

# New Proposed Curriculum

## Ph.D. IN PSYCHOLOGY

Melson Hall • 678-839-6510

[http://www.westga.edu/psydept/index\\_7688.php](http://www.westga.edu/psydept/index_7688.php)

The Department of Psychology at University of West Georgia is accepting applicants for its doctoral program in Psychology: Consciousness and Society. The Doctoral program is dedicated to preparing a new kind of psychologist. The preparation entails focused exploration of the dynamic interface between *consciousness and society*, individual experience and collective social structures. A variety of theoretical perspectives support the exploration. These include the humanistic, critical and transpersonal traditions and other significant approaches: existential-phenomenological, Eastern and Western spiritual and wisdom traditions, psychoanalytic, and neuroscience. The doctoral program entails a strong theoretical core of courses. It also asks the student to be involved in a deep integration of practice, self-reflection, research, and theory in a way that understands human activity in its broadest context. Our doctoral program is not a specifically clinical program.

Students will be admitted for the fall semester only. An interview, as part of the admissions process, may be required. Applicants with a Bachelor's degree will be considered; however a graduate degree is much preferred. Those with degrees outside of psychology are encouraged to apply. Additional courses in the Department of Psychology at the University of West Georgia may be required due to disciplinary background or level of educational attainment.

**Applicants will be accepted for Fall enrollment only.** Deadlines and application procedures can be found on the Doctoral Program web site. The address for this website is [http://www.westga.edu/psydept/index\\_7688.php](http://www.westga.edu/psydept/index_7688.php).

### Program Requirements

1. Earn 60 credits in approved doctoral level courses.

These requirements are in accordance with prevailing standards for psychology doctoral programs. At least 48 credits must be attained from the Psychology Department. The remaining 12 may, upon approval, be comprised of coursework from other universities or from other departments at the University of West Georgia. At least 40 credits must consist of courses numbered 8000 or above. The remainder may include courses numbered 7000 or above. All required course credits are 4 hours.

2. Earn credit for the following required courses named below. 8000 level courses require permission of instructor if required doctoral courses have not been completed.

#### I. Core Courses

PSYC 8000 Consciousness and Experience

PSYC 8001 Culture & Subjectivity

PSYC 8002 Studies in Mind/Body

#### II. Foundations

PSYC 8003 Historical Foundations of Psychology

Take one of the following:

PSYC 8007 Foundations in Critical Psychology

PSYC 8008 Foundations in Humanistic Psychology

PSYC 8009 Foundations in Transpersonal Psychology

#### III. Research Methods

PSYC 8010 Philosophy of Inquiry (Co. or Pre-requisite to PSYC 8005)

PSYC 8005 Human Science Methodologies

PSYC 8006 Advanced Qualitative Research

All teaching assistants are required to take Teaching Practicum (9087).

PSYC 9087 Teaching Practicum before teaching

Students will take or must have taken a graduate class in quantitative methods and approaches – course used to fulfill this requirement must be approved by Director, Advisor and Chair

3. Complete the following additional requirements:

*Comprehensive Examinations:* Students must demonstrate readiness to advance to doctoral candidacy in accordance with Departmental standards.

*Dissertation:* Approval of a doctoral dissertation by the student's dissertation committee.

Dissertation Committee:

Before beginning the dissertation proposal, the student should choose a dissertation advisor and committee. The committee should be comprised of 1) a dissertation advisor, who is primarily responsible for the direction of the dissertation and who will be a full-time member of the Department and a member of the Graduate faculty and 2) two faculty members with full-time graduate faculty credentials, one of which may be from outside the Department. The student may also request a fourth member, or external reader, from an outside Department or University. Upon forming the dissertation committee, the student must arrange an initial meeting with the advisor to establish the timetable for the proposal and dissertation. The dissertation committee will work with the student while the dissertation proposal is started, and the names of committee members and proposal title will be given to the designated department administrator. All members of the committee should be kept informed as to the progress of the proposal and of the dissertation at regular intervals. Any changes in committee membership should be followed by notification of all members and the department administrator.

Dissertation Proposal

The nature of the dissertation proposal will reflect the type of dissertation undertaken by the student as approved by the dissertation advisor.

Proposal Defense

Once the proposal is finished, the dissertation committee will meet with the candidate to determine feasibility and scholarship of the proposed project. During the meeting, the committee will suggest revisions and evaluate the viability of the candidate's dissertation project. Approved dissertation proposals will be filed with the proper administrative office. Upon approval and filing of the dissertation proposal, the student is officially admitted to candidacy. The proposal defense will be open to any interested faculty.

Dissertation Defense

The dissertation defense will consist of an oral presentation by the student followed by a question-and-answer period led by the student's advisor. The dissertation defense is open to the public. After the defense, the student will give a department colloquium.