



**NORTHERN MICHIGAN  
UNIVERSITY**

## **MS PSYCHOLOGY**

# **PROGRAM HANDBOOK**

*This document provides an overview of the MS Program in Psychology.*

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### **Department of Psychological Science**

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## **Department of Psychological Science**

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### **Department Mission**

The mission of the Department of Psychological Science is to promote the discovery, dissemination, and application of the scientific principles of psychology by facilitating academic programming, scholarship, and professional engagement both within the University and the community at large.

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## Program Overview

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The Master of Science (MS) Degree in Psychology prepares students for doctoral programs in psychology or closely related fields, such as neuroscience and cognitive science. This program provides:

- intensive research experiences in a variety of areas of psychological science
- statistical and methodological training required to examine basic or applied topics in psychological science
- advanced curriculums across subdisciplines of psychological science.

In short, the Psychology MS degree focuses both on the theoretical and hands-on aspects of psychological science. In addition to the satisfaction of completing an advanced degree, many graduates of this program will pursue training at the doctoral level while others will be prepared to work in a wide variety of occupations in which an advanced understanding of psychological theory, research methodology, and/or research experience is of value. If you are interested in pursuing a doctoral degree in psychology and/or are interested in learning the psychological theory and science behind our understanding of human behavior, this MS degree is for you!

## MS in Psychology Curriculum

### Overview of Coursework and Program Requirements\*

The M.S. program requires 32 credit hours of graduate work. To obtain a graduate degree, a student must achieve a cumulative graduate grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 (B). If a student's cumulative GPA drops below 3.0 in any semester, or if a student earns less than a B in more than six (6) credit hours, the student will be placed on probation. \*Based on 2022-2023 Graduate Bulletin.

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| <b>Total Credits Required</b>   | <b>32</b>    |
| <b>Research Design and Analysis</b>   | <b>8</b>     |
| PSY 505 Advanced Research Methods in Behavioral Sciences  | 3            |
| PSY 506 Advanced Statistics in the Behavioral Sciences  | 3            |
| AIS 535 Using Scholarly Library Resources in Support of Graduate Research   | 2            |
| <b>Electives</b>  | <b>18-21</b> |
| Choose 18-21 credits of graduate level courses with the PSY or ABA prefix. <i>No more than 8 credits can be at the 400-level.</i> |              |
| <b>Capstone</b>   | <b>3-6</b>   |
| <b>Project Option (3)</b>   |              |
| PSY 590 Applied Research (3)  |              |
| <b>Thesis Option (6)</b>  |              |
| PSY 593 Research Development (3)  |              |
| PSY 599 Thesis (3)  |              |

## Example Plans of Study

Below are several example plans of study for the various different directions you can take your MS degree. All plans of study need to meet the program requirements specified on the previous page. During (or before) you first semester, you should meet with your advisor to develop a plan of study that works for you using the **Plan of Study Form** at the Graduate Studies website: <https://nmu.edu/graduatestudies/forms-graduate-students>.

### Example 1: Thesis Option for Students Pursuing PhD Programs

| Semester                     | Title  | Credit Hours  |
|------------------------------|--|---------------|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Fall</b>   | PSY 505: Advanced Research Methods in Beh. Sciences                        | 3 cr.         |
|                              | PSY 587: Advanced Seminar in Psychological Science                         | 3 cr.         |
|                              | AIS 535: Using Scholarly Library Resources in Support of Graduate Research | 2 cr.         |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Winter</b> | PSY 506: Advanced Statistics in Behavioral Sciences                        | 3 cr.         |
|                              | PSY 587: Advanced Seminar in Psychological Science                         | 3 cr.         |
|                              | PSY 588: Topics in Psychological Science                                   | 1 cr.         |
|                              | PSY 589: Advanced Research   | 1 cr.         |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Fall</b>   | PSY 593: Research Development  | 3 cr.         |
|                              | PSY 587: Advanced Seminar in Psychological Science                         | 3 cr.         |
|                              | PSY 588: Topics in Psychological Science                                   | 1 cr.         |
|                              | PSY 589: Advanced Research   | 1 cr.         |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Winter</b> | PSY 599: Thesis  | 3 cr.         |
|                              | PSY 587: Advanced Seminar in Psychological Science                         | 3 cr.         |
|                              | PSY 588: Topics in Psychological Science                                   | 1 cr.         |
|                              | PSY 589: Advanced Research   | 1 cr.         |
| <b>Total:</b>                |  | <b>32 cr.</b> |

**Example 2: Capstone Option**

| <b>Semester</b>              | <b>Title</b>   | <b>Credit Hours</b>  |
|------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Fall</b>   | PSY 505: Advanced Research Methods in Beh. Sciences                        | 3 cr.                |
|                              | PSY 587: Advanced Seminar in Psychological Science                         | 3 cr.                |
|                              | AIS 535: Using Scholarly Library Resources in Support of Graduate Research | 2 cr.                |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Winter</b> | PSY 506: Advanced Statistics in Behavioral Sciences                        | 3 cr.                |
|                              | PSY/ABA Electives  | 5 cr.                |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Fall</b>   | PSY/ABA Electives  | 8 cr.                |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Winter</b> | PSY 590: Applied Research  | 3 cr.                |
|                              | PSY/ABA Electives  | 5 cr.                |
|                              |  | <b>Total: 32 cr.</b> |

**Example 3: Option for Clinical Psychology Focus**

| <b>Semester</b>              | <b>Title</b>   | <b>Credit Hours</b> |
|------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Fall</b>   | PSY 440: Psychological Assessment  | 4 cr.               |
|                              | PSY 505: Advanced Research Methods in Beh. Sciences                        | 3 cr.               |
|                              | AIS 535: Using Scholarly Library Resources in Support of Graduate Research | 2 cr.               |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Winter</b> | PSY 506: Advanced Statistics in Behavioral Sciences                        | 3 cr.               |
|                              | PSY 564: Psychological Interventions                                       | 4 cr.               |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Fall</b>   | PSY 593: Research Development (or PSY/ABA elective)                        | 3 cr.               |
|                              | PSY 507: Scientific and Professional Ethics for Psychologists              | 3 cr.               |
|                              | PSY 592: Psychology Practicum  | 2 cr.               |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Winter</b> | PSY 590/599: Applied Research/Thesis                                       | 3 cr.               |
|                              | PSY 592: Psychology Practicum  | 2 cr.               |
|                              | PSY/ABA Electives  | 3 cr.               |
| <b>Total:</b>                |  | <b>32 cr.</b>       |



**Example 4: Option for Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis**

| <b>Semester</b>              | <b>Title</b>   | <b>Credit Hours</b> |
|------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Fall</b>   | ABA 501: Concepts and Principles of Behavior Analysis                      | 3 cr.               |
|                              | PSY 505: Advanced Research Methods in Beh. Sciences                        | 3 cr.               |
|                              | AIS 535: Using Scholarly Library Resources in Support of Graduate Research | 2 cr.               |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Winter</b> | PSY 506: Advanced Statistics in Behavioral Sciences                        | 3 cr.               |
|                              | ABA 503: Behavior Assessment   | 3 cr.               |
|                              | ABA 504: Behavior-Change Procedures  | 3 cr.               |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Fall</b>   | ABA 505: Conceptual Analysis of Behavior                                   | 3 cr.               |
|                              | ABA 506: Practice and Ethics in Behavior Analysis                          | 3 cr.               |
|                              | PSY/ABA Electives  | 2 cr.               |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Winter</b> | PSY 590: Applied Research  | 3 cr.               |
|                              | ABA 507: Personnel Supervision and Management in Behavior Services         | 3 cr.               |
|                              | PSY/ABA Electives  | 1 cr.               |
| <b>Total:</b>                |  | <b>32 cr.</b>       |

## Course Registrations

Students sign up for content courses (PSY400 - PSY564; ABA501 – ABA508) via [mynmu.nmu.edu](http://mynmu.nmu.edu). Forms are required to register for the following courses:

| Course  | Form   |
|---|--|
| PSY589 Advanced Research  | <a href="#">Research/Practicum Credits Registration Form</a> |
| PSY590 Applied Research   | <a href="#">Research/Practicum Credits Registration Form</a> |
| PSY592 Psychology Practicum   | <a href="#">Research/Practicum Credits Registration Form</a> |
| PSY593 Research Development   | <a href="#">Research/Practicum Credits Registration Form</a> |
| PSY598 Directed Studies   | <a href="#">Directed Study Form – Graduate Level</a>         |
| PSY599 Thesis   | <a href="#">Registration for Thesis Credits</a>              |
| ABA581 Behavior Analysis Practicum I<br>ABA582 Behavior Analysis Practicum II | <a href="#">Research/Practicum Credits Registration Form</a> |

## Required Course Descriptions:

### Research Design and Analysis Courses

#### **PSY 505 - Advanced Research Methods in Behavioral Sciences 3 cr.**

**Description:** Survey of designing qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods research in the behavioral sciences. The course will emphasize database searching and thesis preparation.

#### **PSY 506 Advanced Statistics in the Behavioral Sciences 3 cr.**

**Description:** Provides a conceptual approach to learning descriptive and inferential statistical procedures in the behavioral sciences, including topics on statistical decision theory, analysis of variance, factorial designs, multiple comparison procedures, correlation, and regression. This course emphasizes the use of statistical software.

#### **AI5 535 Using Scholarly Library Resources in Support of Graduate Research 2 cr.**

**Description:** This course guides graduate students through the process of locating, critically selecting, and managing scholarly sources. Emphasis also on graduate program-specific scholarly writing rules of style compliance. Hands-on practice searching of online databases and other Internet resources is an integral part of the course. Issues discussed and applied include plagiarism, authorship & publishing research, using program-specific databases, organization, critical thinking, content evaluation, and copyright basics. Appropriate for any discipline at any graduate level.

### Capstone Courses

#### **PSY 590 Applied Research 3 cr.**

**Description:** A capstone experience designed to evaluate the student's ability to analyze key theories, principles and current research. Focusing on an identified professional or organizational issue, problem, or need, the student, employing their analytical skills, will complete and publicly present a scholarly research project comprehensively addressing the subject.

*or*

#### **PSY 593 Research Proposal Development, 3 cr.**

**Description:** Development of the thesis proposal.

#### **PSY 599 Thesis 3 cr.**

**Description:** The student develops a thesis with the help of a thesis committee. Appropriate thesis forms must be completed prior to enrollment. The thesis must be approved by the thesis committee and the Office of Graduate Education and Research. The student should consult the department and the Office of Graduate Education and Research for specific requirements.

**Elective Course Descriptions:****PSY 400 History of Psychology 4 cr.**

**Description:** Examination of the philosophical and historical roots of psychology culminating in an analysis of major theoretical perspectives leading to modern scientific psychology.

**PSY 423 The Psychology of Organizational Behavior 4 cr.**

**Description:** A focus on empirically researched areas of organizational behavior including performance management, leader behavior, organizational environments, feedback, etc., and on implementing programmatic changes through the use of researched psychological techniques. Field and laboratory investigations included when appropriate.

**PSY 440 Psychological Assessment 4 cr.**

**Description:** Advanced examination of the variety of mental health psychology patterns of disordered or dysfunctional behavior and the procedures through which they may be understood and assessed. Course will include relevant theory in psychological assessment, basic principles of psychometrics, and practical applications of psychological assessment.

**PSY 445 Positive Psychology 4 cr.**

**Description:** A combination of theoretical and practical applications of positive psychology. This course includes a focus on the background and history of positive psychology, and includes research, experience, and application of positive psychology.

**PSY 450 Methods in Psychophysiology 4 cr.**

**Description:** Seminars on relevant topics, selected by students, including independent laboratory experience involving psychophysiological research in bio-behavioral or sensory processes of humans or other animals. Includes a focus on neuroscience techniques.

**PSY 451 Sensation and Perception 4 cr.**

**Description:** Scientific exploration of sensory and perceptual phenomena with emphasis on relevant psychological laws, neurological mechanisms, the relationship between brain function and mental experience, and the practical implications of each. Laboratory investigation of methods and phenomena.

**PSY 453 Affective Neuroscience 4 cr.**

**Description:** This course explores how emotions interact with cognition and other mental processes to motivate behavior. The underlying brain basis of emotional behaviors and emotional states are explored in this course.

**PSY 457 Psychopharmacology 4 cr.**

**Description:** This course provides advanced coverage of psychoactive drugs used for recreational or therapeutic purposes. The major topics covered include basic pharmacology, psychoactive drug effects on nervous system functioning and behavior, recreational drugs, and pharmacotherapeutic drugs.

**PSY 470 Psychological Aspects of Athletic Performance 3 cr.**

**Description:** Study of psychological applications in the field of sports and coaching. Topics include behavioral coaching of motor skills, competition anxiety analysis and management, mental rehearsal techniques and aggression control.

**PSY 500 Development of Modern Psychology 4 cr.**

**Description:** Content addresses the beginnings of modern psychology from the late 19th century founding of the American Psychological Association (1892) through the 20th-century developments of physiological, learning theory, cognitive, Gestalt, humanistic, behavioral, social, psychoanalytic, and the various applied psychologies of the 21st century. Students will also learn about the structure of the American Psychological Association and its role in both the academic and professional components of the discipline.

**PSY 504 Behavioral Neuroscience 4 cr.**

**Description:** Foundation course in the biological basis of behavior: neuronal function, sensory and motor systems, limbic system, and higher cortical functions.

**PSY 507 Scientific and Professional Ethics for Psychologists 3 cr.**

**Description:** Ethical principles and practices in the conduct of psychological research and professional psychology, with an emphasis on the American Psychological Association ethics code.

**PSY 508 Program Evaluation 4 cr.**

**Description:** Basic methods of evaluation research allowing the student to undertake systematic evaluation of community and social programs.

**PSY 512 Advanced Learning: Theory and Methods 3 cr.**

**Description:** Learning theory, historically crucial experiments, and modern developments in learning, with laboratory and independent research activity.

**PSY 535 Social Psychology: Advanced Theory and Methods 3 cr.**

**Description:** Provides an overview of the major research areas in social psychology, including their major theories and historical origins and examples of recent research.

**PSY 541 Advanced Developmental Psychology 3 cr.**

**Description:** Theory and research concerning physiological and psychological development with an emphasis on current research findings and methodology.

**PSY 561 Cognition: Advanced Theory and Methods 3 cr.**

**Description:** Advanced course in cognition and selected issues in cognitive psychology. Includes theoretical review of memory and cognition issues and seminar-style presentations of selected topics in cognition.

**PSY 564 Psychological Interventions 3 cr.**

**Description:** This course explores theory and applications of adult psychotherapy interventions for correcting or resolving mental or emotional problems

**PSY 587 Advanced Seminar in Psychological Science 3 cr.**

**Description:** Advanced study of specialized content areas of psychology which have a research or theoretical base, but which are not regularly offered as part of the curriculum. Note: This course may be repeated for credit if topic differs.

**PSY 588 Topics in Psychological Science 1 cr.**

**Description:** A weekly seminar for students in the MS Program in Psychological Science. Students, faculty, and/or external speakers will make research, career development, or other psychological science related presentations during the weekly seminar. Note: This course may be repeated.

**PSY 589 Advanced Research 1-4 cr.**

**Description:** Advanced research activity under the supervision of a member of the department. Students enrolled in PY589 will participate in research-related laboratory activities in psychological science. Faculty supervisor and research project(s) must be established prior to enrollment in the course. Note: This course may be repeated.

**PSY 591 Internship 2-6 cr.**

**Description:** A supervised work experience designed to afford the student the opportunity to apply concepts learned in the classroom to actual challenges faced by training, development, and performance improvement professionals. Work is assigned and directly supervised by the participating organization with the student reporting regularly to the faculty member assigned to monitor and grade the student experience. Specifics of the student internship learning plan must be developed prior to enrollment in the course; enrollment requires instructor approval.

**PSY 592 Psychology Practicum 1-4 cr.**

**Description:** Focus will be on providing students with experience in a professional psychology setting. May be repeated for a total of 8 credits.

**PSY 598 Directed Studies 1-4 cr.**

**Description:** Independent study under the supervision of a member of the department. Supervisor and study must be selected prior to enrollment in the course and appropriate directed study forms must be completed.

**Applied Behavior Analysis Courses****ABA 501 Concepts and Principles of Behavior Analysis 3 cr.**

**Description:** This course provides a comprehensive introduction and review of the philosophical underpinnings, concepts and principles relevant to the experimental and applied analysis of behavior.

**ABA 502 Research Methods in Applied Behavior Analysis 3 cr.**

**Description:** This course will provide a comprehensive review of the concepts, experimental designs, and methods of analysis used in behavior analytic research and practice. Single-subject methodologies, graphing, and visual analysis will be emphasized.

**ABA 503 Behavior Assessment 3 cr.**

**Description:** This course will address conceptual and technical content relating to the identification of target behaviors, implementing behavior recording strategies, conducting functional behavior assessments, and review of issues relating to the assessment of behavior.

**ABA 504 Behavior-Change Procedures 3 cr.**

**Description:** This course will address conceptual and technical content relating to specific procedures used to increase, decrease, modify, or maintain socially relevant behaviors.

**ABA 505 Conceptual Analysis of Behavior 3 cr.**

**Description:** This course provides a comprehensive review of major areas of conceptual and theoretical research in behavior analysis. The course will cover topics relating to the basic research in complex operant conditioning, theoretical extensions of behaviorism, verbal behavior, and behavior analytic approaches understanding human behavior.

**ABA 506 Practice and Ethics in Behavior Analysis 3 cr.**

**Description:** This course will provide a comprehensive introduction to the ethical standards and practices of behavior scientists and applied behavior analysts. The course will cover topics relating to the history and purpose of ethical guidelines, principles of ethical practices, and the roles of scientists, practitioners, and professional organizations in society. Special emphasis will be placed on the ethical standards and responsibilities of applied behavior analysis in the clinical setting.

**ABA 507 Personnel Supervision and Management in Behavior Services 3 cr.**

**Description:** This course covers content relating to the effective training and maintenance of staff performance in behavioral health services. Topics to be emphasized include methods of supervision, instructional and training procedures, performance management, process analysis, and professional requirements of supervision.

**ABA 508 Experimental Analysis of Behavior 1-3 cr.**

**Description:** This course is designed to develop competence in understanding how principles of behavior are discovered and described in the context of basic research.

**ABA 581 Behavior Analysis Practicum I 3 cr.**

**Description:** The primary objective of this course is to deliver to students an experiential exposure to behavior analytic procedures and consulting practices. This course is designed to meet the experience standards and supervisory requirements as stipulated by the Behavioral Analysis Certification Board (BACB). This course will place emphasis on basic consultation and direct implementation.

Note: This course may be repeated for up to nine credit hours.

**ABA 582 Behavior Analysis Practicum II 3 cr.**

**Description:** The primary objective of this course is to deliver to students an experiential exposure to behavior analytic procedures and consulting practices. This course is designed to meet the experience standards and supervisory requirements as stipulated by the BACB. This course will place emphasis on program management, consultation and supervisory strategies.

Note: This course may be repeated for up to six credit hours.

**ABA 589 Research in Behavior Analysis 2 cr.**

**Description:** The primary objective of this course is to guide students through the process of conceptualizing, developing, and implementing research in the field of behavior analysis.

Note: This course may be repeated for up to four credit hours.

*Note that up to 8cr (but not more) of electives may be taken from 400 level courses. Elective credits may also be taken from outside the department upon approval from your advisor, graduate program director, and department head.*



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## Capstone Project

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A capstone project consists of the completion of a comprehensive product, such as an in-depth and analytical review of published literature. Like a master's thesis, a capstone project provides a demonstration of content knowledge and the ability to critically evaluate published scientific work. A thesis, however, goes beyond this by requiring an empirical investigation to study a research question. For the capstone option, students will develop ideas during the program, typically beginning in PSY505 Advanced Research Methods in the Behavioral Sciences and AIS535 Using Scholarly Library Resources in Support of Graduate Research. Students will receive guidance from a department faculty member, serving as the student's advisor. Students completing a capstone project will register for PSY590 Applied Research in their final semester. PSY590 consists of working with an instructor and peers to finalize the paper and to present the paper during a formal meeting with department faculty. Some flexibility is allowed for the capstone project, as agreed to by the academic advisor and PSY590 instructor, but projects typically will consist of a product listed below.

### Capstone Project Options

- **Comprehensive Literature Review:** This project option consists of a review of literature on a specific topic in psychological science. Ideal papers explore topics in need of greater coverage in the literature and provide concluding analytical judgements of the current state of knowledge and future directions. Papers must provide data-illustrative components in the form of tables and figures. The body of these papers (excludes front matter and references) must be a minimum of 50 pages.
- **Research Proposal:** A research proposal is similar to the requirements for a comprehensive literature review, except that a proposal provides hypotheses, aims for exploring these hypotheses, and description of empirical procedures to test hypotheses.
- **Two papers:** An alternative to the 50 page comprehensive literature review (or research proposal) is a shorter treatment on two topics via separate papers. These papers would each consist of a minimum of 25 pages.

- Other projects: Another project might be pursued, provided that it is consistent in depth and length of other examples provided here.

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## Thesis Research Project

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A thesis research proposal will be evaluated by the student's thesis committee before thesis research may formally begin and before the student is advanced to candidacy. The thesis committee includes (1) the student's adviser (chair of the committee), (2) one other member of the Department of Psychological Science, and (3) an appropriately qualified member from outside the department. A faculty member in another department may substitute for the department member, with approval of both the thesis adviser and the department. An open oral defense of the thesis is required. The thesis will demonstrate the student's capacity for independent work of acceptable scientific caliber. It must be completed within three years of completion of all course requirements.

### Outline of the Thesis Process

- **Obtain advisor**
  - Oversees work on thesis
  - Serve as Thesis Committee Chair
- **Form thesis idea** (this might come before picking out an advisor)
- **Form thesis committee**
  - Work with committee chair to determine committee members
  - Obtain [https://nmu.edu/psychology/sites/psychology/files/2021-06/Thesis\\_Committee\\_Membership.docx](https://nmu.edu/psychology/sites/psychology/files/2021-06/Thesis_Committee_Membership.docx) proposal with literature review, hypotheses, proposed methods, and proposed analytic plan
  - Oral proposal/presentation to thesis committee
- The proposal must be approved by your committee  
<https://nmu.edu/graduatestudies/forms-graduate-students>
- **Obtain IRB or IACUC approval**
- **Conduct thesis project (Register for PSY593 Research Development for semester prior to taking PSY599 Thesis)**
  - Funding options (go to [www.nmu.edu/grantsandresearch](http://www.nmu.edu/grantsandresearch) for opportunities)
    1. Department support may be available
    2. Spooner Grant
      - Due 9/15, 1/15, or 3/15 each year
    3. Excellence in Education Grant
      - Due 2/15 each year
- **Write thesis in consultation with thesis advisor**
  - Follow APA style
  - Follow formatting guidelines posted at <http://www.nmu.edu/graduatestudies/node/32>
- **Present and defend thesis**
  - Public oral presentation, which may contain a private defense with the committee
- Committee approval must be obtained and documented using the [Final Thesis Approval](#) Form

- **Make thesis revisions if necessary**
- **Submit Thesis to Graduate College**
  - Online submission via link at Graduate Studies page (<http://commons.nmu.edu/submit.html>)

| <b>Thesis Timeline</b> |   |  |   |   |
|------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| <b>Semester</b>        | 1 <sup>st</sup> Fall  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Winter   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Fall  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Winter  |
| <b>Tasks</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop Preliminary Topic and Proposal in PSY505</li> <li>• Use AIS535 for finding relevant background literature</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify Chair</li> <li>• Form Committee</li> <li>• Develop Analytic Plan for the Thesis in PSY506</li> <li>• Thesis Proposal (may be in summer)</li> <li>• Apply for IRB/IACUC approval</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain IRB/IACUC approval</li> <li>• Conduct Thesis Project</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit Thesis Draft to Committee</li> <li>• Defend Thesis</li> <li>• Submit Final Thesis to Grad School</li> </ul> |

Note that the timeline above is recommended in order to make timely progress in this program.

## General Thesis Guidelines

Each thesis project and committee is unique and ultimately the criteria for a particular thesis project will be determined by the thesis committee. The following guidelines should be used to help establish the expectations you should have for the thesis project.

**Organization.** Your thesis should include the following sections (and subsections):

- Abstract
- Introduction
- Literature Review
- Rationale and Hypotheses
- Method
  - Participants/subjects
  - General design/procedure
  - Specific description of all tasks and/or other measures (e.g., questionnaires, EEG or other neural measures)
  - Description of the independent variable(s) and control conditions/variables
  - Analytic strategy (i.e., how will you test your hypotheses)
- *(Note the above information should be included in the proposal & defense/final thesis)*
- Results section
  - Should include at least one graph of the main findings
  - Should include at least one table
- Discussion
- Conclusion section/statement

**Demonstrate Mastery.** Your thesis project should demonstrate mastery in the content area. This requires appropriate review and synthesis of the field. Therefore, you should plan to include at least 20 peer-reviewed references and 10 pages of synthesis of the literature in the literature review section. Similar guidelines apply to the discussion section.

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## Graduate Assistantships

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The Department of Psychological Science offers graduate teaching assistantships for a limited number of students each year. Students awarded assistantships typically teach lab sections for 100 and 200 level undergraduate psychology courses, such as introduction to psychology. In addition to gaining valuable teaching experience, graduate assistants receive a tuition waiver and a stipend.

Graduate teaching assistantship positions are granted for one year with a second year generally awarded to graduate assistants who satisfied the conditions of the assistantship, maintained at least a 3.0 GPA for each semester of the assistantship, and provided quality instruction. Please review the general requirements and responsibilities in the Graduate Assistant Handbook posted at <http://www.nmu.edu/graduatestudies/node/23>.

**New applications for the MS Program received prior to Feb 1<sup>st</sup> will be reviewed and given consideration for these graduate assistantships. Students must be on the thesis track to be eligible for a graduate assistantship.**

In the cover letter for your graduate application, please include the following:

1. A brief description of previous academic and relevant professional experience
2. A description of future academic and/or career goals that a Master's Degree in Psychological Science will contribute to
3. A ranking of your preferred laboratory sections to teach (see listing below). We cannot guarantee that you will be assigned to your preferred laboratory sections, but your preferences will be helpful as we make our scheduling assignments.
  - a. Possible courses include: Intro to Psychology, Brain and Behavior, Research Methods, Psychological Statistics, Social Psychology, Advanced Methods in Psychophysiology, and others.

*In addition to graduate assistantships within the Department of Psychological Science, NMU also offers graduate assistantships in other university offices.*

## **Facilities, Equipment, Faculty, and Staff**

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Please see the website for an updated list of Facilities, Equipment, and Faculty within the department.