

California State University, Los Angeles  
Department of Psychology

Cal State LA

# Graduate Student Handbook

Revised  
10/6/2017

Dear Graduate Student,

Welcome! Thank you for deciding to continue your education at California State University, Los Angeles. The M.A. in Psychology and M.S. in Forensic Psychology are rigorous programs designed to develop research and conceptual skills for students whose primary interest is in continuing their education in a doctoral program. A key feature of each program is a close mentoring relationship with a faculty member who oversees the student's progress toward his or her individual research goals.

This Handbook contains basic information on our graduate procedures helpful in guiding you to successfully realize your academic goals. We hope that your academic career at Cal State L.A. will offer you many new intellectual challenges and rewards in the pursuit of your personal goals.

In addition to a variety of formal academic experiences available in psychology classes, we encourage you to take part in the activities sponsored by Psi Chi, our chapter of the national psychology organization. You can find out about these opportunities and other department activities by inquiring at the Psychology office, King Hall, Room C3104 or visiting us at our webpage at <http://www.calstatela.edu/academic/psych/>.

The careful planning of your academic program is an important first step toward ensuring your success at California State University, Los Angeles. Be sure to meet with your mentor to help plan your academic program.

I wish for you a successful beginning.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Senqi Hu". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senqi Hu, Ph.D.  
Chair and Professor, Department of Psychology

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

Important Contacts and Offices .....	4
Mission Statement.....	5
General Program Requirements for the MA in Psychology .....	6
General Program Requirements for the Master of Science in Forensic Psychology.....	7
Thesis and Graduate Research .....	8
Additional University Requirements for Masters Degrees.....	10
Academic Policies.....	12
Permits .....	16
Financing your Education .....	17
Faculty Members and their Areas of Interest.....	19
Forms and Petitions .....	21
Appendix .....	23-24

## IMPORTANT CONTACTS AND OFFICES

---

### **Department of Psychology · KH C3104 · (323) 343-2250**

Jessica Dennis, Ph.D. • Director, MA program • [JDennis@calstatela.edu](mailto:JDennis@calstatela.edu)

Mitchell Eisen, Ph.D. • Director, Forensic program • [MEisen@calstatela.edu](mailto:MEisen@calstatela.edu)

Senqi Hu, Ph.D. • Department Chair • [SHu6@calstatela.edu](mailto:SHu6@calstatela.edu)

Douglas Ramon • Graduate Assistant • [DRamon4@calstatela.edu](mailto:DRamon4@calstatela.edu)

Vacant • Administrative Assistant I • [N/A](#)

Nancy Aguilar • Office Manager • [NAguilar@calstatela.edu](mailto:NAguilar@calstatela.edu)

### **Natural and Social Sciences Dean's Office · ASC, Wing B, Room 223 · (323) 343-2000**

Amy Miller  
Graduate Programs and Student Affairs Coordinator  
[AMiller@cslanet.calstatela.edu](mailto:AMiller@cslanet.calstatela.edu)  
(323) 343-2000

Nancy McQueen, Ph.D.  
Associate Dean  
[NMcQueen@calstatela.edu](mailto:NMcQueen@calstatela.edu)  
(323) 343-2000

### **Office of Graduate Studies · Library North A124 · (323) 343-3820**

<http://www.calstatela.edu/graduatestudies>

Provides leadership and service to promote graduate studies and to provide research development support services to the university community

### **Graduate Resource Center · Library North A124 · (323) 343-3820**

<http://www.calstatela.edu/graduateresourcecenter>

The Graduate Resource Center guides students through writing, editing, and formatting the thesis and dissertation, and assists in preparing their work for publication; hosts workshops and presentations to support students' academic and professional development; and acts as a general resource for graduate student needs.

### **Office of Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities · Golden Eagle, Room 314 · (323) 343-3792**

<http://www.calstatela.edu/orad>

ORSCA provides information regarding student research scholarships and internships; policies, procedures and forms for student's conducting research with human subjects and/or animals; plus information, deadlines, and applications for the Student Symposium on Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activities.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the CSULA Psychology Department is to provide students with the opportunity to excel academically and professionally by using a teacher-scholar mentoring model to teach psychology as a scientific discipline that accurately reflects the diversity of life and human experience. The department is committed to excellence in teaching, research, practice, and scholarship.

---

Faculty members are equally committed to fostering service that promotes social justice in our local and global communities and to incorporating cultural issues in curriculum, research, and mentoring. In support of these goals the department seeks to provide a supportive, open, culturally sensitive, and collegial academic environment to its faculty and students.

# GENERAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE **MASTER OF ARTS IN PSYCHOLOGY**

---

## **GENERAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS IN PSYCHOLOGY (31-32 UNITS)**

At least 50% of the required 31-32 units must be 5000-level. A minimum of 9 units must come from courses other than PSY 5950, 5970, 5980, and 5990.

### **Core Requirements (Total 13-14 units)**

Students must complete the following with a grade of B or higher:

In the First Semester (3 units):

PSY 4950 - Introduction to Graduate Study in Psychology (3)

Within the First Year (7 units):

PSY 5040 - Advanced Experimental Methods (3)

PSY 4910 - Multivariate Statistics (4)

One Other 5000-level Quantitative Course (3-4 units):

PSY 5150 - Advanced Statistical Methods (3)

-or-

PSY 5910 - Advanced Multivariate Statistics (4)

### **Required Courses (3 units)**

PSY 5970 - Graduate Research (3)

### **Electives in Psychology (12 units)**

Select 12 units of electives coursework to complete the 31-32 units required for the degree. 4000-level courses cannot comprise more than 50% of the elective units.

### **Thesis (3 units)**

PSY 5990 - Thesis (3)

# GENERAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE **MASTER OF SCIENCE IN FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY**

**GENERAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY (33-34 UNITS)** All students begin the program in the fall semester and take several core courses together. Students will also take part in a 9-month practicum (PSY 5950) where they will receive hands-on training and on-site supervision.

## **Required Courses (21 units)**

Students must complete the following with a grade of B or higher:

- PSY 4640 - Psychology and the Law (3)
- PSY 5100 - Seminar: Abnormal Psychology (3)
- PSY 5310 - Individual Testing and Case Study Techniques (3)
- PSY 5950 - Field Experience in Psychology (6)
- CRIM 5010 - Seminar: Administration of Justice (3)
- or- CRIM 5300 - Theories and Perspectives in Criminal Justice (3)
- CRIM 5110 - Principles of Research (3)
- or- CRIM 5620 - Courtroom and Legal Issues in Criminalistics (3)

## **One of the Following Quantitative Courses (3-4 units)**

- PSY 4110 - Advanced Research Methods in Psychology (3)
- PSY 4140 - Analysis of Variance (3)
- PSY 4310 - Statistical Methods in Psychological Assessment (4)
- PSY 4910 - Multivariate Statistics (4)
- PSY 5040 - Advanced Experimental Methods (3)
- PSY 5150 - Advanced Statistical Methods (3)
- PSY 5910 - Advanced Multivariate Statistics (4)

## **Electives in Psychology/Criminal Justice (6 units)**

Select 6 units from the following:

- PSY 4900 - Human Memory (3)
- PSY 5110 - Seminar: Developmental Psychology (3)
- PSY 5220 - Seminar: Social Psychology (3)
- PSY 5650 - Seminar in Multicultural and Cross-cultural Psychology (3)

## **Thesis (3 Units)**

- PSY 5990 - Thesis (3)

## THESIS AND GRADUATE RESEARCH

---

*Students must complete Advancement to Candidacy (see pg. 10) with the department and college before requesting to enroll in PSY 5970. To enroll in PSY 5990, students must also have filed their GS-12 form (see below).*

### **PSY 5970 Graduate Research\***

Prerequisites: Advancement to candidacy, instructor consent to act as sponsor, departmental approval of topic prior to registration. Independent research under guidance of the faculty.

*Note:* If you are taking PSY 5970 for the first time, you must file your GS-12, Request for Thesis or Project Committee and Title, with the department office by the 12<sup>th</sup> week of the semester. See Graduate Assistant (Douglas) for form.

\*Forensic students are not required to take PSY 5970.

### **PSY 5990 Thesis**

Upon approval of the research design by the thesis committee, the student will undertake the thesis, working under the guidance of the thesis chair. One year from the point of first enrollment in PSY 5990 is allowed to complete the thesis units. If the thesis is not completed after registering in all of the 5990 units on the program (maximum=3), the student must register for UNIV 9000 (which carries no credit) in order to complete thesis requirements and graduate. For more info on enrolling in UNIV 9000, please visit: <http://www.calstatela.edu/page/university-9000-univ-9000> or contact the Graduate Assistant (Douglas).

Progressively revised drafts of the thesis will be submitted to the chair of the thesis committee periodically for review and comment. The chair may, from time to time, require the student to submit copies to other members of the committee as well. The final draft must show clarity of purpose, competent critical analysis, tight organization, and originality. The presentation must be both accurate and complete. In style, it must follow the recommendations of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (latest edition). It should include a separate title page and the following sections:

-**ABSTRACT:** A brief summary of both the problem and results.

-**INTRODUCTION:** Definition of the problem, development of the background, and statement of the study's purpose and rationale.

-**METHODOLOGY:** Information and subjects, apparatus, measures and procedures. (This section and the next may not apply to a non-experimental thesis.)

-**RESULTS:** A complete factual statement of the findings, including any tables, figures, and statistical analyses.

-**DISCUSSION:** This section should include a thoughtful and logical analysis of the implications of the findings as well as conclusions that can be drawn, and any limitations.

-*REFERENCES*: The references should reflect a thorough literature review of the salient literature dealing with the subject.

-*APPENDICES*: Copying of letters, forms, measures, or other written materials used in the study.

After the draft has been approved by the thesis committee, a date is fixed for the final oral defense of the thesis. An abstract and copy of the thesis should be submitted to committee members at least two weeks before the oral defense. The student is required to prepare and bring to the oral defense the following materials for committee signature: The Title Approval Page (Form GS-13). The oral defense is open to any who wish to attend. After a successful oral defense, the student must return the form to the psychology office to obtain the Department Chair's signature. Final thesis corrections are made and a final thesis copy is prepared for electronic upload. Students are advised to consult with the thesis advisor in the Library at an early date in order to conform to the Library requirements and to meet all Library deadlines.

## ADDITIONAL UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS FOR MASTERS DEGREES

---

In addition to the departmental program requirements listed above, all candidates for master's degrees at Cal State L.A. must also fulfill the following requirements.

### **Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement**

Every graduate student who enters a degree program must satisfy the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement by passing the Writing Proficiency Examination (WPE) within the first three semesters of their enrollment or prior to the completion of 12 units, whichever comes later.

This requirement is waived for graduate students who:

- Received their bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited college or university where English is the primary medium of instruction;
- Scored a 41 or better on the writing portion of the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST);
- Or scored a 4 on the analytic writing portion of the GRE or GMAT.

For more information on the GVAR/WPE, please contact the Testing Center at (323) 343 3160 or visit them in the JFK Library Palmer Wing, Room 2098.

### **Conditional, Classified, and Advancement to Candidacy Status**

Students are initially coded into one of the following levels depending on their admission status:

*G1 – Conditional.* Students who have not completed all program prerequisites at the time of admission are classified into this level. Students qualify for limited financial aid with this classification. Upon completion of all prerequisite courses with a GPA of 3.0 or higher, *conditional* students have their status changed to *classified* by the graduate assistant.

*G2 – Classified.* Students who are admitted unconditionally (i.e., with no prerequisites required to complete) are automatically coded into *Classified* status by Admissions.

MA students: Upon satisfactory completion of the GVAR, PSY 4950, one additional core requirement and 6 additional units (12 units in total), students will be advanced to candidacy.

Forensic students: Upon satisfactory completion of the GVAR and 12 units, students will be advanced to candidacy.

Being Advanced to Candidacy (level G3) is a graduation requirement.

*Only students who have been advanced to candidacy may enroll in PSY 5970 Graduate Research and/or PSY 5990 Thesis.*

**Unit Requirement**

MA students: Completion of at least 31-32 semester units in approved courses, of which at least half (16) must be graduate (5000-level) courses.

Forensic students: Completion of at least 33-34 semester units in approved courses, of which at least half (17) must be graduate (5000-level) courses.

**Grade Point Average Requirement**

Achievement of a minimum B (3.0) grade point average in all courses on the approved degree program. A grade of C is allowed on the program; however, any grade below C, including C-, requires that the course be repeated with both grades computed in the grade point average. There is no academic renewal for graduate students.

*Note: The Psychology MA and Forensic Psychology MS require a passing grade of B (3.0) in the Core Requirements.*

Following is a breakdown of the grading system.

A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0

**Residence Requirement**

At least 21 semester units for the master's degree must be completed in residence at Cal State L.A.

**Culminating Experience Requirement**

All MA and MS students are required to complete a thesis. The department does not offer a comprehensive examination or a project option in lieu of a thesis.

## ACADEMIC POLICIES

---

For a more complete list of policies and other student services, you can refer to the University's Graduate Student Handbook available through the Graduate Studies webpage:

<http://www.calstatela.edu/graduatestudies>

### **University Catalog**

Graduate students are governed by University policies and regulations as stated in the *University Catalog* in effect at the time they achieve classified standing, provided that they maintain continuous attendance for registration purposes. The E-Catalog is available for purchase at the campus bookstore or can be accessed online at: <http://ecatalog.calstatela.edu/>

Listed below you will find some excerpts from material in the Catalog.

### **Registration and Continuing Status**

Continuing students at California State University, Los Angeles receive information regarding their registration appointment dates by logging into GET (Golden Eagle Territory). Additional information about registration procedures is provided in the Schedule of Classes, available online each semester before the registration period Web registration (GET) is available to all eligible continuing students.

Students maintain their continuing student status for registration purposes only by attending at least one of the two semesters immediately preceding the semester in which they plan to enroll (excluding the summer term). Students who were admitted and enrolled in one of the last two semesters preceding the semester in which they plan to enroll will also maintain their continuing student status for registration purposes. Absence for more than one of any two consecutive semesters without an approved leave of absence will cancel continuing registration eligibility. See Leaves of Absence later in this chapter.

Attendance in University extension courses does not constitute continuous attendance. Students who attended another college or university during an absence from Cal State L.A., except for a summer session or extension program or approved visitor enrollment at another CSU campus, are required to file an application for admission as a returning student and have official transcripts of work taken sent to the Admissions Office. A nonrefundable application fee is charged. Such students will, if eligible, receive forms to register as returning students.

### **Leave of Absence**

Once a graduate student is advanced to candidacy (see pg. 10), they must remain in continuous enrollment each semester. They must file a leave of absence to take even one semester off from enrolling in classes. If they don't file a leave of absence, they will be dismissed from the University and they must reapply to get back in.

Students can avoid losing classified standing by submitting a Leave of Absence request, approved by the department chair, appropriate associate dean, and the University Registrar prior to the beginning of the effective semester.

Students may petition for a leave of absence for such reasons as professional or academic opportunities, like travel or study abroad; employment related to educational goals and major

fields of study or participation in field study or research projects; medical reasons, including pregnancy, major surgery, and other health-related circumstances; and financial reasons, such as the necessity to work for a specified period to resume study with adequate resources.

Graduate students are granted a maximum of 4 semesters, subject to renewal. Continuing students allowed absence of 2 semesters is included in these maximums.

### **Academic Probation for Graduate Students**

Graduate students are subject to academic probation if their grade point average falls below the levels specified below either in course work on their master's degree program or in all units completed after becoming classified, whether or not the course work is taken at Cal State L.A. The Office of the Chancellor has made provision whereby students may be placed on administrative-academic probation for any of the following reasons:

- Withdrawal from all or a substantial portion of courses for which they registered in two successive semesters or in any three semesters.
- Repeated failure to progress toward a stated degree or program objective when such failure is within their control.
- Failure to comply, after due notice, with a routine academic requirement or regulation.

Notice is given in writing of the conditions for removal from administrative-academic probation, as well as circumstances that would lead to disqualification should probation conditions not be rectified. Graduate students who are on academic probation and who do not meet the requirements of their probation are subject to disqualification in accordance with the following guidelines:

Classified and conditionally classified graduate students who are on academic probation are subject to disqualification from pursuing the master's degree program in which they were classified if after being placed on scholastic probation they do not raise their average to B (3.0) after completion of 16 units or two semesters in residence, whichever comes later.

Classified and conditionally classified graduate students whose grade point average falls more than nine grade points below B (3.0) will be disqualified from pursuing the master's degree program in which they were classified.

Students who are disqualified from a master's degree program may not reenter that program. They may be admitted to another program only on the recommendation of the new major department/division concerned and with the approval of the appropriate college graduate dean.

### **Full-Time Study Load**

For full-time enrollment certification by the University, graduate students must carry a study load of 8 units of approved prerequisite, co-requisite, or graduate program courses per semester. Students may be certified as full-time students with a study load of less than 8 units in any of the following courses upon recommendation of their adviser and program director and approval of the associate dean: PSY 5970, PSY 5980, PSY 5990, and UNIV 9000. The maximum load for graduate students is 12 units per semester.

### **Seven-Year Rule**

No subject, unit, or grade credit will be granted for any course completed more than seven years before the date of completion of the master's degree. You cannot include courses that are

more than seven years old at the time you complete all degree requirements on your Program Plan.

Students must retake or validate any courses that will be more than seven years old at the time the degree is awarded and that have been taken at Cal State L.A. An expired course taken at another institution may not be validated by examination. Permission to validate is granted only in very exceptional circumstances; it is not given automatically and not given for more than 12 units.

### **Transfer Courses**

To receive credit toward a master's degree for acceptable postbaccalaureate work taken at other colleges and universities, students must have official transcripts forwarded to the Office of Graduate Studies and must file a "Request for Records" (Form GS-1A) with their major department/division/school. Cal State LA will allow credit for work taken at another college or university only when it appears on the student's official transcript from that institution, is acceptable for master's degree credit at the offering institution, and is deemed appropriate to the student's master's degree program by the major department/division/school at Cal State LA. The following limitations and exclusions apply:

- For master's degrees that require 30 total semester units, no more than 9 semester units of acceptable transfer, extension and/or special session courses may be included on a master's degree study plan. For master's degrees that require more than 30 semester units, up to 30% of the total required units may consist of acceptable transfer, extension, and/or special session courses, if approved by the appropriate graduate/departmental adviser.
- No master's degree credit is allowed for directed teaching, 7000- or 8000-level courses, courses numbered below 4000, and courses taken at another accredited institution that would not be accepted toward a master's degree at that institution.
- Six semester units of 5000-level or other graduate courses taken through extension are eligible for master's degree credit.

### **Work Taken before Approval of Program**

No more than 9 semester units of acceptable course work completed before approval by the principal graduate adviser, major department/division, and college graduate dean may be included on a master's degree program. This includes acceptable transfer work.

Credit for thesis (i.e., 5990), research (i.e., 5970), and comprehensive examinations (i.e., 5960) is not transferable. All other course work included on the master's degree program must be completed after approval by the principal graduate adviser, major department/division, and college graduate dean.

### **Credit for Extension Courses**

Do not enroll for courses through Continuing Education (also called Extension) if you have been accepted as a student at Cal State L.A., with the exception of the self-support summer session. Matriculated students at Cal State L.A. may not enroll in courses through Continuing Education and you will not be able to use these courses on your Program. Also, no graduate credit will be allowed for extension courses that would not be accepted toward a master's degree at the offering institution (e.g., University of California extension courses in the X3000 or X4000 series) unless specifically approved in advance by the major department/division and college concerned.

### **Course Substitutions**

It may be necessary to change an Academic Study Plan based upon special circumstances. *Course substitutions are processed once your faculty mentor notifies the graduate assistant, via email, with the approved course(s) to be substituted. In some instances, approval must also be granted by the department chair and the college graduate dean.*

A course may not be added to or deleted from a master's degree Study Plan after it has been taken. When such a change has been approved and processed, it becomes part of the Study Plan. Students are able to view any changes made to their Study Plan by logging on to GET and generating an Academic Requirements report.

### **Student Use of Human Subjects or Animals**

Students, like all others in the University community, must follow established University and federal guidelines when using human subjects or animals either in research or as part of a course activity.

Prior approval by the relevant campus committee must be obtained when necessary. For further information, contact the Office of Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities, (323) 343-3792, or visit their website at <http://www.calstatela.edu/orad>.

### **Maintaining Enrollment for Thesis/Project**

Students must be advanced to candidacy and must obtain the approval of the associate dean before registering for research and thesis/project units. When all units for 5970 and 5990 classes have been completed, a student must maintain continuous enrollment by registering for thesis or research units using the UNIV 9000 course number each semester until completion of the thesis/project. Furthermore, students must be officially enrolled during the semester they expect to graduate and defend their thesis.

For more information on enrolling in UNIV 9000 please contact the Graduate Assistant or visit <http://www.calstatela.edu/page/university-9000-univ-9000>

Unless there is a very exceptional circumstance that prevents a student from completing a thesis, students are not permitted to change from a thesis/project option to a comprehensive examination after they have completed any 5990 units.

### **Incomplete Grades**

Students who do not complete the work for a particular course may be granted an Incomplete grade with the instructor's permission. Students have up to but no longer than ONE calendar year to make up the incomplete regardless of breaks in attendance, a leave of absence, etc. The official policy states that the single year may be extended prior to the expiration of the one year period by the College Graduate Dean, "...for contingencies such as, but not limited to, military service and health problems or an incapacitating nature verified by a physician's statement".

Incomplete grades that are not made up become graded IC (Incomplete Charged) and are factored into the overall GPA as a grade of F.

### **Graduation**

A Graduation Application must be completed, submitted and paid for at the Cashier's Office (ADM 128) by the published deadline available at the link below. Please submit a copy of the completed application to the Graduate Assistant.

Students who do not complete their degree requirements by the term indicated on their submitted graduation application must pay a late fee and submit a Graduation Term Update form to the Cashier's Office.

Both the Graduation Application and Graduation Term Update form are available via the Graduation Office webpage: <http://www.calstatela.edu/graduation>

### **Commencement Exercises**

Commencement exercises are held annually at the end of the spring semester. Students who have completed their degree requirements the previous summer, fall, or winter terms are eligible to participate in the ceremony along with those who complete their work in the spring semester. During the Commencement exercises, the President of the University confers degrees on the candidates. Although each candidate receives a diploma cover during the program, the actual diploma is mailed several months later. Within a few weeks after graduation, eligible candidates receive a letter of congratulations in the mail, and degrees are posted to their permanent academic record on GET.

## PERMITS

---

All 5000-level Psychology courses are restricted and enrollment is by permission only.

### **Seminars**

The program directors, Dr. Jessica Dennis (MA) and Dr. Mitchell Eisen (Forensic), will email your cohort a list of the seminars recommended each semester and for which you should enroll. The department graduate assistant will then issue permits for those seminars which are next in your sequence of classes.

### **PSY 5970 & PSY 5990**

Students must fill out a **Permit Request** to enroll in research (PSY 5970) and thesis units (PSY 5990). All requests must have the approval of the student's mentor and Department Chair. Students can register for no more than the maximum number of 5970 or 5990 units listed on their Study Plans.

### **PSY 5950 (Forensic students only)**

Students must fill out a **Permit Request** available in the department office to enroll in PSY 5950. All requests must have the approval of the student's mentor and Department Chair. Students can register for no more than 6 units of PSY 5950.

*The department urges all students to register for classes as early as possible to avoid having them canceled by University administrators. Canceled classes will have an adverse impact on the quality and timely completion of your degree.*

---

## FINANCING YOUR EDUCATION

---

### **Graduate Equity Fellowship Program**

These grants are designed to increase the number of master's degrees awarded to economically disadvantaged CSU students, especially those graduate students that are underrepresented among graduate degree recipients in their discipline and to those who are disabled. For more info, please visit: <http://www.calstatela.edu/graduatestudies/funding-opportunities>

### **Minority Opportunities in Research Programs: MBRS-RISE**

The MBRS-RISE M.S.-to-Ph.D. Program is a rigorous research-based two-year preparation for graduate work at the Ph.D. level. Each year, the program trains a group of 20 minority students pursuing the M.S. degree at Cal State LA, and involves them in a program designed to enhance their academic achievement; integrate them into the broader Southern California biomedical research community while still in their M.S. program; expose them to a broad range of biomedical sciences and scientists; enhance their transfer rate to Ph.D. programs; and establish the foundation for their successful research careers in the biomedical sciences.

The MBRS-RISE M.S. to Ph.D. is part of the Minority Biomedical Research Support Program sponsored by a generous grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). A salary of up to \$17,000 per year and full time tuition is provided for students in the M.S. component. Additional funds are available for research supplies and for travel to present research results at professional meetings.

For more information:

Phone: (323) 343-2395

Email: [morepro@calstatela.edu](mailto:morepro@calstatela.edu)

Website: <http://www.calstatela.edu/centers/moreprograms/>

### **Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Scholars Program**

The California Pre-Doctoral Program is designed to increase the pool of potential faculty by supporting the doctoral aspirations of California State University (CSU) students who have experienced economic and educational disadvantages. Junior, senior, and graduate students in the CSU, especially those from environments where university teaching is not a common career goal, have unique opportunities to explore and prepare to succeed in doctoral programs. Working one-on-one with faculty members from both CSU and doctoral-granting institutions, students receive funding for activities such as: participation in a summer research internship program at a doctoral-granting institution to receive exposure to the world of research in their chosen field; visits to doctoral-granting institutions to explore opportunities for doctoral study; travel to a national symposium or professional meeting in their chosen field; other related activities such as membership in professional organizations and journal subscriptions; graduate school application and test fees.

Visit <http://www.calstate.edu/PreDoc/> for more information on the Pre-Doctoral Program.

### **Graduate Student Non-Resident Tuition Waiver Program Application**

A limited number of non-resident tuition fee waivers or tuition fee reductions may be granted to non-resident graduate students who are either domestic non-resident students or citizens of a foreign country. For more info, please visit: <http://www.calstatela.edu/graduatestudies/funding-opportunities>

### **Graduate Assistants / Teaching Associates / Research Assistantships**

The Department of Psychology typically makes available a few Graduate Assistant positions each semester. At the moment, the department does not offer any Teaching Associate positions. In general, graduate assistants work from five to twenty hours a week, assisting professors in laboratory classes or as graders in large classes. Research assistantships as well as graduate traineeships may also be available to graduate students and information of their availability can be obtained by consulting the Department Coordinator or professors who are currently conducting on-going research.

### **Federal / State Financial Aid Programs**

Graduate students may apply for federal and state financial aid programs but most of the grant programs (Pell Grant, Cal Grant, etc.) that might have been available to you as an undergraduate are no longer available to graduate students.

The financial aid application, called the FAFSA, becomes available every January 1 for aid in the subsequent Summer Semester or beyond. The earlier you apply, the better. Approximately four to six weeks after your financial aid file is complete you will receive a letter from the Center for Student Financial Aid indicating your eligibility or ineligibility. In addition to being financially eligible, you must be making "satisfactory academic progress" in your graduate program in order to continue to receive assistance.

Please visit the Center for Student Financial Aid in Student Affairs 124, call them at (323) 343 6260 or visit their webpage at <http://www.calstatela.edu/financialaid/>

### **Fellowships and Scholarships**

The Financial Aid Office maintains listings of scholarships and fellowships sponsored by off-campus agencies, organizations, and associations.

Cal State L.A. has over 250 different scholarships that are awarded to more than 650 students per year. A small number of these scholarships are open to graduate students. The average scholarship award is \$600.

For information on on-campus scholarships, applications, deadlines, and more please visit the Center for Student Financial Aid in Student Affairs 124, call them at (323) 343 6260 or visit their webpage at <http://www.calstatela.edu/financialaid/>

## FACULTY MEMBERS AND THEIR AREAS OF INTEREST

---

Olajide Bamishigbin (obamish@calstatela.edu) Teaches research methods and racial/ethnic minority mental health. Research interests focus on risk and protective factors for mental and physical health among African American fathers and Black and Latino cancer survivors.

Jessica Dennis (jdennis@calstatela.edu) Teaches courses on methodology, multicultural psychology, and developmental psychology. Research interests focus on cultural issues in family, educational, and personal development during adolescence and early adulthood.

Ramani Durvasula (rdurvas@calstatela.edu) Teaching interests include abnormal, clinical and health psychology. Research interests have focused on psychopathology, substance use and sexual risk in persons living with HIV and AIDS.

Mitchell Eisen (meisen@calstatela.edu) Teaching interests include introductory psychology, personality psychology, psychopathology, learning and memory, personality assessment and family therapy. Research focuses on impact of trauma and stress on abused children, memory and suggestibility and coping strategies of maltreated children.

Joel Ellwanger (jellwan@calstatela.edu) Teaches undergraduate and graduate level courses in physiological psychology and statistics. Research interests include cognitive neuroscience, including the study of attention and memory through the use of physiological indices of cognition.

Gaithri Fernando (gfernan2@calstatela.edu) Teaching interests include abnormal psychology and clinical psychology, personality, and developmental psychopathology, as well as clinical and neuropsychological assessment. Primary interests are in posttraumatic stress in the context of war and extreme traumas such as torture, bomb blasts, and assassination attempts.

Steven Frenda (sfrenda@calstatela.edu) Teaches courses on social psychology, cognitive psychology, and research methods. Research interests include memory and suggestibility in legal contexts.

Senqi Hu (shu6@calstatela.edu) Teaching interests include introductory psychology, biological psychology, and health psychology. Research has centered on the physiological index of motion sickness and psychophysiological responses of emotion.

Mathew Jackson (mjacks40@calstatela.edu) Teaches courses in research methods and social psychology. Research interests includes STEM education, social identity and intergroup processes, masculinity, stereotypes, psychology in criminal justice.

Robert Kennison (rkennin@exchange.calstatela.edu) Teaches multivariate statistics and stages in maturity and aging. Research interests include human memory performance across the lifespan and experimental studies of age effects in theory-based memory and learning models.

Eric Kohatsu (ekohats@calstatela.edu) Teaches courses in research methods, clinical/counseling, human sexuality, cross-cultural psychology. Asian American psychology and cultural issues in mental health. Research focuses on racial identity issues, race relations, and the psychosocial effects of racism.

Brigitte Matthies (bmatthi@calstatela.edu) Teaches individual therapy, family therapy and abnormal psychology, and supervises MFT students in the psychology clinic. Research interests include phobias, acceptance of models of psychotherapy, diversity in interpersonal relationships, child and adolescent fitness, and assessment of personality and mood disorders

Pamela Regan (pregan@calstatela.edu) Teaches social psychology and univariate and multivariate statistics. Research focuses on interpersonal attraction, gender, and sexuality.

Heidi R. Riggio (hriaggio@exchange.calstatela.edu) Teaches social psychology, statistics and Theories of personality.

Gloria Romero (gromero@calstatela.edu) Teaches social psychology and sex and gender.

Henry Schlinger (hshclin@calstatela.edu) Teaches courses related to the M. S. degree in Psychology, Applied Behavior Analysis option, as well as Introductory Psychology and History and Systems of Psychology. His research interests include basic learning processes, schedules of reinforcement, conceptual issues in behavior analysis and psychology, rule-governed behavior, and verbal behavior.

Ji Son (json2@calstatela.edu) Teaches courses in development psychology, cognitive development, and research methods. Research focuses on the development of abstract, intelligent, and flexible thinking, and how children learn through the process of generalization.

Doug Stenstrom (dstenst@exchange.calstatela.edu) Teaches courses related to social psychology, psychology and the law, violence and aggression, forensic psychology and statistics and research methods.

Kaveri Subrahmanyam (ksubrah@calstatela.edu) Teaches courses in introductory psychology, life span development, developmental psychology, cognitive development, adolescent development, and intro statistics. Research focuses on youth and digital media such as the Internet (e.g., MySpace, Facebook), and Spanish-speakers' learning of English

Karen Wu (kwu25@calstatela.edu) Teaches research methods and multicultural psychology. Research interests include culture, intergroup romantic relationships and partner-preferences.

## FORMS AND PETITIONS

---

### **Graduate Studies Forms**

These forms can be found online through the NSS Dean's Office webpage or are available in the department office:

- GS-1A Transfer course level evaluation
- GS-12 Request for Thesis or Project Committee
- GS-13 Approval Page for Graduate Thesis
- Application – Travel Support for Students attending Conferences
- Request to Validate Expired Course(s) on a Graduate Program
- Petition to Substitute Alternate Criteria for the WPE
- Recommended Timeline and Checklist for MA Thesis

### **University Petitions**

Most forms are now available online through the University Registrar's Office. They are also available in the department office:

- Leave of Absence Petition
- Course Overload
- General Academic Petition for GRADUATE Requirements
- Request for Graduate Credit for Undergraduate Work
- Graduation Application