

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

Degree Program

The doctoral (Ph.D.) program in Psychology with an emphasis in Behavioral Neuroscience (BN) 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.

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.

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

<https://www.umsl.edu/psychology/graduate-programs/behavioral/doctorate.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. Grade Point Average
 - a. Minimum of 3.0 on 4.0 scale overall and 3.2 in psychology courses
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. Three letters of recommendation
 - a. 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.
5. 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.
6. Personal statement
 - a. Please submit a statement of 300-400 words with your rationale for seeking admission to the Ph.D program in Behavioral Neuroscience. 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
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

UMSL | Graduate School

Application Deadline

The deadline for receipt of all admission materials is **December 1** of each year for admission to the Fall Semester only.

Application Fee

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

Assistantships

Students in the Ph.D. program receive a Graduate Teaching Assistantship (\$18,000/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:

Dr. Carissa Philippi

Phone: (314)-516-5357

Email: philippic@umsl.edu