Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in 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: 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. 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 1) animal models of neuroendocrinology, 2) physiological causes and correlates of posttraumatic stress disorder, 3) cognitive neuroscience/neuroimaging of aging, and 4) human neuropsychology and neuroimaging.

Qualifying Examination: After they have completed between 18 and 24 credit hours or two years in the program, students must pass a written and oral exam 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/divisions/artscience/psychology/psychology/behavioral/Program%20of%20Study.html

Application Requirements
1. Application
   http://www.umsl.edu/gradschool/prospective/apply-now.html
2. Three letters of recommendation
   From individuals who can attest to the applicant’s likely success in graduate work.
3. Official transcripts from all universities attended
   Applicants must have at least a baccalaureate degree at the time they 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
   Please submit a statement of 300-400 words with your rationale for seeking admission to a PhD program in Behavioral Neuroscience. This statement is in addition to the application materials that are submitted online. Please send the statement to Dr. Robert Paul in the Department of Psychology via mail.
6. Grade Point Average
   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 $10,000 per year on a competitive basis. They include a scholarship from the Graduate School for educational fees. Applications for assistantships must be sent directly to the Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Psychology.
Graduate Program Director
Dr. George Taylor
Email: geot@umsl.edu
Phone: (314) 516-5391