DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

138 Holmes Hall
(585) 395-2488

Chair and Assistant Professor: Melissa M. Brown, PhD, Indiana University; Dean of the School of Science and Mathematics and Professor: Stuart Appelle, PhD, George Washington University; Associate Professors: David Abwender, PhD, University of Miami; Stacy Birch, PhD, University of Illinois; Kelly Brennan-Jones, PhD, SUNY Buffalo; Marcie Desrochers, PhD, University of Manitoba; Lori-Ann B. Forzano, PhD, SUNY Stony Brook; Janet F. Gillespie, PhD, Southern Illinois University; Susan Shonk, PhD, University of Rochester; Assistant Professors: Amanda R. Lipko, PhD, Kent State University; Sara J. Margolin, PhD, University of Florida; Laurel McNall, PhD, SUNY Albany; Matthew K. Mulvaney, PhD, University of New Hampshire; Jennifer J. Ratcliff, PhD, Ohio University.

Master of Arts in Psychology

Admission Requirements

Admission will be based on scores from the Graduate Record Examination General Test (including verbal, quantitative and analytical writing), academic transcripts from all undergraduate and graduate course work, letters of recommendation, a completed application, and a personal interview. Only matriculated students in the program are permitted to enroll in the program's required 700-level courses. Once matriculated, a student may proceed on a part-time basis, as long as reasonable progress is made toward the degree. (Students must enroll for six credits or more per semester.) Applicants will be considered for fall admission only. Contact the Office of Graduate Admissions for further information, or visit www.brockport.edu/graduate for details on the application deadlines for this program.

Program Requirements

A minimum of 42 graduate credits is required, including 30 credits of course work and 12 credits of supervised practicum experience in a local placement. Specific requirements are:

1. The following courses are required and each must be completed with a minimum grade of "B" (excluding the practicum, which is graded Satisfactory or Un satisfactory). A student receiving a grade of "B−" or lower in one of these courses has one opportunity to repeat the course and earn a higher grade. A student may not repeat more than one course.

   Credits
   PSH 631 Advanced Personality Psychology 3
   PSH 634 Psychopathology 3
   PSH 701 Evaluation and Research Methods 3
   PSH 702 Intervention Skills I 3
   PSH 703 Intervention Skills II 3
   PSH 704 Assessment I 3
   PSH 705 Assessment II 3
   PSH 709/710 Pre-Practicum/Practicum 12

2. In addition to the courses above, nine credits of course work elected under advisement are required to complete the 42 credits. Not all 500-level courses are “approved electives” for the graduate program. Elective courses may be selected from a list approved by the Graduate Advisory Committee, or the student may petition to have a nonlisted course approved as part of his/her Plan of Study. Students wishing to conduct a master’s thesis (PSH 798) may do so in lieu of six credits of the required nine credits of electives.

3. A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 (“B”) is required for the 30 credits of non-practicum course work (i.e., excluding the 12-credit practicum) required for the Master of Arts in Psychology. After completing nine or more graduate credits, matriculated graduate students whose cumulative GPA falls below 3.0 will be placed on Academic Probation I. Students will receive written notification of their probationary status from the Office of Graduate Studies.
A student placed on academic probation is expected to consult with his/her graduate advisor no later than the first week of the semester to discuss his/her plans to address academic deficiencies. After attempting nine credits in Probation I, the student’s file will be reviewed by the Department of Psychology’s Graduate Advisory Committee. If the student’s cumulative GPA is 3.0 or greater at that time, he/she is automatically removed from probation. If the student does not achieve the minimum 3.0 GPA, the Graduate Advisory Committee will either:

a. Dismiss the student from the program immediately; or
b. Continue the student on academic probation for an additional six credits, with the provision that dismissal is automatic if a minimum GPA of 3.0 is not then achieved.

A student who has been dismissed from any graduate degree program at The College at Brockport for academic deficiencies must wait at least one calendar year before enrolling in any graduate course at The College at Brockport. Readmission and acceptance of any previously earned credits will be at the discretion of the graduate program to which the student has reapplied. Graduate students can be readmitted to graduate study at The College at Brockport a maximum of one time. Students who are readmitted must meet the requirements in effect at the time of readmission and must meet with their advisor to design a new Plan of Study.

4. Practicum work may not begin until the 30 credits of course work have been satisfactorily completed (or 24 credits of course work for students electing to do a master’s thesis).

5. Students are required to enroll for a minimum of six credits per semester. The program requires a minimum of four semesters to complete.

Note: Applicants must demonstrate the degree of ethical conduct and responsibility appropriate for a professional service provider, along with the personal characteristics essential for effective clinical involvement. The Department of Psychology has the professional responsibility to deny admission or continuation in the program to any student whose level of performance and/or personal characteristics do not adequately meet academic or professional standards.

Psychology Courses

**PSH 502 Industrial/Organizational Psychology (A).** Prerequisites PSH 110 or PSH 112; PSH 202 or equivalent statistics course is recommended. Survey of theory, research and applications in major topical areas of Industrial/Organizational Psychology. Topics include work motivation, job attitudes, teams and teamwork, leadership, performance appraisal, training and development, and personnel selection. 3 Cr. Every Semester.

**PSH 532 Psychology of Social Issues (A).** Prerequisite: PSH 110 or PSH 112. Covers psychological factors related to contemporary social issues, and provides evaluation of research. 3 Cr.

**PSH 536 Psychology of Aging (A).** Prerequisites: PSH 110 or PSH 112. Provides an overview of adult development, including genetics and longevity, sexual changes with age, cognitive processes and intelligence, social change, work and retirement, sex roles, moral development and mental health, and mental disorders associated with aging. 3 Cr.

**PSH 537 Psychology and Jewish Studies (A).** Examines the psychological factors related to anti-Semitism, the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Holocaust. 3 Cr.

**PSH 541 Introduction to Clinical Neuropsychology (A).** Prerequisites: either PSH 110 or PSH 112, and PSH 341 or instructor’s permission. Introduces human neuropsychological function and disorders. Emphasizes methods of neuropsychological investigation and the links between specific brain regions/structures and higher psychological functions. Explores disorders of emotion, motor and social behavior, speech, memory, and visual-spatial abilities associated with organic brain impairments, including Alzheimer’s disease, head trauma, stroke, and other neurologic, psychiatric and medical illnesses. 3 Cr.

**PSH 542 Psychology of Eating and Drinking (A).** Prerequisites: either PSH 110 or PSH 112, and PSH 341 or instructor’s permission. Provides an in-depth look at the field of eating and drinking. Draws on research from a variety of sub-disciplines within psychology, including biopsychology, learning and motivation, personality, sensation and perception, and social psychology. Includes
theories and mechanisms of hunger and thirst, determinants of food preferences and choices, effects of food on behavior, eating disorders, overeating and obesity, and alcohol use and abuse. 3 Cr.

PSH 545 Psychopharmacology (A). Prerequisites: either PSH 110 or PSH 112, and PSH 341 or instructor’s permission. Covers the effects of psychoactive substances on the central nervous system, behavior and mood, with emphasis on the role of neurotransmitter systems and receptor sites in the mechanism of drug actions. Includes the pharmacology of recreational drugs as well as those used in the treatment of psychiatric and neurological disorders. 3 Cr.

PSH 546 Cognitive Development (A). An in-depth analysis of the development of cognitive processes during infancy and childhood. Important theoretical claims, empirical results, and research methods of relevant areas, including memory, language, metacognition and problem solving are critically evaluated. 3 Cr.

PSH 557 Creativity (A). Prerequisites: PSH 110 or PSH 112. Examines anecdotal biographical, observational, questionnaire, and experimental evidence and theory from the arts, humanities and sciences; discusses relevance of creativity to education and to healthy personal growth; explores the possibility of training for creativity. 3 Cr.

PSH 579 Contemporary Perspectives on Child Mental Health (A). Prerequisites: PSH 110 or instructor’s permission. Provides the student with a multifaceted exploration of the influence of society and culture on the contemporary issues pertaining to child mental health. Organized around a variety of themes, topics include reciprocal influences of parent-child interaction, family systems, stress, socio-cultural influences on aggression and internalizing issues, effects of the media on child mental health as well as utilization of mental health services for youth in the community. Emphasis is on the interplay of child, family, social and cultural influences and individual child outcome. May include visits to agencies serving children in Western New York. 3 Cr.

PSH 580 Principles of Assessment (A). Prerequisites: either PSH 110 or PSH 112, and PSH 202 or instructor’s permission. Explores methodological and ethical issues in assessing individuals and groups. Enables students to develop a basic understanding of assessment procedures, test design, test interpretation, and familiarity with selected intellectual, academic, employment and neuropsychological tests. 3 Cr.

PSH 582 Community Psychology (A). Prerequisites: either PSH 110 or PSH 112, and PSH 336 or instructor’s permission. Examines the discipline of community psychology, which deals with theory and practice in the prevention of socioemotional disorders and promotion of psychological well-being. Includes historical background of community psychology (e.g., the community mental health movement), the role of stressful life events/life transitions in adjustment, issues and programs in promotion of social competence, and social policy applications of psychology. 3 Cr.

PSH 583 Applied Behavior Analysis (A). Prerequisite: PSH 110 or PSH 112 or instructor’s permission. Covers the application of conditioning and learning principles to the treatment of human behavior problems. Examines both child and adult applications in home, classroom and institutional settings. 3 Cr.

PSH 584 Adolescence (A). Recommended: A general psychology course (PSH 110 or 112). Covers the application of general principles and theories of development to the adolescent period. Includes physiological changes, cognitive development, social relations, identity and other issues of adolescence. 3 Cr.

PSH 585 Advanced Behavior Analysis (A). Prerequisites: either PSH 112 or PSH 110, and PSH 583 or instructor’s permission. Investigates a number of specific areas in which the basic principles and techniques of applied behavior analysis have been successfully applied. Includes areas of study such as education, business and industry, institutional behavior, family living and interpersonal relationships. 3 Cr.

PSH 586 Psychological Disorders of Children (A). Prerequisite: PSH 110 or PSH 112. An empirical survey of childhood psychological disorders with discussion of theory, research and therapy. Emphasis placed on application of learning principles for understanding and treating disorders. 3 Cr.

PSH 588 Developmental Disabilities (A). Prerequisite: Instructor’s permission. Provides in-depth coverage of selected topics of contemporary relevance to theory and practice in the field of developmental disabilities. Issues include community integration of persons with developmental disabilities; prevention; advocacy; and special populations such as autism, behavior disorders, sensory impairments and epilepsy. 3 Cr.

PSH 592 Evolutionary Psychology (A). Reviews the fundamental principles of evolution and their application to psychological phenomenon. Topics include group behavior, mating behavior, mental health, parenting, and emotional and cognitive processes. 3 Cr.

PSH 599 Independent Study in Psychology (A). Prerequisite: Instructor’s permission. Investigates theoretical and/or empirical investigations into special topics in psychology. Arranged in consulta-
tation with the instructor. 1-6 Cr. By Arrangement.

PSH 631 Advanced Personality Psychology (A). 3 Cr. Fall. Prerequisite: Instructor’s permission. Provides an in-depth account and critical evaluation of major theoretical perspectives and current research on human personality (attachment, evolution, traits, genetics and neurobiology). Allows students to work toward integrating these ideas into a single framework and, along the way, fosters their ability to think critically and write coherently about the personality literature. 3 Cr.

PSH 634 Psychopathology (A). 3 Cr. Spring. Prerequisite: Instructor’s permission. Covers theory and research in psychopathology, including the issue of continuity versus discontinuity of normal to pathological behavior. Offers a comprehensive review and critical evaluation of behavioral disorders under the DSM-IV. Examines etiological, diagnostic and treatment/intervention considerations. 3 Cr. Fall.

PSH 636 Seminar in Child Psychopathology (A). 3 Cr. Fall. Prerequisite: Instructor’s permission. Provides an empirical survey of childhood psychopathology. Explores theoretical, treatment and research issues through lectures, readings, seminar exercises and discussions. Develops a basic understanding of historical, ethical, developmental, assessment and treatment issues in child psychopathology; characteristics and causes of disorders; and the therapeutic efficacy of various treatment methods. 3 Cr.

PSH 699 Independent Study (A). 3 Cr. Fall. Prerequisite: Instructor’s permission. Provides students with a basic understanding of psychometric theory, test design, and techniques of behavioral observation, clinical interviewing and intellectual assessment. Through lectures and lab experiences, enables students to develop beginning-level skills in behavioral analysis, test administration and developing rapport with clients. Extensively examines ethical issues in conducting assessments and the use of tests. 3 Cr.

PSH 701 Evaluation and Research Methods (A). 3 Cr. Fall. Prerequisite: Instructor’s permission. Provides an overview of research methods and evaluation, along with associated statistical considerations relevant to applied human services. Focuses on issues such as evaluating and assessing behavior change, empirical means of obtaining data on treatment (intervention) outcomes, research design options in evaluation of outcomes, critical evaluation of research, and ethical issues in research in applied settings. 3 Cr.

PSH 702 Intervention I (A). 3 Cr. Spring. Prerequisite: Instructor’s permission, matriculation into the Psychology Master’s Program. Examines behavioral intervention techniques, particularly as they apply to children and residential populations. 3 Cr.

PSH 703 Intervention II (A). 3 Cr. Fall. Prerequisite: Instructor’s permission, matriculation into the Psychology Master’s Program. Covers the theory, research and application of selected intervention methods used principally with adults. Includes these topics: progressive relaxation, systematic desensitization, cognitive self-control techniques, assertion training, rational-emotive therapy and others. 3 Cr.

PSH 704 Assessment I (A). 3 Cr. Fall. Prerequisite: Instructor’s permission, matriculation into the Psychology Master’s Program. Provides an overview of research methods and evaluation, along with associated statistical considerations relevant to applied human services. Focuses on issues such as evaluating and assessing behavior change, empirical means of obtaining data on treatment (intervention) outcomes, research design options in evaluation of outcomes, critical evaluation of research, and ethical issues in research in applied settings. 3 Cr.

PSH 705 Assessment II (A). 3 Cr. Spring. Prerequisite: PSH 704, matriculation into the Psychology Master’s Program. Continues to build on assessment skills and knowledge gained in PSH 704. Includes topics such as report writing, projective and objective methods of personality assessment, neuropsychological assessment, and the relationship between assessment and treatment planning. Allows students to learn to design, conduct, interpret and write comprehensive psychological assessment batteries. 3 Cr.

PSH 707 Pre-Practicum (A). 3 Cr. Fall. Prerequisite: Successful completion of all course work. PSH 710 may be taken concurrently. Provides students with a basic understanding of psychometric theory, test design, and techniques of behavioral observation, clinical interviewing and intellectual assessment. Through lectures and lab experiences, enables students to develop beginning-level skills in behavioral analysis, test administration and developing rapport with clients. Extensively examines ethical issues in conducting assessments and the use of tests. 3 Cr.

PSH 708 Practicum (A). 3 Cr. Spring. Prerequisite: Successful completion of all course work. PSH 709 may be taken concurrently. Provides practical experience in a human service agency. Practicum placements developed individually, based on the specific student and agency involved. Practicum is supervised by an agency staff member and a faculty member from the Department of Psychology. 1-9 Cr.

PSH 798 Masters Thesis (A). 1-9 Cr. Prerequisite: Instructor’s permission. Research project to be arranged in consultation with faculty advisor and Thesis Committee. 1-6 Cr. By Arrangement.