



CAPELLA UNIVERSITY

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in **Psychology**
with a specialization in

General Psychology

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in **Psychology** with a specialization in

General Psychology

This specialization is offered in the GuidedPath delivery model.

The doctoral General Psychology specialization is for learners who want flexibility in designing a program based on their professional interests. Learners may use their electives to design an individualized area of psychology study or to design an interdisciplinary area of study that blends psychology with education or business. Upon successful completion of this specialization, learners are prepared to pursue careers as university professors, researchers, consultants, or program administrators. The requirements for this specialization are not designed to prepare graduates for licensure as professional counselors or psychologists.

Career Information

Capella's Career Center proactively assists learners and alumni in developing and implementing their unique career management goals. The Career Center staff is committed to helping you move forward in your career.

RELATED EMPLOYMENT SETTINGS TO EXPLORE

- Community college
- P-12 public/private school
- Residential care facility
- Land-based or online college or university
- Hospital/health care system
- Government—local, state, federal
- Mental health clinic
- Human resource department
- Law enforcement
- Consulting firm
- Market research firm
- Nonprofit organization
- Community counseling center
- Social service agency

RELATED JOB TITLES TO EXPLORE*

- Research coordinator/administrator
- Consultant
- Instructor
- Program administrator/director
- Adjunct or part-time faculty
- Full-time faculty
- Dean of faculty

SPECIALIZATION OUTCOMES

- Think critically in response to psychological challenges
- Lead the profession of psychology
- Perform ethically in personal and professional interactions
- Respect individuality and embrace diversity
- Communicate professionally in the discipline of psychology

Curriculum

TRANSFER CREDIT

A maximum of 25 quarter credits from previous graduate coursework may be transferred and applied to your program's requirements.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Master's degree from an institution accredited by a U.S. Department of Education-recognized accrediting agency or an internationally recognized institution

Grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale

- 19 required courses
- 5 elective courses
- Total program credits: At least 104 quarter credits

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

Three six-week courses with a four-day embedded residency experience (PSY-R8925, PSY-R8926, PSY-R8927).

CORE COURSES

| | | |
|------------|---|-------------------|
| PSY8002 | Foundations of Theory and Practice for Doctoral Psychology Learners | 5 quarter credits |
| PSY7115 | Research Foundations of History and Systems in Psychology. | 5 quarter credits |
| PSY7868 | Qualitative Design and Analysis. | 5 quarter credits |
| PSY8625** | Advanced Inferential Statistics | 5 quarter credits |
| PSY8658** | Quantitative Research Methods in Psychology. | 5 quarter credits |
| PSY-R8925 | PhD Dissertation Research Seminar Track 1 | 3 quarter credits |
| PSY-R8926* | PhD Dissertation Research Seminar Track 2 | 3 quarter credits |
| PSY-R8927* | PhD Dissertation Research Seminar Track 3 | 3 quarter credits |

Choose one from the following four courses:

| | | |
|---------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| PSY7210 | Lifespan Development | 5 quarter credits |
| PSY7510 | Psychology of Personality | 5 quarter credits |
| PSY7520 | Social Psychology | 5 quarter credits |
| PSY7610 | Tests and Measurements. | 5 quarter credits |

Choose one from the following two courses:

| | | |
|----------|--|-------------------|
| PSY8626* | Multivariate Statistics: Theory and Application. | 5 quarter credits |
| PSY8635* | Advanced Qualitative Analysis | 5 quarter credits |

SPECIALIZATION COURSES

Choose four from the following six courses:

| | | |
|-----------|--|-------------------|
| PSY7543* | Ethics and Multicultural Issues in Psychology | 5 quarter credits |
| PSY7660** | Survey Construction and Administration | 5 quarter credits |
| PSY8626* | Multivariate Statistics: Theory and Application. | 5 quarter credits |
| PSY8635* | Advanced Qualitative Analysis | 5 quarter credits |
| PSY8763* | Program Evaluation | 5 quarter credits |
| PSY9001 | Research in Psychology | 5 quarter credits |

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION AND DISSERTATION COURSES

Upon completion of all required coursework:

| | | |
|----------|--|-------------------|
| PSY9919* | Doctoral Comprehensive Examination | 3 quarter credits |
|----------|--|-------------------|

Learners must register for PSY9960 a minimum of four times to fulfill their specialization requirements.

| | | |
|----------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| PSY9960* | Dissertation Courseroom | 3 quarter credits each |
|----------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|

Courses without a PSY designation may be worth fewer than five quarter credits. Learners must carefully plan their elective courses to ensure that total credit requirements for the degree are met.

Special topics courses in the Harold Abel School of Social and Behavioral Sciences can be used as an option to complete the total required credits needed for graduation.

The courses in this program may require live web conferencing activities and/or learner audio/video recordings. Learners who require assistive technology or alternative communication methods to participate in these activities should contact Disability Services to request accommodations.

FIVE ELECTIVE COURSES

Recommended elective courses:

| | | |
|-----------|--|-------------------|
| PSY6010 | Human Prenatal Development | 5 quarter credits |
| PSY6020* | Topics in Child and Adolescent Development | 5 quarter credits |
| PSY7220 | Child Psychology | 5 quarter credits |
| PSY7230 | Adolescent Psychology | 5 quarter credits |
| PSY7510 | Psychology of Personality | 5 quarter credits |
| PSY7530 | Psychology of Group Dynamics | 5 quarter credits |
| PSY7550* | Process of Professional Development | 5 quarter credits |
| PSY7610 | Tests and Measurements | 5 quarter credits |
| PSY7660** | Survey Construction and Administration | 5 quarter credits |
| PSY7680* | Psychological Principles of Organization Development. | 5 quarter credits |
| PSY7810 | Principles of Positive Psychology | 5 quarter credits |
| PSY8110 | The Psychology of Teaching | 5 quarter credits |
| PSY8130 | Adult Learner in the Classroom | 5 quarter credits |
| PSY8150 | Exceptional Children in the Classroom | 5 quarter credits |
| PSY8170* | Principles of Instructional Design | 5 quarter credits |
| PSY8721* | Introduction to Business Practices for Psychologists | 5 quarter credits |
| PSY8730 | Consultation Psychology | 5 quarter credits |
| PSY8763* | Program Evaluation | 5 quarter credits |
| PSY8765* | Testing and Assessment in Workplace Psychology | 5 quarter credits |
| PSY8768 | Theory and Practice of Psychological Coaching | 5 quarter credits |
| PSY8770 | Psychology of Motivation and Performance | 5 quarter credits |
| PSY8795 | Psychology of Health and Stress in Organizations | 5 quarter credits |
| PSY8361* | Online Teaching in Psychology Practicum | 5 quarter credits |

OR

Choose any graduate courses.

*Denotes courses that have prerequisite(s). Refer to the course descriptions for further details.

**This course has a prerequisite that is not listed as a required course, which may increase the total number of courses needed to complete this specialization. See course descriptions for additional course prerequisites.

Core Course Descriptions

PSY8002 Foundations of Theory and Practice for Doctoral Psychology Learners

5 QUARTER CREDITS

In this course, learners improve their ability to navigate the virtual campus and become familiar with library, career center, and writing center resources. Learners identify the educational steps and requirements necessary for successfully completing the doctoral degree program in their chosen specialization; review their specialization's requirements, associated professional roles and organizations, and ethics and professional standards; and articulate a professional identity based on doctoral-level psychology training. **For PhD in Psychology learners only. Must be taken during the learner's first quarter. Cannot be fulfilled by transfer.**

PSY7115 Research Foundations of History and Systems in Psychology

5 QUARTER CREDITS

Learners in this course explore historical and contemporary schools of thought such as behavioral, humanistic, and psychodynamic psychology. In particular, learners begin the process of becoming independent researchers by developing a dissertation topic that is appropriate for their specialization and aligned with foundational theories within their chosen school of thought. **For PhD learners in Psychology only. Cannot be fulfilled by transfer.**

PSY7210 Lifespan Development

5 QUARTER CREDITS

In this course, learners gain and apply knowledge of lifespan development from infancy through adulthood, including human development processes and milestones. Learners evaluate theories and approaches for examining human development and analyze human development processes related to their specialization.

PSY7510 Psychology of Personality

5 QUARTER CREDITS

This course is an examination of personality development from the perspective of several theoretical orientations: psychodynamic, humanistic/existential, dispositional, and learning theory. Learners analyze and evaluate these theories and consider how other factors such as culture and gender contribute to personality development. This course also allows learners to apply personality theory to their professional practice.

PSY7520 Social Psychology

5 QUARTER CREDITS

This course provides an overview of how behavior is shaped and influenced within a social context. Within this framework, learners analyze interpersonal relationships, social cognition, social inference, emotion, and personality. Learners review and demonstrate their knowledge of the social psychology of decision making, attitude formation, and social attribution as they relate to contemporary issues. Learners also apply social psychological theory and research to various clinical, educational, and organizational settings.

PSY7610 Tests and Measurements

5 QUARTER CREDITS

This course focuses on essential concepts, principles, applications, and social and theoretical issues of psychological testing. Learners gain understanding in the construction of tests; analyze the development and use of tests in measuring aptitudes, achievement, attitudes, interests, and personality; and identify underlying theories of various tests. Learners analyze the characteristics desired in psychological and educational tests, with particular emphasis on reliability and validity, and examine best practices and professional standards for educational and psychological testing, including test bias and fairness. In addition, learners study the role of technology in delivery, administration, scoring, and interpretation of tests.

PSY7868 Qualitative Design and Analysis

5 QUARTER CREDITS

Learners in this course assess the fundamental concepts needed to conduct qualitative research. Learners practice qualitative research techniques; appropriate applications of qualitative research; the strengths and weaknesses of qualitative research design, sampling, and analysis and their associated interdependencies; and leverage technology when applicable. Learners also determine the steps necessary to ensure human subjects protection, and consider methodological adaptations when conducting research with vulnerable and diverse populations. **Cannot be fulfilled by transfer.**

PSY8625 Advanced Inferential Statistics

5 QUARTER CREDITS

Learners in this advanced course examine a variety of statistical analyses, including statistical power and effect size in research design, factorial and repeated measures of analysis of variance (ANOVA), analysis of covariance (ANCOVA), selected nonparametric analyses, and bivariate and multiple regression. Learners are expected to have proficiency in the use of statistical software appropriate to dissertation-level research. **Prerequisite(s): PSY7864. Cannot be fulfilled by transfer.**

PSY8626 Multivariate Statistics: Theory and Application

5 QUARTER CREDITS

This course focuses on the theory and application of multivariate statistics, including discriminant analysis, factor (components) analysis, multiple analysis of variance (MANOVA), and logistic regression. Using SPSS, learners perform and interpret the results of these analyses. Learners also apply multivariate analysis, read and understand research results in peer-reviewed psychology journals, and utilize SPSS to produce output consistent with the correct parameters and assumptions of specific multivariate procedures. In addition, learners have the option of exploring the mathematical aspects of multivariate and inferential statistics theory and application. **Prerequisite(s): PSY8625.**

PSY8635 Advanced Qualitative Analysis

5 QUARTER CREDITS

This course extends the topics covered in PSY7868 by further exploring the philosophical underpinnings of qualitative research and inquiry and emphasizes effective execution of the six school-approved dissertation research methodologies: ethnography, case study, grounded-theory phenomenology, heuristics, and generic qualitative research. Learners examine primary source references, books, and journal articles written by the developers of the six methodologies and gain an understanding of their nuances and applications. This course is designed to prepare learners to develop and conduct their own qualitative study for a dissertation. **Prerequisite(s): PSY7868.**

PSY8658 Quantitative Research Methods in Psychology

5 QUARTER CREDITS

In this course, learners synthesize knowledge of quantitative research methodology and use it to develop a quantitative research design that may form the basis of their dissertation research project. Learners compare their quantitative research design to a previously developed qualitative design on a similar topic and identify and justify the methodology most appropriate for investigating their research topic. **For PsyD and PhD in Psychology learners only. Prerequisite(s): PSY7860, PSY7868. Cannot be fulfilled by transfer.**

Specialization Course Descriptions

PSY7543 Ethics and Multicultural Issues in Psychology

5 QUARTER CREDITS

This course extends the topics covered in PSY7630 by further exploring the philosophical underpinnings of qualitative research and inquiry and emphasizes effective execution of the six school-approved dissertation research methodologies: ethnography, case study, grounded-theory phenomenology, heuristics, and generic qualitative research. Learners examine primary source references, books, and journal articles written by the developers of the six methodologies and gain an understanding of their nuances and applications. This course is designed to prepare learners to develop and conduct their own qualitative study for a dissertation. **Prerequisite(s): PSY7630.**

PSY7660 Survey Construction and Administration

5 QUARTER CREDITS

Learners in this course explore the conceptual and applied aspects of survey construction and administration processes. Course topics include comparative study designs (cross-sections versus panels); sampling techniques; data collection procedures and methods (face-to-face, telephone, paper, and Internet); survey question design that accurately measures behavior, attitude, and personality; data processing and analysis; results reporting; ethics of surveys; causal inference; and survey critiques. **Prerequisite(s): PSY7620.**

PSY8626 Multivariate Statistics: Theory and Application

5 QUARTER CREDITS

This course focuses on the theory and application of multivariate statistics, including discriminant analysis, factor (components) analysis, multiple analysis of variance (MANOVA), and logistic regression. Using SPSS, learners perform and interpret the results of these analyses. Learners also apply multivariate analysis, read and understand research results in peer-reviewed psychology journals, and utilize SPSS to produce output consistent with the correct parameters and assumptions of specific multivariate procedures. In addition, learners have the option of exploring the mathematical aspects of multivariate and inferential statistics theory and application. **Prerequisite(s): PSY8625.**

PSY8635 Advanced Qualitative Analysis

5 QUARTER CREDITS

This course extends the topics covered in PSY7868 by further exploring the philosophical underpinnings of qualitative research and inquiry and emphasizes effective execution of the six school-approved dissertation research methodologies: ethnography, case study, grounded-theory phenomenology, heuristics, and generic qualitative research. Learners examine primary source references, books, and journal articles written by the developers of the six methodologies and gain an understanding of their nuances and applications. This course is designed to prepare learners to develop and conduct their own qualitative study for a dissertation. **Prerequisite(s): PSY7868.**

The course PSY9001 provides an opportunity for learners to work alongside a Capella faculty member to conduct a research project for publication and learn about the research process.

PSY8763 Program Evaluation

5 QUARTER CREDITS

This course provides an examination of the theories, techniques, methods, and processes of program evaluation. Learners synthesize knowledge and skills gained from prior coursework to design a program evaluation, plan its implementation, and communicate the results in appropriate and effective formats. **Prerequisite(s): PSY7864.**

PSY9001 Research in Psychology

5 QUARTER CREDITS

Learners in this course engage in advanced study and research of a specialization-specific topic. Throughout the course, learners apply research, professional, and academic ethics through individual and group research tasks. The course includes participation in a faculty-directed research project. **Prerequisite(s): Completion of or concurrent registration in PSY7868.**

Elective Course Descriptions

PSY6010 Human Prenatal Development

5 QUARTER CREDITS

This course provides learners with an overview of prenatal and postnatal development through the first three months of life. Learners analyze genetic and reproductive technology and articulate its impact on families and society. Learners review and demonstrate their knowledge of the stages of prenatal development (embryonic and fetal), focusing specifically on brain development and fetal life. In addition, learners examine various prenatal illnesses and physical problems resulting from birth complications. The course presents research, theory, and best practices related to promoting healthy newborn and infant development.

PSY6020 Topics in Child and Adolescent Development

5 QUARTER CREDITS

Learners in this course apply Bronfenbrenner's systems theory framework to child and adolescent development issues. Learners analyze the impact of public policy and legislation involving education, health, the military, and the economy on the lives of children and adolescents and advocate for legislation and policies that improve those lives. Learners also read and critically evaluate selected topics related to family, school, and social relationships from theoretical systems and public policy perspectives. **Prerequisite(s): PSY6010, PSY7220, PSY7230.**

PSY7220 Child Psychology

5 QUARTER CREDITS

In this course, learners gain and apply knowledge of the developmental stages of children from the prenatal period to adolescence. Learners examine how children develop physically, emotionally, socially, and intellectually, and evaluate and articulate the influences of family, society, and culture on child and adolescent development. Learners also assess children's evolving needs and apply theory and research to recommend appropriate responses to those needs.

PSY7230 Adolescent Psychology

5 QUARTER CREDITS

In this course, learners gain and apply knowledge of the developmental stages from early adolescence to emerging adulthood. Learners evaluate and articulate the physical, psychosocial, emotional, sexual, moral, and cognitive changes associated with adolescent development and examine the ways in which adolescent development is influenced by family, society, and culture. Learners also assess the evolving needs of adolescents and apply theory and research in order to recommend appropriate responses to those needs.

PSY7530 Psychology of Group Dynamics

5 QUARTER CREDITS

This course provides a foundational understanding of group development, processes, and behaviors. Learners evaluate current group psychology theory and research and identify the elements of effective groups to gain an understanding of the psychology of group dynamics. Topics include group formation and structure, power and influence, performance and decision making, leadership, followership, and conflict in group dynamics.

PSY7550 Process of Professional Development

5 QUARTER CREDITS

Learners in this course focus on the process and content of professional development for themselves and others. Learners evaluate professional development strategies such as coaching, mentoring, and training, and identify ways to sustain their professional development through professional affiliations and networking. Other course topics include the change process, theories of adult learning, and motivation. **Prerequisite(s): PSY7543.**

PSY7680 Psychological Principles of Organization Development

5 QUARTER CREDITS

This course introduces psychological principles related to the discipline of organizational development. Learners evaluate current research, theory, and interventions that increase organizational effectiveness and lead to higher organizational performance and success. Learners also explore the history of organizational development; development needs at the individual, team, and organizational level; implementing organizational change; organizational culture and stakeholders' behavior; strategic planning; and the values and ethics that guide organizational development practitioners as change agents. **Prerequisite(s): PSY5002 or PSY5005 or PSY8001 or PSY8002; PSY7210; PSY7543; PSY7610; PSY7620; PSY7650 or PSY7653.**

PSY7810 Principles of Positive Psychology

5 QUARTER CREDITS

In this course, learners analyze the theories, research, and best practices of the scientific study of optimal human functioning. Learners integrate concepts of thriving and flourishing, gratitude and wisdom, and the science of happiness, as well as apply tools from strengths-based development. In addition, learners explore interventions based on positive psychology and their application in clinical, counseling, educational, industrial, and organizational settings.

PSY8110 The Psychology of Teaching

5 QUARTER CREDITS

Learners in this course examine the scope of psychology and other social science disciplines as it relates to postsecondary instruction in both traditional and online higher education learning environments for students 18 years and older. The focus of the course is on creating instructional objectives, applying instructional and assessment methodologies, and designing a course syllabus. Throughout the course, learners reflect on the overall design of a course as a critical component to successful teaching and its impact on academic achievement.

PSY8130 Adult Learner in the Classroom

5 QUARTER CREDITS

This course is a critical appraisal of the theories, research, and fundamental tenets associated with the education of adult learners. In particular, learners examine adult learning theories associated with cognition, intelligence, and motivation; the influences of technology, culture, community, and society on adult learners; effective instructional and assessment methodologies appropriate for adult learners in traditional, distance, and hybrid environments; and strategies for effectively communicating and building positive professional relationships with adult learners.

PSY8150 Exceptional Children in the Classroom

5 QUARTER CREDITS

In this course, learners examine different disabling conditions in children and adolescents and study their theoretical perspectives, characteristics, etiology, assessment, and remediation. Learners also explore recent trends in the field, research-based interventions, and the predominant special education law that impacts the practice of school psychology.

PSY8170 Principles of Instructional Design

5 QUARTER CREDITS

Learners in this course gain an understanding of core instructional design concepts by applying research-based learning science to effective instructional design in multiple learning contexts. Learners explore the intersection of instructional design and learning theory and assess the effectiveness of the instructional design process to achieve learning outcomes. Learners also make curriculum decisions that incorporate fundamental elements of instructional design across a spectrum of educational environments.

PSY8361 Online Teaching in Psychology Practicum

5 QUARTER CREDITS

Learners in this course are introduced to online teaching in psychology. They will gain a better understanding of academic scholarship and develop their own teaching philosophy. Learners participate in a supervised online teaching experience, during which they demonstrate skills and best practices for online teaching and learning. Throughout the course, learners are expected to engage in ongoing self-assessment of their professional and instructional competencies as they prepare to become online instructors. **Grading for this course is S/NS. Prerequisite(s): PSY8110; PSY8130; PSY8170. Cannot be fulfilled by transfer.**

PSY8721 Introduction to Business Practices for Psychologists

5 QUARTER CREDITS

In this course, learners develop an understanding of organizations as systems and the ways psychology is relevant to the performance of a business and its employees. Learners apply theoretical and research approaches from psychology to organizational settings in order to enhance business effectiveness and competitiveness. Learners gain knowledge in how to use macro-systems (cultural, leadership, and workforce diversity) and micro-systems (group dynamics and teams; conflict management; motivation and production; decision-making; selection and performance; and negotiation) to manage learning and change within organizations. In addition, learners apply psychological tool sets and methods of study within real-world organizational contexts that include government, for-profit, and nonprofit settings.

PSY8730 Consultation Psychology

5 QUARTER CREDITS

Learners in this course explore the variety of roles and interventions that engage psychological consultants in an applied setting. Learners examine psychological consultants' contributions to clinical, educational, industrial, and organizational settings and demonstrate the competencies required to evaluate and conduct psychological consultative services through applied case work, practice, self-appraisal, feedback, and discussion. Other course topics include current consultation theories, consultation ethics, models of consultation research, and the dynamics of the consultant-client relationship.

PSY8765 Testing and Assessment in Workplace Psychology

5 QUARTER CREDITS

Learners in this course review relevant theories and research methods of workplace psychology, coaching, and consultation assessment. Learners study the assessment process, identify assessment tools and their applications, and examine ways to evaluate and deliver assessment feedback. Topics include individual, group, and organizational assessment; psychometric testing; quantitative/qualitative principles and research methods; and ethical and multicultural issues associated with assessment. **Prerequisite(s): PSY7610.**

PSY8768 Theory and Practice of Psychological Coaching

5 QUARTER CREDITS

Learners in this course study the psychological underpinnings, theoretical framework, and foundational elements of evidence-based coaching. Learners explore the stages of the coaching relationship and determine an effective coaching framework to apply in different contexts, including positive psychology and Gestalt perspectives. Learners also identify ethical and multicultural issues related to evidence-based coaching. **Prerequisite(s): PSY7610.**

PSY8770 Psychology of Motivation and Performance

5 QUARTER CREDITS

In this course, learners explore various psychological theories, concepts, and principles of motivation. Learners evaluate the factors of motivation that influence personal and professional performance, success, and satisfaction. Learners also synthesize research in order to identify, assess, and integrate motivational strategies and apply models of performance enhancement.

PSY8795 Psychology of Health and Stress in Organizations

5 QUARTER CREDITS

This course provides learners with an overview of the fundamental psychological elements that contribute to a healthy work environment and promote wellness. Learners examine the elements and impact of stress on the workplace; individuals' varying degrees of resistance to work stressors and the ways an individual's personality traits affect stress; and strategies organizations can employ to promote a more healthy working environment. Other course topics include the historical perspective of stress, sociocultural sources of stress, and the distinction between personal and professional job stress. Learners explore their own stress response mechanisms and develop methods for managing stress from personal and organizational perspectives.

Comprehensive Examination and Dissertation Course Descriptions

PSY9919 Doctoral Comprehensive Examination

3 QUARTER CREDITS

This course includes an overview of the comprehensive examination process, the university's expectations of academic honesty and integrity, the three core themes of the examination, and the evaluation criteria. The courseroom mentor provides three questions addressing the core themes and learners write answers to the comprehensive examination questions. Answers are evaluated by faculty readers using point-scale scoring rubrics. Upon passing the comprehensive examination, learners are eligible to register for the first dissertation course.

Grading for this course is S/NS. Prerequisite(s): Completion of all required and elective coursework with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better. Completion of practicum courses, if applicable. Fulfillment of all residency requirements. Cannot be fulfilled by transfer.

PSY9960 Dissertation Courseroom

3 QUARTER CREDITS EACH

This course provides learners with resources, guidance, and peer and mentor support during each dissertation course as they complete the required milestones. **Grading for this course is S/NS. Learners must register for this course a minimum of four times to fulfill their specialization requirements. Prerequisite(s): PSY9919. Cannot be fulfilled by transfer.**

Residency Course Descriptions

PSY-R8925 PhD Dissertation Research Seminar Track 1

3 QUARTER CREDITS

The intensive, six-week PhD Dissertation Research Seminar Track 1 includes both an online courseroom and a face-to-face weekend residency experience. Learners interact with peers and faculty as they participate in online courseroom and weekend residency activities that emphasize applying the research skills necessary to initiate the development of a dissertation research plan. Throughout the course, learners focus on identifying a theory, topic, and research problem appropriate for their specialization. Track 1 learners must also complete PhD Dissertation Milestone 1 (Research Ethics Education). Following the weekend residency experience, learners complete a final assessment that demonstrates Track 1 learning outcomes. **For PhD in Psychology learners only. Should be taken concurrently with PSY7115. Cannot be fulfilled by transfer.**

PSY-R8926 PhD Dissertation Research Seminar Track 2

3 QUARTER CREDITS

The intensive, six-week PhD Dissertation Research Seminar Track 2 includes both an online courseroom and a face-to-face weekend residency experience. Learners interact with peers and faculty as they participate in online courseroom and weekend residency activities that emphasize applying the research skills necessary to develop a research question and to select an appropriate dissertation topic. In Track 2, learners complete PhD Dissertation Milestone 2 (Topic Approval). Following the weekend residency experience, learners complete a final assessment that demonstrates Track 2 learning outcomes. **For PhD in Psychology learners only. Prerequisite(s): PSY-R8925. Should be taken concurrently with PSY7868. Cannot be fulfilled by transfer.**

PSY-R8927 PhD Dissertation Research Seminar Track 3

3 QUARTER CREDITS

The intensive, six-week PhD Dissertation Seminar Track 3 includes both an online courseroom and a face-to-face weekend residency experience. Learners interact with peers and faculty as they participate in online courseroom and weekend residency activities that emphasize applying the research skills necessary to detail a methodological design, sampling plan, and strategy for data analysis. In Track 3, learners complete PhD Dissertation Milestone 5 (Research Plan Approval). Following the weekend residency experience, learners complete a final assessment that demonstrates Track 3 learning outcomes. **Learners must complete Track 3 prior to beginning the comprehensive examination phase of the program. For PhD in Psychology learners only. Prerequisite(s): PSY-R8926. Should be taken concurrently with PSY8658. Cannot be fulfilled by transfer.**

Recommended Course Sequence

This recommended course sequence assumes learners take two courses per quarter. Some learners elect to take fewer or more based on workload and the amount of time available for graduate study.

At each residency, learners work intensively on their topic, methodology, literature review, and research plan with the goal of developing an efficient path through the dissertation milestone process. For more information on residencies, visit <https://campus.capella.edu/web/residencies/phd-colloquium>.

Learners complete their first five dissertation milestones within their residency courses.

The comprehensive examination and dissertation courses are milestone dependent, not quarter dependent. Learners must successfully complete the comprehensive examination before registering for dissertation courses.

Dissertation milestone completion time varies based on learner progress. Reference the [PhD Milestone Guide](#) to better understand each step in the dissertation and milestone process.

| YEAR 1 | COURSES | DISSERTATION MILESTONES |
|-----------|---|---|
| Q1 | PSY8002 Foundations of Theory and Practice for Doctoral Psychology Learners | |
| Q2 | PSY7115 Research Foundations of History and Systems in Psychology | |
| RESIDENCY | PSY-R8925 PhD Dissertation Research Seminar Track 1 | 1. Research Ethics Education Completion |
| Q3 | PSY8625 Advanced Inferential Statistics Core course | |
| Q4 | Specialization course Elective course | |
| YEAR 2 | COURSES | DISSERTATION MILESTONES |
| Q5 | Elective course Elective course | |
| Q6 | PSY7868 Qualitative Design and Analysis | |
| RESIDENCY | PSY-R8926 PhD Dissertation Research Seminar Track 2 | 2. Topic Approval |
| Q7 | Core course Specialization course | |
| Q8 | Specialization course Specialization course | |
| YEAR 3 | COURSES | DISSERTATION MILESTONES |
| Q9 | Elective course Elective course | |
| Q10 | PSY8658 Quantitative Research Methods in Psychology | |
| RESIDENCY | PSY-R8927 PhD Dissertation Research Seminar Track 3 | 3. Mentor-Approved Research Plan 4. Committee-Approved Research Plan 5. Scientific Merit Approval |
| Q11 | PSY9919 Doctoral Comprehensive Examination | |
| Q12 | PSY9960* Dissertation Courseroom | 6. Institutional Review Board Approval 7. Pre-Data-Collection Conference Call |
| YEAR 4 | COURSES | DISSERTATION MILESTONES |
| Q13 | PSY9960* Dissertation Courseroom | 8. Mentor-Approved Chapters 1 & 2 |
| Q14 | PSY9960* Dissertation Courseroom | 9. Mentor-Approved Chapters 3, 4, & 5 10. Committee-Approved Dissertation |
| Q15 | PSY9960* Dissertation Courseroom | 11. School-Approved Dissertation 12. Format Editing Completion 13. Final Conference Call 14. Final Manuscript Approval 15. Manuscript Submitted for Publication 16. Dean's Final Manuscript Approval |

*Dissertation Courseroom milestones take, on average, four to eight quarters to complete.

Digital course materials covered by the quarterly resource kit fee offer advantages such as immediate mobile access to books; fast, easy full-text search of materials; digital note-taking; and peer collaboration through note sharing.

Tuition and Fees

This tuition estimate is effective July 10, 2017, and is subject to change. Total program cost can vary based on several factors, including courses per quarter, comprehensive examination and dissertation course completion time, and fees. Contact an enrollment counselor at 1.888.CAPELLA (227.3552) to discuss your specific situation.

| | TUITION/FEE |
|--|-------------|
| Tuition per credit | \$525 |
| Quarterly tuition for comprehensive examination and dissertation courses | \$2,780 |
| Resource kit per quarter | \$175 |

Learners may take one to three courses per quarter.

Learners are responsible for the cost of their travel, accommodations, food, and other expenses associated with residency requirements.

There are many financial aid options available to help you offset tuition costs.

Contact an enrollment counselor at **1.888.CAPELLA (227.3552)** to discuss your financial aid opportunities.

Financial Aid

Capella University offers assistance to learners who qualify and would like to secure educational funding to help finance their academic program. A number of options are available, given the diverse needs and backgrounds of prospective learners. Options include:

- Federal Direct Stafford Loan Program
- Federal Direct PLUS Loan Program
- Non-federal loans through preferred lenders and financial institutions
- Capella scholarships
- External scholarships
- Veterans' educational benefits and U.S. armed forces discounts
- Corporate and higher education alliances
- Employer tuition reimbursement

Regarding loan programs, interest rates for Stafford student loans are low compared to other types of consumer loans, and repayment can be deferred until after graduation. In compliance with federal and state laws, Capella University has established policies for all learners regarding satisfactory academic progress, which is necessary for financial aid eligibility.

Academic Leadership

Andrea Miller, PhD

Dean

Andrea Miller is the dean of the Department of Psychology in the Harold Abel School of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Capella University. Dr. Miller has worked as a member of the Capella undergraduate psychology department since 2010 and has taught online since 2005. Her professional background includes work as a psychologist in the public schools and as a psychologist and supervisor for non-profit clinics. She specializes in working with children and families as well as individuals of all ages with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. Dr. Miller is licensed as a psychologist in three states, licensed as a specialist in school psychology, and a human services board certified practitioner. She is active in psychological associations and served as President of the Georgia Psychological Association from 2013–2014. Dr. Miller holds a PhD in Counseling Psychology from Texas Woman's University and a BA in Psychology from the University of Michigan.

Jeanie Whinghter, PhD

Faculty Chair

Jeanie Whinghter is faculty chair of the General and Industrial/Organizational Psychology specializations within the Harold Abel School of Social and Behavioral Sciences. She has been with Capella since 2014 and has been working in the domain of online education since 2008. Dr. Whinghter has worked with Capella learners in a variety of capacities, ranging from FlexPath and regular classroom instruction to dissertation supervision and comps assessment. Dr. Whinghter holds a PhD in Industrial and Organizational Psychology from Bowling Green State University, an MS in Industrial and Organizational Psychology from Clemson University, and a BA in Psychology from Emory University. Her specialization area is occupational health psychology, which focuses on manifestations of stress and wellness within the workplace. Dr. Whinghter's professional background includes both internal and external consulting, with a balance between corporate and academic domains for application of research. She specializes in organizational needs analysis, survey design/implementation, organizational intervention initiatives, and evaluation processes.

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