

Graduate Certificate in General Psychology

Program Description:

This certificate is designed for teachers of Psychology at the high school level who need graduate-level course-work in psychology to further their knowledge of the discipline and/or meet post-secondary faculty qualifications for accreditation. This certificate provides a broad exposure to the major areas of psychology, as well as opportunities to apply psychological science to real-world issues.

Learning objectives for this certificate include:

1. **Scientific Literacy:** Appreciate psychology broadly as a science by understanding breadth of scientific methods, developing skills to competently consume and apply those methods, and conducting research.
2. **Communication:** Demonstrate competence in professional oral, written, and interpersonal communication skills.
3. **Knowledge / Application:** Demonstrate a broad base of knowledge of psychological science with the ability to apply within a wide variety of contexts. Furthermore, students should apply knowledge in a manner that is ethically appropriate, socially responsible, and sensitive to populations from diverse backgrounds.
4. **Critical Thinking:** Apply scientific thinking to evaluating evidence and multiple sources of information about behavior, including being an effective consumer of information, thinking critically and analyzing the behavior and emotions of self and others, and being able to identify and interpret journal articles.

Admission Policies and Procedure:

Admission Requirements: A baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university.

Please send an official undergraduate transcript, as well as a transcript showing any graduate work, to the College of Graduate Studies at Minnesota State University, Mankato, along with a completed application form (available on the Graduate Studies website at <http://grad.mnsu.edu/>.)

Program Policies: Please contact the Department of Psychology with questions about transferring in courses from other institutions; no more than 6 credits can be accepted for transfer. Students must earn a minimum grade of C- in all courses applied to this certificate.

Courses: Choose 18 credits of courses drawn from any 500- or 600-level Psychology department course offerings.

Flexible course options that can contribute to this certificate:

Psy 580: Portfolio

This course involves the preparation of a professional portfolio showing the connection of current work related to psychology to content, theories, and / or ideas within the discipline.

Learning Objectives:

1. Students will analyze current experiences and connect them to theories and content of the discipline of psychology. 2. Students will synthesize knowledge and/or theories within psychology to show the connection to practical work experiences. 3. Students will summarize and evaluate their current experiences related to psychology, and provide recommendations for others working in their field.

1-4 credits

Psy 581 Teaching Internship

On-site field experience teaching within the discipline of Psychology at the secondary or post-secondary level. Teaching placement is in place and arranged by the student before enrolling in this course.

Apply knowledge of teaching pedagogy to teaching content and theory of psychology. Develop course activities and assessments related to teaching scientific literacy within the context of psychological research. Assess current teaching practices to ensure that core psychological concepts and theories are communicated to students.

1-4 credits

Contact Dr. Emily Stark (Emily.stark@mnsu.edu) in the department of Psychology if you would like to enroll in either Psy 580 or Psy 581; these can be available in Fall, Spring, or Summer semesters.