

## Master of Arts (MA) Psychology with emphasis in Behavioral Neuroscience

### Degree Program

The master's (M.A.) degree in Psychology with an emphasis in Behavioral Neuroscience (BN) has two tracks: a thesis track and a non-thesis track. Both tracks involve course work on the biological basis of behavior and scientific inquiry. The thesis track 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. Both M.A. tracks are 32 credit hours.

Completion of the M.A. program does not necessarily qualify a student for admission into the BN doctoral program. An M.A. student must reapply for consideration for the Ph.D. program.

### Program Website

<https://www.umsl.edu/psychology/graduate-programs/behavioral/masters.html>

### Application Requirements

1. Application
  - a. <http://umsl.edu/go/Apply-Now>
  - b. Statement of Purpose: submit a sentence or two about what you plan to do (e.g., I plan to earn a Ph.D. degree; I plan to earn an M.A. degree; I need to take a graduate level course to transfer back to ...)
2. Official transcripts from all universities attended
  - a. Successful applicants must have completed a baccalaureate degree with a minimum of 15 undergraduate hours in psychology before beginning the master's program.
3. Three letters of recommendation
  - a. Letters of recommendation are required from persons qualified to evaluate the applicant's recent academic work, normally present or former college teachers.
4. Entrance examinations
  - a. 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. Grade Point Average
  - a. Minimum of 3.0 on 4.0 scale overall and 3.2 in psychology courses.
6. Personal Statement
  - a. Submit a personal statement of 300-400 words with your rationale for seeking admission to the M.A. program in Behavioral Neuroscience. Describe your interest in the biological basis of behavior and your career goals. Indicate if you are applying to the thesis track or non-thesis track and why. If you are applying to the thesis track, please describe any prior research experience and list the faculty member(s) with whom you would like to work with and why.
7. Curriculum Vitae (CV)
  - a. 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.
8. Other
  - a. information that the student feels is pertinent (e.g. writing sample) may be submitted directly to the Program Director, Dr. Carissa Philippi via email [philippic@umsl.edu](mailto:philippic@umsl.edu)

### Application Deadline

New students may begin only in the Fall Semester. The deadline for receipt of all admission materials is **December 1**.

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**Application fee**

\$50 for domestic applicants; \$40 for international applicants

**Assistantships and Fellowships**

Students in the thesis track M.A. typically receive a Graduate Teaching Assistantship (\$5,000/semester + tuition remission) in their first year (and sometimes in (part of) their second year). Typically, no funding is available for non-thesis track M.A. students.

**Graduate Program Director:**

Dr. Carissa Philippi

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