

# School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences

Master of Science in Psychology



## Program Description

The Master of Science in Psychology degree program provides advanced psychology training for students interested in nationally prominent doctoral programs in psychology and for those who hope to pursue applied careers such as research science, data analysis, and program management. The curriculum introduces students to advanced psychology coursework, hands-on research experiences and ongoing professional development opportunities.

This research-focused program pairs students with a research mentor, providing opportunities to participate in laboratory-based research projects and complete an independent research study. With four major fields to choose from—Developmental Psychology, Cognition, Social/Personality Psychology and Neuroscience—students develop the expertise and skills needed to pursue a variety of exciting career paths.



## Benefits

The Psychology master's program ensures that students gain a broad understanding of their discipline, apply their knowledge and analytical skills to create effective and novel solutions to practical problems, and communicate and work effectively in collaborative environments.

Other benefits include:

- **World-Class Faculty:** One of the top-ranked master's programs in the country according to U.S. News and World Report, the Speech-Language Pathology program is led by faculty of the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences who are internationally renowned experts in their respective fields.
- **Comprehensive Curriculum:** Courses in the Speech-Language Pathology program will introduce students to new ideas, technologies, and competencies while preparing them to succeed in hospital, clinical and educational settings.
- **Facilities:** The School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences is housed in the Erik Jonsson Academic Center and research is enhanced through faculty and student participation in six centers in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.
- **Labs and Internships:** Students have the opportunity to hands-on research at one of the more than 50 labs across campus and within the School's centers and institutes.
- **Location:** Situated in the greater Dallas region—recently rated by Forbes magazine as the #1 “Best City for Jobs”—UT Dallas provides students with easy access to employers and internship opportunities, not to mention a large and supportive alumni population.

## Contact Information

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## Career Opportunities

Graduates of the Psychology master's program have gone on to pursue professional careers in a wide variety of fields. Recent graduates have found jobs such as:

- Program Specialist
- Research Manager
- Project Coordinator
- Data Analyst

The program does not provide clinical training or licensure as a counselor or psychologist. Instead, it prepares students for corporate, government and non-profit job opportunities while also equipping students to succeed in doctoral and professional degree programs.

## Marketable Skills

Upon successful completion of the MS in Psychology degree program, UT Dallas students will be able to understand, design, and conduct research in psychology, with basic knowledge in at least one of the following areas: developmental psychology, cognitive psychology, social/personality psychology, and cognitive neuroscience.

- Enhance critical and analytic thinking.
- Develop written and oral communication skills.
- Acquire the ability to conduct scientific research and data analysis.

## Application Deadlines and Requirements

Please take note of all application deadlines and visit the Apply Now webpage to begin the application process. See the Psychology website for additional information.

Applicants to the Psychology master's degree program should have:

- A bachelor's degree or its equivalent. In general, applicants to this program will have undergraduate backgrounds in psychology. Although students' qualifications will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, most students accepted for this program will have had courses in statistics and research design, developmental psychology, cognitive psychology, social psychology, personality psychology, and abnormal psychology.
- A grade point average (GPA) in undergraduate-level coursework of 3.0 or better on a 4.0-point scale.
- Test Scores: Both GRE math and verbal scores are required to be considered for admission.
- Letters of Recommendation: Applicants must submit three letters of recommendation from individuals able to judge the candidate's potential for success in the master's degree program.
- Admissions Essay: Applicants must submit an essay outlining their research experiences and interests, as well as their research fit with potential UT Dallas Psychology faculty mentors.
- International applicants must submit a TOEFL score of at least 80 on the internet-based test. Scores must be less than two years old. See the Graduate Catalog for additional information regarding English proficiency requirements for international applicants.

The application deadline is February 15th. Applicants are selected once a year to begin the program in the fall semester.

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# School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences

## About the School



The School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences is focused on the intersection of mind, brain and behavior. Through the school’s research-intensive culture, our professors and students work together to unravel mysteries that will improve human lives. They accomplish this by engaging in novel scientific discovery, translating the latest research into treatments, and sharing this knowledge through professional and community outreach. The School provides innovative training and research, offering an array of programs to develop creative thinkers. Graduate training in BBS prepares students to become scientists, educators, clinicians, social service professionals, innovators, and corporate leaders.

### Graduate Research

The School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences is committed to translating the latest research into interventions that add depth to education and provide valuable contributions to the health and well-being of humans. BBS researchers in neuroscience, psychology, and speech, language, and hearing sciences have many research grants from the most prestigious national funding agencies, including the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

### Departments

**Neuroscience.** Research in the Department of Neuroscience focuses primarily on cell and circuit plasticity in the nervous system and how this influences behavior. Major research strengths are in learning and memory; targeted plasticity for therapeutic intervention; and the neurobiology of pain.

**Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences.** Research in the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences, based at the Callier Center for Communication Disorders, this program emphasizes clinical and translational research in basic scientific understanding of brain and behavioral mechanisms of speech, language, and hearing, as well as on disorders that affect the ability of children and adults to communicate. Research strengths broadly encompass basic science, applied (translational) applications, prevention, and remediation.

**Psychology.** Research in the Department of Psychology focuses on all aspects of cognitive, developmental, and social psychology, and cognitive neuroscience. Areas of expertise include learning and memory; reasoning; perception; modeling; lifespan development (from early childhood through the oldest old); and brain disease (e.g., autism, schizophrenia, traumatic injury, neurodegeneration, addiction).

| BBS Graduate Programs                           |    |     |
|-------------------------------------------------|----|-----|
| Applied Cognition and Neuroscience              | MS |     |
| Audiology                                       |    | AUD |
| Cognition and Neuroscience                      |    | PHD |
| Speech-Language Pathology                       | MS |     |
| Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences          |    | PHD |
| Human Development and Early Childhood Disorders | MS |     |
| Psychology                                      | MS | PHD |

### Contact Information

#### Office of Admission and Enrollment

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## About the School



### Research Centers

Many of the school's activities are shaped significantly by faculty and student involvement in five centers listed below.

**Callier Center for Communication Disorders:** The Center is a national leader in providing care for children and adults with speech, language, and hearing disorders. Supporting this clinical mission, faculty members research the causes, treatments and prevention of communication disorders.

**Center for Advanced Pain Studies:** This Center's mission is to elucidate fundamental mechanisms underlying chronic pain, and to discover novel therapeutics for the treatment of chronic pain through academic, public and private partnerships.

**Center for BrainHealth:** This Center focuses its research on understanding the brain's ability to restore or protect healthy function, to protect the brain from unnecessary mental decline and to heal the brain through treatments that regenerate function.

**Center for Children and Families:** Center research emphasizes parenting and healthy families, strengthening interpersonal relationships, and enhancing thinking and learning.

**Center for Vital Longevity:** This Center focuses on understanding and expanding the capacity of the aging mind, aiming to understand how the brain changes over the lifespan, the consequences of neural aging on everyday function, and interventions that show promise for slowing cognitive aging.

**Texas Biomedical Device Center:** The Center consists of scientists, engineers, medical doctors, regulatory specialists, and clinicians committed to the development of affordable and innovative therapies and technologies to improve the quality of life for individuals suffering from neurological disorders.

### Additional Facts about BBS

- Our Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology programs are ranked #2 and #10 in the nation respectively, according to *U.S. News and World Report*.
- The School is home to leading experts in Psychology, Neuroscience and Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences.
- In fiscal year 2019, BBS faculty members were responsible for nearly \$13 million in total research funding, including roughly \$12 million from National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, and Department of Defense.
- BBS has more than 2,300 undergraduate students and nearly 600 graduate students, including two of the top 10 undergraduate majors at UTD (Neuroscience, Psychology).

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