

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Psychology – Psychological and Brain Sciences

Program Requirements:

A minimum of 60 credit hours are required for the degree program. A maximum of 30 hours credit may be transferred.

- Involves course work on the biological basis of behavior and scientific inquiry.
- It also has an apprenticeship model in which each student works closely and continuously with a faculty member within the realm of the faculty member's research interests. This work will result in an empirical research thesis and an empirical research dissertation.

Degree Completion Requirements:

- **Qualifying Examination:** After completion of 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.

Application Requirements:

1. [Online Graduate Application](#)
2. **Statement of Purpose:** Please submit a sentence or two about what you plan to do (e.g., I plan to earn a Ph.D. degree...)
3. Official transcripts from all universities attended. A Bachelor's degree is required.
4. Entrance examinations:
 - a. International Students must document English proficiency by providing scores from an internationally accepted standardized examination. See [International Admissions](#) for more information.
5. **Minimum GPA of 3.0 on 4.0 scale overall and 3.2 in Psychology courses**
6. **Letters of Recommendation:** 3 letters of recommendation are required from individuals who are familiar with the applicant's potential to successfully complete graduate training in biological psychology. Ideally, individuals who provide letters of recommendation will be sufficiently familiar with the candidate to address critical thinking, academic success, written and oral expression, responsibility, organization, and other important skills necessary for successful graduate training.
7. **Personal Statement:** Please submit a statement of 300-400 words with your rationale for seeking admission to the Ph.D. program in Psychological and Brain Sciences. Describe your interest in the biological basis of behavior, any prior research experience, your career goals, and which faculty member(s) you would like to work with and why.
8. **Submit a current professional resume/CV:** Please submit a CV with information about your higher education (school name, degree, major/minor/emphasis area, (expected) graduation month and year, and grade point average), any research experience, relevant work experience, any software skills.
9. **Other:** Any information that the student feels is pertinent (e.g. writing sample) may be submitted directly to the Program Director Dr. Carissa Philippi.

Application Deadlines:

Fall Semester Only - The deadline for receipt of all admission materials is **December 1** of each year for admission

Application Fees:

\$50 for domestic applicants

\$40 for international applicants

Assistantships:

Students in the Ph.D. program receive a Graduate Teaching Assistantship (\$21,000/year + including tuition remission) in their first and second year. Funding in later years is not guaranteed but could come from grant funding and/or teaching courses.

Graduate Program Director:

Contact Dr. Carissa Philippi by email at philippic@umsl.edu or by phone (314) 516-5357