are expected to report the violations to the Graduate Director.

Standards regarding the use of generative AI are still in flux; different professors, conferences, and journals may have different standards. Students are expected to follow all relevant course, conference, and journal/publisher policies regarding the use of generative AI (which may include prohibition, disclosure statements, etc.).

Violations of academic integrity principles will be shared with the Graduate Director and the student’s primary mentor.

General Evaluation of Student Fitness and Performance

Members of the faculty, using their professional judgments, evaluate student fitness and performance continuously. The criteria used by the faculty to make such judgments include instructors’ observations of student performance in class or in activities related

to courses. Students who are not making satisfactory progress or who are not meeting program standards should consider withdrawing from the program.

If a faculty member believes that a student is not making satisfactory progress or meeting program standards, he or she should discuss the situation with the student. If the faculty member believes that the student's performance cannot improve to acceptable standards, the faculty member should refer the student to the Program Standards Committee of the appropriate department. The Program Standards Committee consists of three faculty members appointed by the Department Chair in consultation with the department's senior faculty.

The Committee will notify the student of the reasons that he or she is not making satisfactory progress or meeting program standards and will give the student an opportunity to meet with the Committee to respond and to present information and witnesses to the committee. The Committee will also meet with the faculty member who referred the student to the Committee. After considering the matter, and within ten working days of meeting with the student, the Committee will report to the student and the Department Chair. The Committee will recommend that the student either be allowed to remain in the program, or be removed from the program. The committee may make other recommendations, such as placing restrictions or conditions on the student's continuing in the program. Within ten working days of receiving the Committee's recommendations, the student will be notified of the Department Chair's decision (acceptance or rejection of the committee's recommendation).

Within ten working days of receiving the Committee's recommendation, the Chair will make a decision as to the student's continued presence in the program. Before making the decision, the student will have the opportunity to meet with the Chair and to offer information on their own behalf. However, the Chair need not meet with the student before making a decision if the Chair has given the student a reasonable opportunity to meet, and the student has either failed or refused to meet. The Chair will notify the student of the decision.

If the student is dissatisfied with the Chair's decision, he or she may appeal to the Dean of the Graduate College. However, in order for an appeal to be considered, the student must submit a written notice for an appeal to the Chair and to the Dean within ten working days of receiving the Chair's decision. The Dean will consider the matter based on information compiled by the Chair and notify the student of his or her decision within ten working days of the Dean's receipt of the appeal from the Chair. The Dean may meet with the student and give the student an opportunity to address the issues. The Dean's decision is final.

Procedures for Dealing with Interpersonal Conflicts

Hopefully you will not have problems with faculty members or other students in the program, but occasionally these things do occur. Your first step if you have an issue or

concern related to an instructor, supervisor, or other faculty member is to try to talk with the faculty member privately about the problem. If this doesn't work or you don't feel comfortable doing this, the second step is to talk with the Graduate Director. If you are experiencing difficulties with another student, speak with the Graduate Director, your mentor, or another faculty member. Try to take address such problems as early as possible, so that we can work toward resolving the issues and keep them from interfering with your progress. Keep in mind that while the Graduate Director will do their best to respect your wishes in terms of reporting the incident, keeping it confidential, etc., there are some cases where they are required by Texas State policy to file a formal report (e.g., cases of alleged sexual harassment).

Procedures for Withdrawing from the Program or Leave of Absence

Withdrawing entails going to zero hours in a semester. Tuition refunds may be possible, depending on when in the semester a student withdraws. These deadlines and policies are set by the university and students should discuss their choice with financial aid. Students who are thinking about withdrawing from the program are urged to discuss their concerns with faculty members they choose and with the Graduate Director or Designee. The roles of the faculty, director, and advisor are to help. If a student should decide to withdraw from the program, he/she should follow the "Withdrawal" actions specified in the 2026-2027 Texas State Graduate Catalog, which can be seen online at https://mycatalog.txstate.edu/graduate/registration-course-credit/

If students would like to a take a semester off from the program (e.g., not enroll for any classes), they should consult the Graduate College Leave of Absence policy at https://mycatalog.txstate.edu/graduate/academic-grading-policies/other-leave-of-absence/.

If students want to step away from the program in the middle of the semester without officially dropping classes, they should consult with their professors, primary mentor, and Graduate Director. This decision may have an adverse impact on employment, grades, and/or capstone progress.

Procedures on Dismissal of a Student from the Program

Students who are dismissed from the program will receive written notification of their dismissal from the Graduate Director or Designee. Required paperwork will be filed with the Graduate College to bar them from registering in the future.

Appendix A: University & Community Online Resources

Texas State Home Page: https://www.txst.edu/

Contains information about the university, including academic calendars, registration information, maps, and directories.

Department of Psychology Web Page: https://www.psych.txst.edu/

Contains information about the department, including course offerings, faculty office hours, and links to faculty web pages.

College of Liberal Arts Web Page: https://www.liberalarts.txst.edu/

Contains information about the Liberal Arts College and its programs.

Texas State Schedule of Classes:

https://reg-prod.ec.txstate.edu/StudentRegistrationSsb/ssb/term/termSelection?mode=search

Graduate College Web Page: https://www.gradcollege.txst.edu/ Contains important information about graduate requirements, scholarships, thesis requirements, graduation, etc.

Graduate College Orientation:
https://www.gradcollege.txst.edu/events/involvement/orientation.html

Graduate Catalog (Admissions information and Courses):
https://mycatalog.txstate.edu/graduate/

Tuition and Fees: https://www.sbs.txst.edu/billing.html

Graduate Funding Opportunities: https://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/funding.html

Graduate College Thesis Information:
https://www.gradcollege.txst.edu/students/research-thesis-dissertation/thesis-dissertation.html

International Services Office: https://www.international.txst.edu/

Texas State Technology Resources: https://www.tr.txst.edu/

Contains information about e-mail, Canvas, etc.

Texas State Institutional Review Board: https://www.research.txst.edu/orc/irb-resources.html

Texas State Counseling Center: https://www.counseling.txst.edu/ Services include individual, group, and couples counseling. These services are included in your student fees.

Texas State Office of Disability Services: https://www.ods.txst.edu/

Texas State Health Center: https://www.healthcenter.txst.edu/

On-Campus Residence Life: https://www.reslife.txst.edu/

Contains information on housing and dining options on campus.

On-Campus Involvement: https://studentinvolvement.txst.edu/

Graduate House of Representatives: https://studentgovernment.txst.edu/branches/graduatehouse.html

Texas State OneStop: https://onestop.txst.edu/

Texas State Parking: https://www.parking.txst.edu/

San Marcos Web Page: https://www.sanmarcostx.gov/

Austin Web Page: http://www.austintexas.org/

San Antonio Web Page: https://www.visitsanantonio.com/

Financial Aid https://www.finaid.txst.edu/

Submit your Free Application for Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible for financial aid assistance (for summer sessions, you will have to fill out a Texas State University-San Marcos form in the Financial Aid Office by late February/ early March). For further information, please contact the Financial Aid Office:

Appendix B: Required Courses

Required Courses (14 hours)	Hours
PSY 5198 Research Seminar (Taken twice)	2
PSY 5311 Univariate and Bivariate Statistics	3
PSY 5321 Multivariate Statistics	3
PSY 5324 Biological Bases of Behavior	3
PSY 5391 Research Methods & Experimental Design	3

Capstone Credit (6 hours)

PSY 5399 A (thesis) OR PSY 5388 (non-thesis)	3
PSY 5399B (thesis) OR PSY 5388 (non-thesis)**	3

**Note that six credits of PSY 5388 cannot be taken in a single semester.

Prescribed Electives (18 hours)

Students must take 18 hours of graduate-level (i.e., 5000-level or higher) electives, corresponding to six 3-credit course electives. At least 4 of these 6 courses must be regular content courses in the psychology department. Two of the electives can be a combination of an Individual Study (PSY 5366) or a course outside of the department. However, the Program Director (Dr. Kate Warnell) must approve the students' request. Furthermore, if a student wishes to take a second semester of Individual Study, special approval is required from the full Graduate Committee.

Elective offerings in the Psychology Department are dependent on a variety of factors as opposed to occurring on a strict rotation. Students are encouraged to discuss elective course selection with their mentor. Courses offered in the past have included:

PSY 5306 Advanced Developmental Psychology
PSY 5310 Advanced Psychopathology
PSY 5326 Neuropsychological Assessment
PSY 5335 Foundations of Health Psychology
PSY 5345 Psychopharmacology
PSY 5348 Health Psychology Prevention and Intervention
PSY 5352 Psychological Therapies
PSY 5360R Industrial and Organization Psychology
PSY 5362 Cognitive Neuroscience
PSY 5363 Forensic Psychology
PSY 5364 Advanced Statistical Methods
PSY 5365 Cross-Cultural Psychology
PSY 5365 Research Seminar in Social Psychology
PSY 5373 Human Memory and Memory Disorders
PSY 5374 The Psychology of Language
PSY 5381 Introduction to Psychophysiology