UMSL | Graduate School

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)
Psychology with an emphasis in Behavioral Neuroscience

Degree Program

Goals: Develop and refine research skills to direct programmatic research in the field of Behavioral Neuroscience. Students will take graduate courses to provide an academic foundation for a research career and work in the research lab of designated mentor to facilitate skill acquisition. All students will learn: grant writing skills, manuscript writing and publication skills, and university teaching methods.

Coursework:
1. A minimum of 60 semester credit hours of graduate coursework is required beyond the baccalaureate degree. A maximum of 30 hours credit may be transferred.
2. The program has adopted an apprenticeship model of graduate training in which each student works closely and continuously with a faculty member within the realm of the faculty member's research interests, including:
   a. Cognitive behaviors
   b. Animal models of neuroendocrinology & psychopathology
   c. Subcortical systems in affective behaviors
   d. Neurophysiological correlates of post-traumatic stress disorder, of self-reflection and default modes, of emotions and romantic love, of reading disability and of prejudice
   e. Human neuropsychology and neuroimaging

Qualifying Examination: After they have completed two years in the program, students must pass written and oral exams to continue in the program. Students are also required to complete a specialty paper for publication.

Dissertation: All students must defend orally a written dissertation proposal to their dissertation committee. A dissertation embodying the results of original research must be accepted by the faculty and the Graduate School.

Program Website
http://www.umsl.edu/psychology/graduate-programs/behavioral/index.html

Application Requirements
1. Application http://umsl.edu/go/Apply-Now
2. Three letters of recommendation
   a. From individuals who can attest to the applicant's likely success in graduate work.
3. Official transcripts from all universities attended
   a. Applicants must have at least a baccalaureate degree at the time they will begin the program.
4. Entrance examinations
   a. Acceptable scores on Graduate Record Examination (http://www.gre.org/ttindex.html).
   b. International students are required to document English proficiency by providing scores from an internationally accepted standardized examination before a decision is made on admission.
5. Personal statement
   a. Please submit a statement of 300-400 words with your rationale for seeking admission to a PhD program in Behavioral Neuroscience and the faculty member(s) with whom you would like to work.
6. Grade Point Average
   a. Minimum of 3.0 on 4.0 scale.

Application Deadline
The deadline for receipt of all admission materials is January 15 of each year for admission to the Fall Semester only.

Application Fee
$50 for domestic applicants; $40 for international applicants

Assistantships
Assistantships are currently funded with stipends of approximately $12,000 per year on a competitive basis. They include a scholarship from the Graduate School for tuition.

Graduate Program Director:
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