

PSYCHOLOGY

Mission Statement

The mission of the graduate program in psychology is to build on the strength of its students, faculty, and staff in providing an internationally renowned program that is known for: the excellence and integrity of its faculty, students, and training; the innovation and value of its research, scholarship, and skill development; and the fostering of leadership in the delivery of service to the community, to the field of psychology, and to society.

Objectives

The graduate program will be an integrated, organized structure that: develops scientific, critical thinking, and communication skills; promotes freedom of inquiry and expression; attracts high quality students to Queen's University; trains students in skills relevant for employment in a variety of psychological contexts, such as academic, government, and private sector settings; develops leaders in the discipline of psychology in both scientific and applied contexts; achieves an appropriate balance between research and applied components of psychology; responds flexibly to meet the changing needs of students and the profession; promotes professional and scientific responsibility and integrity; provides an environment that respects the equal dignity of all persons and the right to freedom from harassment, intimidation, and discrimination.

Departmental Facilities

Humphrey Hall and the adjacent Craine building contain most of the laboratory, teaching, and technical facilities of the Department of Psychology, facilities for the study of perception and action, including laboratories for the study of optical flow, pattern vision, psychoacoustics and auditory psychophysics, tactile psychophysics and haptic perception, full-body motion, speech synthesis, music perception, eye-hand coordination, facial animation, and human factors relating to teleoperation, and virtual reality. Behavioral neuroscience facilities include multi- and single-unit recordings, intracerebral microdialysis, and image analysis, as well as laboratories for studying animal learning and cognition, avian and insect navigation, and birdsong. There is a human sleep laboratory, and laboratories for the study of human memory, decision and categorization phenomena, and reading processes. There are extensive facilities for research in developmental psychology, from infancy through old age, including laboratories for studying infant perception, language acquisition, lying, aggression and victimization. There are facilities for computer-administered experiments in personality, social interaction and influence,

and social judgement, as well as eyewitness identification and jury decision-making. Research facilities are also available through various community hospitals, federal penitentiaries in the Kingston area, and through other community health-based institutions.

The Department of Psychology also maintains computing resources of varying sizes and configurations located in laboratories. It houses a teaching laboratory for applied statistics in a computing environment. The Department is affiliated with the High-Performance Computing Virtual Laboratory, Canada's largest academic high-performance computing facility, operated by a consortium of four universities (Queen's, Royal Military College, Ottawa, and Carleton). The Department provides training in parallel computing applied to behavioural phenomena. It also has facilities for the computational modeling of cognitive processes.

Financial Assistance

Federal, Provincial, and University fellowships, scholarships, and bursaries are available. In addition, a number of Departmental assistantships are offered in return for tutorial or research services to the Department. Inquiries regarding eligibility and other information about financial aid should be addressed to the Coordinator of Graduate Studies, Department of Psychology.

Fields of Research

Research is at present being carried out in the following areas:

- brain function;
- neuroplasticity;
- behavioral neuroscience;
- psychopharmacology;
- evolutionary psychology;
- animal learning and behavior;
- sleep;
- psychophysics;
- motor control and action;
- visual perception and physiology;
- auditory perception;
- tactile and haptic perception;
- multimodal perception;
- sensory interfaces for teleoperation and virtual-reality systems;
- perceptual learning;



- psychology of music;
- cognitive neuroscience;
- cognitive processes;
- computational modelling of basic cognitive processes;
- decision and classification;
- memory;
- psychology of reading;
- letter and word identification;
- language learning;
- psycholinguistics;
- cognitive development;
- infant development;
- developmental disabilities;
- early experience;
- aging;
- social cognition;
- attitudes;
- psychometrics;
- clinical assessment;
- behaviour analysis;
- health psychology;
- child and adult mental health;
- intervention;
- rehabilitation;
- parenting;
- addiction;
- eating disorders;
- psychology and the law;
- delinquency;
- eyewitness psychology.

It is very important, therefore, that students be familiar with these documents and clarify any concerns they have with their supervisor. A failure to show professional and ethical behaviour may provide grounds for dismissal.

Programs of Study

Applicants are accepted under the general regulations of the School of Graduate Studies. The Department requires applicants to have written the Graduate Record Examination.

Four programs are offered:

1. Cognitive Neuroscience;
2. Clinical;
3. Developmental; and
4. Social-Personality.

Professional and Ethical Behaviour

Students are expected to act in a professional and ethical manner in accordance with the current Standards of Professional Conduct (College of Psychologists of Ontario) and the Canadian Psychological Association Code of Ethics.