

SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY

Graduate Programs in Psychology

The Psychology Department presently offers six master's degree programs. Three lead to the Master of Arts in Psychology with concentrations in Developmental, Psychological Research, and Social Psychology. (Applicants interested in studying physiological psychology are currently being accepted in Psychological Research, as the Physiological program is under revision). Three areas of graduate study lead to the Master of Science in Psychology with concentrations in Clinical, School, and Industrial/Organizational Psychology. All of these programs have been designed to meet specific academic needs and to qualify students for further study and/or vocational goals.

Departmental Application Filing Dates

The programs in Clinical, School, Social, Industrial/Organizational, and Psychological Research accept applicants **only** for **Fall** semester entry. The Developmental program accepts for both **Fall** and **Spring** semester entry.

Application deadlines are

- March 1 for Fall semester entry
- October 15 for Spring semester entry

International Students

Inquiries about specific University application procedures or deadlines for international students should be directed to International Admissions at (415) 338-7811.

Graduate Record Examination (GRE) Requirement

All of the Psychology programs require the "general" portion of the GRE. In addition, the Industrial/Organizational Psychology program requires the "writing assessment" portion of the GRE and the Social Psychology program requires the "psychology subject" portion. The Gre is designed too help graduate school admission committees assess the qualifications of the applicants. For information concerning the GRE, contact the Educational Testing Service at (510) 873-8000 or San Francisco State's Testing Center at (415) 338-2271 or on the WEB at <http://www.sfsu.edu/~testing>.

The Application Process

It is very important to understand the application process. There are two parts which must be completed simultaneously. **One**, a University application must be filed with the Graduate Division. The University application form can be obtained from the Graduate Division Office (Admin Building, Room 254) on campus, online at www.sfsu.edu/~gadmit/ or by calling (415) 338-2233. **Two**, a Psychology Departmental application must be filed with the Psychology Department. Departmental application forms can be obtained from the Psychology Office (Psych Building, Room 201), e-mailing a request to psych@sfsu.edu or calling (415) 338-2711.

Application Checklist

These materials go directly to:	Psychology	Graduate Division
<input type="checkbox"/> University Application		X
<input type="checkbox"/> Departmental Application	X	
<input type="checkbox"/> Answers to Essay Questions	X	
<input type="checkbox"/> Transcripts of all Course Work	X	X
<input type="checkbox"/> GRE Scores (Official Copy)	X	
<input type="checkbox"/> Letters of Recommendation	X	

Departmental Application Instructions

1. Complete the Psychology Department's application form, and write essay answers to the appropriate questions.
2. Distribute the three recommendation forms to persons who are acquainted with your academic qualifications.¹ Request that they send the recommendation letters directly to the Psychology Department at the address below. Shortly before the deadline, contact your references to ensure that the letters have been sent. (Most useful are letters from professors in courses that are closely related to the program to which you are applying.)
3. Order a set of official transcripts from your undergraduate institution(s), including San Francisco State University, if applicable. Ask that these transcripts be sent directly to the Graduate Secretary in the Psychology Department at the address below. (A second set of transcripts should be ordered for the University application, and sent to the Graduate Division.)
4. Send all Departmental application materials by regular mail directly to:

Graduate Secretary
Psychology Department
San Francisco State University
1600 Holloway Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94132

5. Before the closing date, the Graduate Secretary will notify you as to whether your materials have been received. (If you do not hear from us, leave a message at (415) 338-2711.) Reorder and/or supply all missing materials to arrive by the due date.

¹ Applicants to the Clinical Program should include references who are familiar with their clinical experience.

San Francisco State University

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENTAL APPLICATION FOR GRADUATE STUDY

SEMESTER _____ YEAR _____

IMPORTANT! THIS IS NOT AN APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO THE UNIVERSITY. YOU MUST FILE A SEPARATE UNIVERSITY APPLICATION WITH THE GRADUATE DIVISION AT THE SAME TIME YOU FILE THIS DEPARTMENTAL APPLICATION.

Name: _____
(Last Name) (First Name) (Middle Name)

Address: _____
City/State Zip

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ SS# _____

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS: Age _____ Marital Status _____ Ethnicity _____

THIS APPLICATION IS FOR:

(Please note: Separate applications must be filed for each program.)

- M.A. Developmental, Fall or Spring M.S. Clinical, Fall
 M.A. Social, Fall M.S. School, Fall
 M.A. Psychological Research, Fall M.S. Industrial/Organizational, Fall
 Physiological, Fall

Graduate Record Examination General Test _____
Date Taken/Scheduled

Have you applied to this department before? _____ If "yes", semester and year _____

Are you a continuing graduate student at SFSU? _____

If "yes", is your status: Classified _____ Unclassified _____ Date of enrollment _____

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ATTENDED

Print names and locations of all, with most recent first.

INSTITUTION(S)	DATES	MAJOR	DEGREE

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENTAL APPLICATION ESSAY QUESTIONS

This essay portion of the departmental application should be **typed, double spaced**, and no more than **5 pages** in length. Please answer the questions listed for the graduate Psychology program to which you are applying.

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY and SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

1. What are your professional goals?
2. Aside from your professional goals, describe what you consider to be the mainspring(s) of your motivation; i.e., what is really personally important to you?
3. Please submit an autobiography so that we can more clearly get to know you as a person. We hope that this attempt will produce a meaningful confrontation with yourself and that the process of doing so will be worth the effort. In responding, it is important that you take a careful psychologically-minded perspective of your attitudes, life and goals. Your statement will be a central factor in the evaluation of your total application.

DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

1. What are your professional goals and how would completion of the graduate Psychology program at SFSU facilitate achieving them?
2. Describe the area(s) of psychology which you are most interested in and, briefly, how these interests developed.
3. What research, publication, work, volunteer, or other experiences have you had which are related to your current interests in psychology?
4. How do you see your work in developmental psychology at San Francisco State University relating to your professional goals?
5. Describe one or more people or an experience which has influenced your life.
6. What areas in developmental psychology are of special interest to you now?

INDUSTRIAL/ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

1. What are your professional goals and how would completion of the graduate Psychology program at SFSU facilitate achieving them?
2. Describe any educational, work, volunteer, or other experiences that you have had which demonstrate your abilities in the following areas. Identify where and in what capacity you had each experience.
 - a. Ability to conduct library research, including searching literatures and databases appropriate for review and report.
 - b. Ability to perform effectively as a member of a team.
 - c. Ability to analyze complex problems; and think of innovative, creative, and effective solutions.
 - d. Ability to work independently; set priorities and meet deadlines; and sustain performance and motivation on longterm projects.

PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH (including PHYSIOLOGICAL)

1. What are your professional goals and how would completion of the graduate Psychology program at SFSU facilitate achieving them?
2. Describe the area(s) of psychology which you are most interested in and, briefly, how these interests developed?
3. What research, publication, work, volunteer, or other experiences have you had which are related to your current interests in psychology?
4. What would you say is the "mainspring" of your motivation as it applies to your academic and career goals?

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

1. What are your professional goals and how would completion of the graduate Psychology program at SFSU facilitate achieving them?
2. Please summarize your principal areas of interest in psychology, and explain briefly how these interests developed.
3. Please describe experiences you've had that relate to your current interests in psychology--research, employment, volunteer activities, and others.
4. What is the motivation that underlies your academic and career goals?
5. Discuss your research interests. What areas of inquiry, objectives, methods, subject or respondent populations, and other aspects of the research process are most appealing to you? Why?

**San Francisco State University
PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENTAL APPLICATION**

Recommendation for Graduate Study

DUE DATES
March 1--Fall Entry
October 15--Spring Entry

SEND DIRECTLY TO: Graduate Secretary
Psychology Department
San Francisco State University
1600 Holloway Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94132

(This section to be filled out by applicant)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ GRADUATE PROGRAM: _____

SEMESTER/YEAR APPLYING _____

WAIVER

I hereby waive my right to view this recommendation in the Psychology Department Office. My signature implies my compliance with the complete confidentiality of this recommendation.

Applicant's Signature

Date

The Department of Psychology would appreciate your frank evaluation of this applicant's ability for graduate study in Psychology at San Francisco State University. Feel free to go beyond the categories listed on the back of this form. Pertinent observations concerning the applicant's personality will be appreciated also. It is the Department's policy that applicants can review their admissions files and this recommendation, unless the above waiver is signed by the applicant.

How long have you known the applicant? _____

In what capacity? Teacher _____ Supervisor _____ Colleague _____ Other _____
(Please specify)

How would you classify your knowledge of the applicant?

Extensive _____ Fairly Good _____ Casual _____

GENERAL EVALUATION:

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

Institution: _____

Position: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

To answer these questions, first identify the group to which you are comparing this applicant:
Your graduate students__, undergraduate students__, or another group (specify)_____.

Compare the applicant to this group and rank him or her on the following scale, understanding that “top 50%” means the applicant outranks 50% of the comparison group and “top 1%” means he or she outranks 99% of the comparison group.

1. Based on grades, test scores, and any other indications how would you rank this student in academic ability?

Applicant Ranks Within the Top ____%: 50% 25% 10% 5% 1%

Comments:

2. How would you characterize this student with respect to research ability, taking into account any available evidence with respect to originality, theoretical interests, and drive toward scientific achievement?

Applicant Ranks Within the Top ____%: 50% 25% 10% 5% 1%

Comments:

3. What is your estimate of this student's personal qualifications and potential for effective functioning as a professional psychologist after completion of a master's degree program?

Applicant Ranks Within the Top ____%: 50% 25% 10% 5% 1%

Comments:

4. How would you rate this student if he/she were being evaluated by you as a member of a selection committee?

Applicant Ranks Within the Top ____%: 50% 25% 10% 5% 1%

Comments: