# Table of Contents

**Psychology Department** ........................................................................................................................................ 4  
**Mission of the Experimental Program** ........................................................................................................... 5  
**Course Work** ....................................................................................................................................................... 5  
**Administrative Points** ........................................................................................................................................... 6  
**Academic Common Market** ............................................................................................................................... 7  
**Experimental Faculty & Areas of Interest** .......................................................................................................... 7  
**Advisors** .................................................................................................................................................................. 9  
**Program Requirements** ......................................................................................................................................... 11  
**Degree Plan** .......................................................................................................................................................... 12  
**Thesis** ..................................................................................................................................................................... 12  
  - About Your Thesis............................................................................................................................................... 12  
  - Thesis Committee & Selection ............................................................................................................................ 13  
  - Thesis Timeline................................................................................................................................................... 13  
  - Thesis Proposal.................................................................................................................................................... 13  
  - Completion of Thesis.......................................................................................................................................... 14  
  - Thesis Presentation.............................................................................................................................................. 15  
  - Suggested Procedure for Thesis .......................................................................................................................... 15  
  - Thesis FAQs ........................................................................................................................................................ 16  
**Intent to Graduate Form** ......................................................................................................................................... 17  
**Comprehensive Examination** .............................................................................................................................. 18  
  - Structure of the Examination ............................................................................................................................... 18  
  - Preparing for Comps......................................................................................................................................... 18  
  - Registering for Comps...................................................................................................................................... 18  
  - Administration & Evaluation of Comps.............................................................................................................. 18  
**Re-enrollment and Leave of Absence** .................................................................................................................. 21  
**Student Psychology Organizations** .................................................................................................................... 22  
**Financial Aid/Graduate Assistantships/Awards/Scholarships** ............................................................................. 23  
  - Graduate Assistantships in the Psychology Department .................................................................................. 23  
  - Psychology Department Awards ....................................................................................................................... 24  
  - Scholarships available through the College of Graduate Studies .................................................................. 24  
  - Graduate Assistantships Offered by MTSU Non-Academic Offices ................................................................. 25  
**Contact Information** .............................................................................................................................................. 26  
**Sample Vita** ............................................................................................................................................................ 27
Facilities in the psychology department include multiple computer laboratories, EEG chamber, and eyetracker equipment. Additionally, there is a large modern animal holding facility located in the Science building. The computer labs in Jones Hall, AMG, and university computer labs in the Business School, Learning Resource Center, and the Library are available for student use. Students need to familiarize themselves with the hours the labs are available to them as soon as possible. (These may change from semester to semester.) The software on these computers includes word processing (e.g., Word), spreadsheet (e.g., Excel), presentation (e.g., PowerPoint), data analysis (e.g., SPSS, SAS), and others.

PsycINFO and other data based library systems are available in through the Walker Library portal on the Internet. Students unfamiliar with PsycINFO would benefit from learning how to use this. Personnel at the library reference desk should be able to show you how to use it and other library resources.
Mission of the Experimental Program

The goal of the Experimental emphasis in psychology is to prepare the student to be a research psychologist. The primary application is entry into a Ph.D. program in psychology. However, many industries and clinical settings are also interested in students with the analytic and statistical skills of a research psychologist.

Course Work

A highly recommended sequence of courses has been developed, but a different sequence may be recommended on a case-by-case basis (for example, if you are part-time or have numerous prerequisites). Some courses are prerequisites for other courses and should be taken early in your program of study. Your advisor will be able to help you develop your plan of study.

Graduate statistics courses should be taken in your first year to aid in your understanding of advanced topics and to assist you in designing and completing your thesis. It is recommended that you maintain notebooks and retain textbooks from all of your required classes, including the statistics courses, to aid you in studying for the comprehensive exam and as the beginning of your professional library.
Administrative Points

Students should familiarize themselves with the Graduate Catalog at the time of admission into the program. Additionally, students need to ensure that they are officially admitted into the program and have filed a Degree Plan with the Office of Graduate Studies. While you may discuss your program of study with any faculty member, it must be formally approved by your graduate advisor and the Coordinator of the Experimental Program, Dr. Stephen Schmidt. Once your Degree Plan has been filed, any changes must be approved by the Program Coordinator and filed with the Office of Graduate Studies (changes to the Degree Plan).

If you were admitted to the program conditionally, you need to make sure that your degree plan and your grades fulfill all the conditions of your admission. Students are advised to take no more than twelve hours a semester.

Registering for classes and paying your fees:

Information on how to register for classes and pay fees is available from the Scheduling Center at http://www.mtsu.edu/pipelinemt.

Summary of Procedures for Graduate Students:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure</th>
<th>Under Direction of</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree Plan program</td>
<td>Dept./Graduate Office</td>
<td>Upon Admission to the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admission to a Degree Program</td>
<td>Dept./Graduate Office</td>
<td>By completion of 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Degree Plan</td>
<td>Dept./Graduate Office</td>
<td>At time of change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intent to Graduate</td>
<td>Graduate Office</td>
<td>First week of semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Fees</td>
<td>Business Office</td>
<td>Dates scheduled each semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Exams</td>
<td>Dept./Graduate Office</td>
<td>Exams usually given 1st week of April and November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td>Dept./Graduate office</td>
<td>TBA/usually about midterm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Academic Common Market

The Academic Common Market allows out-of-state students who are admitted to approved academic programs to pay in-state tuition while attending MTSU. The list of programs available through the ACM is updated by higher education representatives from participating states and is periodically subject to change.

For current information of the Academic Common Market please visit:

http://www.mtsu.edu/acm/
Experimental Faculty & Areas of Interest


Thomas M. Brinthaupt, Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh, 1989. Social/personality, psychology of the self, group dynamics.


Donald Kendrick, Ph.D., Michigan State University, 1982. Experimental, animal learning and cognition, statistics.


Glenn E. Littlepage, Ph.D., Kansas State University, 1974. Social, group dynamics, group performance.

Cyrille L. Magne, Ph.D., University of Paul Cézanne, Marseille, France, 2005. Cognitive neuroscience, neural basis of speech perception, influence of musical training on language processing.

Alan D. Musicant, Ph.D., University of Chicago, 1982. Auditory processes pertaining to spatial perception and virtual sensory perception, biopsychology, experimental.

John Pennington, Ph.D., University of Florida, 1994. Social/Personality, Social judgment processes, identity regulation.

Constance R. Schmidt, Ph.D. Purdue University, 1980. Child cognitive development.


Stephen R. Schmidt, Ph.D., Purdue University, 1980. Memory and cognitive processes.
Advisors

You will be admitted to the experimental program by an advisor based on your area of specialization. Advisors are an important reference source for completing the experimental program and for learning about research and the field of experimental psychology. It is also wise to talk with a number of faculty for advice throughout your time as a student to develop a fuller understanding of experimental psychology careers.
**Program Requirements**

**Prerequisites**

You must demonstrate knowledge of the core areas of psychology by completing the following courses at either the undergraduate or graduate level prior to entering the Experimental Program, or during enrollment in the program (relevant courses offered at MTSU are listed in parentheses):

a. research methods (PSY 3070);
b. social psychology or personality (PSY 2210, 3230/5230, 3590, 6020 or 6030);
c. learning or cognition (PSY 4040, 4480/5480, or 6190);
d. developmental (PSY 2300, 4190, 4210/5210, 4610/5610, 6120, 6130, 6410);
e. brain and behavior, or sensation and perception (PSY 2190, 4030/5030, 4240/5240, or 4780/5780);
f. statistics (PSY 3020).

**Core Curriculum**

Candidates for the Master’s Degree must:

1. complete a total of 36 semester hours including at least 30 hours in graduate psychology courses. Only 30 percent of the total number of hours may be dually listed (5000 level meeting in conjunction with 4000 or 3000 level) courses;

2. complete PSY 6280, and 6290 (PSY 3020 or equivalent is a prerequisite for both PSY 6280 and 6290);

3. successfully write and orally present a written thesis evaluated by a committee of psychology faculty in conjunction with PSY 6640;

4. pass a written comprehensive examination prepared by the Experimental faculty (may be taken no more than twice).

5. complete the following Experimental Core Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSY 5080</td>
<td>Advanced Research Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 5240</td>
<td>Behavioral Neuroscience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 6810</td>
<td>Literature Review in Social or PSY 6020 Personality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Note: Psy 6810 will be offered once every two years, beginning Spring 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 6120</td>
<td>Developmental Psychology, or PSY 6130, or PSY 6410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 6190</td>
<td>Advanced Cognitive Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 6600</td>
<td>Independent Research (3 hours total)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 6640</td>
<td>Thesis (3 hours total)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 6590, 6660, 6670, 6680, 6700, 6720, 6730, 6740, 6790, or 6810</td>
<td>Literature Review (3 hours total)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. complete 6 hours of electives chosen with the approval of the student's advisor.

**Degree Plan**

A degree plan is an official record of your program of study. A graduate records analyst compares it to your transcript to make sure that you have met all of your requirements for graduation.

You must file a degree plan prior to completing 9 hours of graduate course work.

You may obtain a degree plan from the psychology office (JH 103), your advisor, or download the form from the Psychology Department web pages ([http://www.mtsu.edu/graduate/pdf/DegPlan_PsychEXP.pdf](http://www.mtsu.edu/graduate/pdf/DegPlan_PsychEXP.pdf)). Your advisor can help you fill out your degree plan. Once completed, both you and your advisor must sign it, and then the Experimental Coordinator (Stephen R. Schmidt) must sign it. Make a copy for yourself, and then send it to the Graduate Office.

If your program of study changes in any way, you must file a Revision to Degree Plan with the Graduate School. This is available form from the psychology office and from: [http://www.mtsu.edu/graduate/pdf/DegreePlanReviseALL.pdf](http://www.mtsu.edu/graduate/pdf/DegreePlanReviseALL.pdf). Follow the same procedures as with the Degree Plan.
Thesis

About Your Thesis

A thesis is a research project that you develop, implement, and write using the format of a standard empirical research study in psychology. It involves a literature review, a statement of hypotheses, use of standardized psychological tests or other measuring instruments, statistical analyses of the data, and writing your conclusions. The thesis must be written in APA style.

Deciding on a topic for your thesis can be done by researching areas you are interested in at the library. You can make the final decision with your advisor. Your thesis may grow out of research you are conducting with your advisor.

You sign up for variable credit (1-6 hours) when registering for thesis (PSY 6640). You must enroll for at least 1 credit hour of thesis each semester from the time you begin working on the proposal until you finish. You will receive either an “S” (satisfactory) or a “U” (unsatisfactory) grade for each semester you are registered. Keep in mind that it will probably take at least one calendar year to complete your thesis. You need 3 hours with an “S” to complete your thesis. Consult with your advisor before registering for thesis credits.

A few times each semester the Records Office sends out class rolls to each instructor requiring that they identify students who are not actually attending courses for which they are enrolled. For financial aid purposes, it is important that you are putting in a commensurate amount of effort for the number of thesis credits for which you are enrolled. If you sign up for thesis credits and do not meet with your advisor and/or do not put in the required amount of work, not only may you receive a "U" for thesis, but this may have negative implications for your financial aid. We urge you to consult with your thesis advisor about their expectations for the number of hours you need to work on your thesis each week.

Thesis Committee & Selection

You must select a thesis committee that consists of a Thesis Advisor, a Committee Member, and a Critical Reader. Your committee can be made up of anyone on the psychology faculty, but either the Advisor or the Committee Member must be a core Experimental Faculty Member. The Thesis Advisor is the person with whom you will work most closely. This person should have an interest in your topic and will give you direction and guidance from your thesis’ inception to its final approval. The Committee Member also should have some interest in your topic, but is not as involved in the process as the Thesis Advisor. This person also provides advice and suggestions from beginning to end. The Critical Reader only makes suggestions for revisions or changes on the proposal and is not necessarily involved once the proposal is approved. It is important to choose faculty for your committee with whom you can easily work, and who are knowledgeable about your topic.
Thesis Timeline

The time needed to complete a thesis and each of its parts will vary depending on the complexity of the study, the form of data collection, and other variables. Plan on about one year of work.

Thesis Proposal

Plan on at least one semester for completing the proposal process. Although there are no formal deadlines for submitting a proposal, there are several factors to consider:

- **IRB Review:**
  During the regular academic year:
  - Exempt reviews are generally completed about two weeks after submission.
  - Expedited reviews are generally completed one month after submission.
  - Proposals for full review are considered once a month. Proposals are due two weeks before the meeting. Consult with your thesis chair or the IRB website to find out the exact dates for the semester for which you want to submit your proposal.

  During the summer:
  - It is best to have your proposal reviewed during the regular academic year.
  - Obtaining IRB approval is less predictable in the summer and will generally take longer. There are no procedures for obtaining full review during the summer.

  **Note:** If you are conducting research at another institution, that institution will also have to give approval. You need to take into account that each institution has its own procedures and time for approval may vary.

- Allow at least one week from when your proposal is given to your chair or your committee, before planning to meet with your chair or committee.

- Faculty members have varying schedules in the summer and take their vacations at different times. Additionally, some faculty members are generally not on campus during the summer. Plan accordingly.

- Committees do not always approve a proposal at the first meeting.

Completion of Thesis

- Dates for the thesis to be submitted to the graduate office vary from semester to semester. Please consult the Graduate catalog for the exact dates. Generally the dates are:
  
  Fall: middle - late October  
  Spring: middle - late March  
  Summer: middle June
• Theses are typically due to the department chair **at least** one week *(preferably two)* before the graduate school deadline. You will need to make any required changes and, if required, resubmit to the department chair for approval before submitting it to the graduate office.

The thesis needs to go to your thesis committee **at least one week** before it goes to the department chair. Again, please keep in mind that your committee may (most likely will) require changes in your thesis. These changes will have to be made before the thesis is given to the department chair. Thus, it is better to give your committee a copy of complete thesis **at least three weeks** before planning to give it to the department chair. So, if the deadline for submitting the thesis to the graduate office is March 24, you need to try to get it to your committee by February 25. Do not wait until the last minute.

**Thesis Presentation**

Once you have completed your thesis, the final step is to present it at a meeting of your thesis committee. The presentation is open to all interested faculty and students, but usually the advisors, presenters, and Department Chair are the main people present. Students are also encouraged to present their theses at a professional meeting or conference. Professional meetings can include the annual meetings of national (e.g., American Psychological Association), regional (e.g., Southeastern Psychological Association), or state (e.g., Tennessee Psychological Association) organizations. Consult with your thesis advisor before you present your thesis.
Suggested Procedure for Thesis

At every stage, consult with your Thesis Advisor, and if necessary, your Committee Member.

- Select a topic; find a Thesis Advisor who will work with you.
- Select a Committee Member and Critical Reader.
- Do a comprehensive and exhaustive literature review of your topic.
- Decide on a hypothesis or hypotheses to test.
- Create a study to test your hypothesis(es).
- Write your proposal.
- Submit it to your Thesis Advisor for review.
- Make changes (repeat as often as is necessary).
- Submit your proposal to your thesis committee.
- Set up a meeting with your thesis committee to get their comments and decision on approval of your proposal.
- Make changes (repeat as often as is necessary).
- When approved, have your committee members sign the Thesis Approval Sheet (can be obtained from the Psychology Office, Jones Hall 103).
- Submit an Institutional Review Board (IRB) form.
- Submit Thesis Approval Sheet with your letter of approval from the Research Ethics Committee to Department Chair for approval.
- After successfully completing the above step, conduct your study and gather data. Note: You may not begin to conduct your study until this point.
- Analyze the data.
- Write up the results.
- Submit completed thesis for review to Thesis Advisor and Committee
- Make changes (repeat as often as is necessary).
- Submit thesis in proper form to the Psychology Department Chair two weeks before the due date for thesis submission as given in the MTSU Academic Calendar.
- Submit thesis to Graduate Office.
- Make any changes that the Graduate School requires before due date in the Academic Calendar.
- Resubmit thesis to Graduate Office.
- Present thesis after it is approved by Graduate Office.
Questions About Your Thesis

1. **Is any financial assistance available for my thesis?** The department Custom Textbook Fund may have money available to support thesis research.

2. **Is there travel money available if I present my thesis at a conference?** The Dean of the College of Graduate Studies, upon recommendation of the Graduate Council, may award travel grants to graduate students for travel related to presentation of research and creative scholarship at major conferences and venues. The department Custom Textbook Fund may also have money available to support travel to present research.

3. **Where can I get statistical help for my thesis?** Ask your committee members or your academic advisor for suggestions on how to get help.

4. **Where can I see completed theses?** The MTSU Library has a collection of theses authored by MTSU students. Additionally, your Thesis Advisor or Academic Advisor may have a collection of theses by students whom they have supervised.

5. **How long does it take to complete a thesis?** The median completion time is 1 year.

6. **Do I have to sign up for thesis credit each semester I work on my thesis?** Yes. Once you begin working on a thesis, you must sign up for at least one credit every semester (except summer) until it is completed. The grade is satisfactory or unsatisfactory (S/U) each semester.

7. **Is there a time limit in which I must complete my degree?** Six years from the day you begin classes.
Intent to Graduate Form

An Intent to Graduate Form is available at the Graduate Studies Office or on-line at http://mtsu.edu/graduate/forms.php. It must be filed with the College of Graduate Studies Office by the student no later than the first week of the semester in which the student plans to graduate or no later than the end of the first week of Summer Session II (for August graduation). Students must also pay graduation fees at the Business Office, and complete the College of Graduate Studies exit survey at the following website: http://www.mtsu.edu/graduate/student/survey.php
Comprehensive Examination

Comprehensive exams are taken near the end of your program of study. They consist of two parts: one focusing on core content areas, and one focusing on research methods and statistical interpretation. The examination was recently revised. **Students entering Fall 2017 or after will take the revised version** (i.e., Part 1B and Part 2). Students who first enrolled prior to Fall 2017 have a choice between the “old” (Part 1A and Part 2) and the revised versions of the test.

**Structure of the Examination**

**Part 1A: Core Content Areas (students enrolling in the program prior to Fall 2017 may take this section).** This section of the exam is designed to test your mastery of four core content areas in Experimental Psychology. The four content areas include: 1) Neuroscience, 2) Social/Personality Psychology, 3) Developmental Psychology, and 4) Cognitive Psychology. A list of potential questions for each area can be obtained from the Experimental Coordinator (Stephen R. Schmidt). The exam will consist of one question from each area chosen by the Experimental faculty as determined by your specific course work. Thus, for example, if you completed your social/personality requirement by taking personality, a personality question will appear on the test. These questions will be drawn from the sample questions. **Please note, the exam will cover these core content areas, as represented in your sample list of questions.**

**Part 1A Sample Test**

Question 1: Neuroscience Question  
Question 2: Social or Personality Question  
Question 3: Developmental Psychology question  
Question 4: Cognitive Psychology question  
*all questions chosen by faculty from the sample list

**Part 1B: Core Content Areas (students enrolling in the program Fall 2017 or later must take this version. Students who enrolled in the program prior to Fall 2017 may choose to take this version instead of Part 1A).** This section of the exam is designed to test your mastery of four core content areas in Experimental Psychology. The four content areas include: 1) Neuroscience and Sensation/Perception, 2) Social Psychology and Personality Psychology, 3) Developmental Psychology (Child and Adolescent), and 4) Cognitive Psychology. Note that the first three content areas consist of two related sub-areas. A list of potential questions for each content area can be obtained from the Experimental Coordinator (Stephen R. Schmidt). The sample list will include questions in each of the two sub-areas for the first three content areas. On the exam, you will be given two questions for each of the first three content areas, one from each sub-area. You will choose between these two questions. That is, you will choose between a neuroscience and a sensation/perception question, between a social and a personality question, and between a child and an adolescent question. Only one Cognitive Psychology question from the sample question list will appear on the test; all students will be required to answer the same Cognitive question. **Please note, the exam will cover these core content areas.**
content areas, as represented in the sample list of questions, and not necessarily the courses you took as a graduate student.

Part 1B Sample Test*
Question 1: Select either the Neuroscience or the Sensation/Perception Question
Question 2: Select either the Social Psychology or the Personality Question
Question 3: Select either the Child Development or the Adolescent Development question
Question 4: Cognitive Psychology question
*All questions chosen by faculty from the sample list.

Part 2: Research Methods and Statistics (all students). The methods/statistics questions are designed to test your understanding of research methodology and associated statistical analyses appropriate for various methods. Example questions (from past exams) can be obtained from the Experimental Coordinator. The questions appearing on your test will be similar in structure to the sample questions, but may differ in content.

Preparing for Comps

Contact the Coordinator of the Experimental Program for details concerning your comps. (Students entering prior to Fall 2017, please let the coordinator know which version of the exam you wish to take.) Obtain the sample questions directly from the Experimental Coordinator, and not from other students. Failure to do this may mean you have the wrong set of questions. It is advised that you contact the coordinator the first week of the term during which you plan to take the exam. It is also strongly suggested that you then contact the faculty who author the comps questions for guidance on how to prepare for each section. Question authors are listed on the list of sample questions.

Registering for Comps

We suggest that you do not wait until your last semester to take comps. Meet with the Experimental coordinator to discuss your comps during the end of your first year at MTSU. You must notify the coordinator of your intention to take comps during the first week of classes of the semester in which you plan to take comps. Also, you must notify the department secretary coordinating comps (currently Karen Nunley, mailto:karen.nunley@mtsu.edu, 898-5192, Jones Hall 104) so you can be placed on the comps list. You can register online at the Psychology Department website: http://www.mtsu.edu/psychology/grad/masterexam_reg.php. However, you must still meet with the area coordinator to discuss your comps.

Administration & Evaluation of Comps

Comps are administered on a Saturday, usually around the first of April, and the last week of October. The Experimental Area does not administer comps over the summer. For specific details, check with the comps coordinator at the beginning of the semester in which you wish to take comps. Comps are graded on a Pass/Fail basis. In order to pass, you must score at least
a 70% on each of the two sections described above (i.e., Part 1 A or B AND Part 2). At least two faculty members will evaluate each of your essays, and the grades from these readers will be averaged. It generally takes around two weeks for your grade to be reported. The length of time between taking your Comps and receiving your grade will vary, however, according to how many people take the Comps, and how many readers are involved in grading them.

If you fail your comprehensive exams, you may take the test one more time. If you only failed one of the two major sections of comps, you will be retested only on the failed section. If you fail a second time, you will not earn your degree. (You may appeal the decision.)

**Note:** If you have a disability that may require assistance or accommodation, you need to contact the comps coordinator when you sign up for comps. The comps coordinator will require a letter from the Office of Disabled Students Services (898-2783) verifying the disability and addressing any necessary accommodations.
Re-enrollment and Leave of Absence

Once admitted to the Experimental Program, a student must enroll every semester (excluding summers). If a leave of absence is necessary, consult with your advisor and submit a written request for a leave of absence to the clinical coordinator. This leave must be approved by the experimental faculty prior to the leave. If a student has broken continuous enrollment (i.e., not enrolled in a fall or spring semester), the student must apply to be readmitted to the experimental program. If a student had requested and had been granted a leave of absence, the student must write a letter to the experimental coordinator requesting readmission at least 30 days prior to the semester in which the student wishes to re-enroll. If the student had not been granted a leave of absence, the student must make the request for readmission by April 15 for enrollment in the summer or fall semester and by November 15 for enrollment in the spring semester. Readmission to the graduate college is not automatically granted.
Student Psychology Organizations

American Psychological Association
750 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4242
1 (800) 374-2721

American Psychological Society
1010 Vermont Avenue, NW
Suite 100
Washington, DC 20005-2077
1 (202) 783-2077

Tennessee Psychological Association
530 Church Street
Nashville, TN
(615) 254-7005

PSI CHI/Psychology Club
MTSU P. O. Box 87
Dr. Tom Brinthaupt, Advisor
Contact Dr. Brinthaupt for membership information.
898-2581

Psychonomic Society
1710 Fortview Road
Austin, TX 78704
(512) 462-2442
Financial Aid/Graduate Assistantships/Awards/Scholarships

1. Financial assistance is extremely limited for master's students. However, those desiring assistance should apply directly to the Office of Student Financial Aid, 212 Cope Administration Building, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN 37132; phone number, 615-898-2830.

2. Graduate Assistantships are available for 10 or 20 hours per week. Please see the Graduate School for detailed information concerning graduate assistantships [http://www.mtsu.edu/graduate/student/gtas.php](http://www.mtsu.edu/graduate/student/gtas.php). Applications must be filed by March 1 for fall semester and by October 1 for spring semester. Application found at the following website: [http://www.mtsu.edu/graduate/pdf/GraduateAsstApp.pdf](http://www.mtsu.edu/graduate/pdf/GraduateAsstApp.pdf)

Graduate Assistantships in the Psychology Department

You may apply for a Psychology Department graduate assistantship position when you apply for graduate school or after you are in graduate school.

Each year, the Department of Psychology employs several graduate assistants. These graduate students assist faculty members with both teaching and research. Graduate assistants perform a wide variety of duties, depending on faculty needs and on the assistant’s skills and background. Graduate assistants cover classes for absent professors; show videotapes to classes; monitor tests; grade homework and tests; enter, code, and analyze data; test subjects in experiments; tutor students; score IQ record forms; keep track of departmental test kits; conduct library searches; assist in teaching laboratory sections of classes; etc. No one graduate assistant is expected to be able to perform all of these duties.

The Curriculum and Graduate Studies Committee in the Psychology Department selects graduate research assistants from a pool of applicants each Spring and Fall. With the approval of the Department Chair, the selected students begin their assistantships the following semester. Several alternates also are selected in the spring to fill any openings that occur during the academic year due to illnesses, resignations, etc. Graduate research assistants are evaluated each semester by the faculty members to which they are assigned and by the Curriculum and Graduate Studies Committee. If these evaluations are favorable (and if positions continue to be available), graduate assistants may serve in the department for up to 4 semesters (2 years).

To be a candidate for a graduate assistantship, please submit the following materials to:

**College of Graduate Studies**  
MTSU, Box 42  
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

GA and program applications should be submitted at the same time. All Application materials are due by:
March 1 (Fall semester)
October 1 (Spring semester)

Failure to submit all these materials may jeopardize your chances for being accepted.

**Required Application Materials & Financial Aid Info:**

1. You must complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)](#)
2. You must complete the MTSU Graduate Assistantship Application
3. You must complete the Psychology Graduate Assistant Supplemental Application
4. You must submit a complete VITA [Sample](#)
5. You must submit a cover letter describing the skills you have which are relevant to the graduate assistantship. This letter should include the following:

   a. An explanation of financial need.
   b. Whether you prefer 10 or 20 hour a week assistantship.
   c. List your proposed classes for the next term.
   d. State what hours you have available during a typical week. Be sure to mention your availability for evening class assignments. (Be as specific as possible)
   e. Include whether you have outside employment and whether you will be doing an internship. If so, please explain how these will not interfere with your graduate assistantship and your availability.

Transcripts, GRE’s, and Letters of Recommendation that have been submitted to Graduate Studies for program application will be retrieved by the Psychology Department per request of the student. Please make this request by emailing Karen Nunley at Karen.Nunley@mtsu.edu.

Selected students will be notified by the department. Questions about the status of your application should be directed to Monica Wallace at 615-898-2165 or by e-mail at Monica.Wallace@mtsu.edu.

**Psychology Department Awards**

The department has a few awards for outstanding students. These awards are given only once each year and are competitive. The awards are the Prytula Memorial Scholarship ($500.00) and the Outstanding Graduate Student in Experimental Psychology.

**Scholarships available through the College of Graduate Studies**

There are scholarships for graduate students available through the College of Graduate Studies. Information about these and other possible scholarships, including deadlines and application forms, is available online at: [http://www.mtsu.edu/graduate/student/scholarship.php](http://www.mtsu.edu/graduate/student/scholarship.php)
Graduate Assistantships Offered by MTSU Non-Academic Offices

A number of MTSU offices have graduate assistantship positions. However, this does not mean there are assistantships available at any given time. Students can check with the individual offices about whether they have graduate assistantship positions available by calling those offices. The following offices have had GA positions in the past:

Office

Adult Student Services
Athletics
Business Office - Bursar
Career Development Center
Campus Recreation Center
Continuing Education
Disability & Access Center
Dyslexia, Center for Greek Affairs
Housing
Institutional Review Board
Instructional Technology - ITD
Multicultural Affairs
Tennessee Livestock Center
Contact Information

Experimental Coordinator
Stephen Schmidt, Ph.D.
JH 206898-2556  Stephen.Schmidt@mtsu.edu

Relevant Departmental Secretaries

Applications/Records/Comps:
Karen Nunley  JH 104 898-5192  Karen.Nunley@mtsu.edu

Graduate Assistantships:
Cindy Howell  JH 217898-5627  Cindy.Howell@mtsu.edu

Main Psychology Office:
CoTonya Malone  JH 103898-2706  Cotonya.Malone@mtsu.edu

Graduate Studies Office

Jackie Eller, Ph.D.
Interim Vice Provost for Research and Dean
Jackie.Eller@mtsu.edu
(615) 898-5897

Scott Handy, Ph.D.
Interim Associate Dean
Scott.Handy@mtsu.edu
(615) 898-5331

Anita Hermes, C.P.S.
Senior Graduate Analyst
Anita.Hermes@mtsu.edu
(615) 898-5352
Sample Vita

I. M. Student

Address:
123 Anywhere Street
Murfreesboro, TN 37130
615-898-0000
Email: Ima2b@mtsu.edu

Personal Data:
Date of Birth: January 1, 1998
Place of Birth: Murfreesboro, TN

Educational Experience:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B.S.</td>
<td>June, 2001</td>
<td>Middle Tennessee State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Expected, May 2005</td>
<td>Middle Tennessee State University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Professional Affiliations:
Psi Chi
Southeastern Psychological Association, student member

Appointed and Elected Offices:
President, Psi Chi local chapter 2001

Honors:
Outstanding Psychology Undergraduate Award 2000

Research Experience:
2000 Honors thesis research, The Effect of Social Skills Training on Acceptance into a Group. Independent research conducted under the guidance of Dr. J. Thompson.

2001 Assisted in three research projects
   a) Effect of Room Color on Test Performance with Dr. Pat Kemp.
   b) Effect of Room Size on Test Performance with Dr. Leslie Stevenson.

Publications and Presentations:
A) Published Articles

B) Presentations
References:

Dr. Pat Kemp
Department of Psychology
Middle Tennessee State University
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Dr. Leslie Stevenson
Department of Psychology
Middle Tennessee State University
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Dr. Kelly Weber
Department of Psychology
Middle Tennessee State University
Murfreesboro, TN 37132