



Psychology PhD/MA

**RYERSON
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School of Graduate Studies
www.ryerson.ca/psychology/graduate

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Ryerson University, 350 Victoria Street,
Toronto, ON M5B 2K3 Canada
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Psychology

PhD / MA

Launched in 2007, Ryerson University's innovative graduate program in Psychology offers students the opportunity to study in the fields of Psychological Science or Clinical Psychology, with a curriculum that is anchored in real-world issues. Trained at and recruited from top universities in Canada, the United States and around the world, the core faculty that supports the program brings a cutting-edge scientific and clinical training approach to student development.

Based in a department known for its experiential and career-focused learning, the graduate program takes advantage of its downtown Toronto location that includes a proximity to major sites for practicum training and clinical research, and offers students access to world-class training opportunities. The department has developed a new facility that includes more than 10,000 square feet of state-of-the-art research labs. The Psychology Research and Training Centre (PRTC) was built from the ground up, and was designed to meet the specialized research needs of the department. The PRTC is within walking distance of leading research hospitals including St. Michael's Hospital, the Hospital for Sick Children, Mount Sinai Hospital, Sunnybrook Research Institute, Toronto Rehab Institute and the University Health Network—therefore, it is ideally situated for linking research and practice.

The department is also developing an in-house training clinic, which will provide clinical psychology students with opportunities for clinical research and training, in addition to opportunities that already exist in the PRTC-based labs and their community-based clinical practica.

Program Highlights

The graduate program in Psychology offers the following:

- Advanced training in psychological science designed to foster excellence in basic, applied and translational research.
- Scientist-practitioner training in clinical psychology designed to meet the rigorous standards for national accreditation set by the Canadian Psychological Association (pending application and approval).
- Opportunities to contribute to the advancement of knowledge by conducting and publishing independent and collaborative research aimed both at advancing theory and solving real-world problems.
- Excellent opportunities for interdisciplinary research training.
- Innovative practica in both the Psychological Science and Clinical Psychology fields, which foster relationships among the community, university, health-care field and in business/industry.
- Preparation for careers as experimental and clinical scientists (in university, hospital, industry and other settings), consultants and a variety of other professional roles.
- Preparation for postdoctoral fellowships and careers in academia, health care and industry.

Faculty Areas of Research Expertise

Below are examples of some of the areas in which our faculty have expertise.

Clinical Psychology and Psychopathology in Adults and Children

- antisocial and delinquent behaviour
- anxiety disorders
- brain mechanisms and cognition in psychopathology
- cognitive-behavioural therapy
- couple-based interventions
- developmental psychopathology (e.g., attachment and psychopathology)
- hippocampus and memory functioning in schizophrenia
- neurocognitive skills in child and adult psychopathology
- perfectionism
- posttraumatic growth
- sleep disorders and depression
- traumatic stress

Cognition and Perception

- attention and memory
- auditory perception
- cognitive aging

- cognitive ergonomics and human factors
- cognitive neuroscience
- emotion and cognition
- emotional communication
- learning and cognitive plasticity
- multimodal perception
- music cognition
- neural representation of faces
- visual impairment and disabilities
- visual perception and aging

Developmental Psychology

- cognitive development across the lifespan
- executive function in children
- impact of impoverished early experience on cognitive and emotional processing
- infant development (e.g., perceptual-motor development and problem solving)
- influence of genetics and environment on development of the HPA axis in infants
- neurodevelopmental disorders
- social and cognitive development in children (e.g., imitation and social learning, and effects of television and video games on child development)

Health Psychology and Clinical Health Psychology

- anxiety and health
- body image and psychosocial factors affecting eating
- individuals and couples coping with chronic illness
- psychological factors in cancer and multiple sclerosis
- psychological risk factors for HIV
- psychological treatments for promotion of health behaviour
- psychology of exercise and sports

History, Culture and Individual Differences

- aboriginal health
- community health and immigration
- disabilities and higher education
- gender, sexuality and identity
- health and cultural strengths among recent immigrants
- history of psychology
- indigenous psychologies

Social, Community and Forensic Psychology

- community action research
- community mental health
- eyewitness evidence
- investigative interviews
- jury dynamics
- legal decision-making
- offender profiling
- program evaluation
- risk assessment
- social cognition

Requirements & Curriculum

This program is offered full time only. The requirements for each of the Psychological Science and Clinical Psychology fields are below.

Psychological Science

In addition to meeting the standards of a conventional experimental science program, the MA and PhD in Psychological Science have been designed to provide students with the background necessary to confidently navigate between basic and applied research questions.

The curriculum includes required courses in research methods, statistics and professional issues, and a variety of elective courses covering various foundational areas in psychology. Practicum placements provide an opportunity to apply research skills in various settings, such as health care (e.g., downtown hospitals), industry (e.g., human factors and software engineering companies), education (e.g., local public schools and universities) and government (e.g., Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, and Ministry of Transportation).

A minimum of seven courses (including one practicum) are required at the MA level. These courses, along with an MA thesis, are completed in two years. For the PhD, five courses are required (including one practicum). All PhD students also complete a doctoral dissertation and a comprehensive breadth requirement. The PhD is expected to take approximately three years to complete, after the MA is completed.

Clinical Psychology

The program is designed to train scientists-practitioners in clinical psychology and to meet all of the requirements for accreditation by the Canadian Psychological Association (pending application and approval), as well as for registration with the College of Psychologists of Ontario.

The curriculum includes courses covering core clinical topics (e.g., psychopathology, psychological assessment, psychotherapy, professional issues and ethics), research methods and statistics, other topics related to clinical psychology (elective courses), and other foundational areas. The program also includes clinical practicum placements providing an opportunity to put new skills into practice. Clinical practica can take place in a wide range of institutions and agencies, including our own department clinic (pending), local hospitals, mental health agencies and clinic, university counselling centres, schools and private clinical practices.

A minimum of 11 courses (including one clinical practicum) are required at the MA level. These courses, along with an MA thesis, are completed in two years. For the PhD, eight courses are required (including two clinical practica). All PhD students in the clinical area also complete a doctoral dissertation, as well as a comprehensive breadth requirement and a full-time clinical internship in their final year of the PhD. Including the internship, the PhD is expected to be completed in four years, after the MA is completed.

Examples of Courses Offered*

- Advances in Health Psychology
- Anxiety Disorders
- Applied and Translational Research Methods
- Behavioural Disorders in Children
- Clinical Neuropsychology
- Clinical Psychopharmacology
- Clinical Research Methods
- Cognition and Psychopathology
- Cognitive and Behavioural Therapy
- Cognitive Neuroscience
- Critical Perspectives in Psychology
- Culture and Identity
- Early Development
- Eating Disorders
- Gender and Health
- History of Psychology
- Learning, Plasticity and Memory
- Multivariate Statistical Analysis
- Perception and Action
- Perceptual and Cognitive Ergonomics
- Practicum in Teaching
- Professional Issues in Clinical Psychology
- Professional Issues in Psychological Science
- Psychological Assessment
- Psychology of Aging
- Psychology and Law
- Psychometric Theory and Research
- Psychopathology
- Research Design in Child Development
- Social Cognition
- Socio-Cognitive Development
- Statistics and Research Design
- Systems of Psychotherapy
- Treatment of Psychological Disorders
- Urban Psychology

Admission

Master of Arts (MA)

Students may be admitted to the MA program if they have graduated with a four-year approved undergraduate honours degree (or equivalent) in Psychology. In some cases, applicants with degrees in other disciplines will be considered, particularly if they have completed a broad range of psychology courses. Applicants must have completed an undergraduate degree program with a minimum A- grade point average in the last two years of study. At least two (three preferred) letters of reference (including completion of a standard reference form) are also required from former professors (one may be from a previous employer) familiar with the applicant's abilities (for applicants to the clinical field, an additional form must be completed by the referees). An interview is also required. Note that our program is essentially a combined MA/PhD. Applicants who are interested in a terminal master's are discouraged from applying.

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Note that most of our PhD spots are reserved for our own MA students, although it is possible that a small number of spots for outstanding external applicants may be available. Applicants for direct admission to the PhD program must have completed a master's program in Psychology at a recognized university. For admission to the PhD program, a master's degree with at least A- standing and demonstrated research capabilities is required. Three letters of reference are required, at least two of which must be from former professors. It should be stressed that admission to the PhD program will not be permitted until after the successful completion of a master's degree. In some cases, additional coursework may be required after admission.

All Applicants

Candidates must provide a statement of interest and a current curriculum vitae. GREs (general test) are required, and the GRE Psychology subject test is recommended, but optional.

English Language Proficiency Requirement

Applicants whose instruction during their undergraduate studies was in a language other than English are required to submit a test of English language proficiency. Applicants may demonstrate facility in English using one of the following methods:

- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)
- International English Language Testing System (IELTS)
- Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB)

Additional Information

For detailed program information, visit www.ryerson.ca/psychology/graduate.

Program Contact Information

Please refer to the contact page on the website for phone information. Please send program-specific questions to Ms. Tara Stallberg, the graduate program administrator, at tstallberg@psych.ryerson.ca or Dr. Martin M. Antony, the graduate program director, at mantony@psych.ryerson.ca.

Financial Support

Ryerson University provides financial support in the form of scholarships, awards and assistantships for as many full-time students as possible. Financial support is offered on a competitive basis, and the number of scholarships, awards and assistantships in any given year will vary. For more information on available funding, visit www.ryerson.ca/graduate/funding.

How to Apply

Online application instructions are available at www.ryerson.ca/psychology/graduate/admissions.

School of Graduate Studies
School of Graduate Studies Admissions
Ryerson University
350 Victoria Street
Toronto, ON M5B 2K3

Telephone: 416-979-5150

Fax: 416-979-5153

E-mail: grdadmit@ryerson.ca