

## Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Psychology with an emphasis in Behavioral Neuroscience

### Degree Program

**Goals:** Develop and refine research skills to direct programmatic research in the field of Behavioral Neuroscience. Students will take graduate courses to provide an academic foundation for a research career and work in the research lab of designated mentor to facilitate skill acquisition. All students will learn: grant writing skills, manuscript writing and publication skills, and university teaching methods.

### **Coursework:**

1. A minimum of 60 semester credit hours of graduate coursework is required beyond the baccalaureate degree. A maximum of 30 hours credit may be transferred.
2. The program has adopted an apprenticeship model of graduate training in which each student works closely and continuously with a faculty member within the realm of the faculty member's research interests, including:
  - a. Cognitive behaviors
  - b. Animal models of neuroendocrinology & psychopathology
  - c. Subcortical systems in affective behaviors
  - d. Neurophysiological correlates of post-traumatic stress disorder, of self-reflection and default modes, of emotions and romantic love, of reading disability and of prejudice
  - e. Human neuropsychology and neuroimaging

**Qualifying Examination:** After they have completed two years in the program, students must pass written and oral exams to continue in the program. Students are also required to complete a specialty paper for publication.

**Dissertation:** All students must defend orally a written dissertation proposal to their dissertation committee. A dissertation embodying the results of original research must be accepted by the faculty and the Graduate School.

### Program Website

<http://www.umsl.edu/psychology/psychology/behavioral/index.html>

### Application Requirements

1. Application <http://umsl.edu/go/Apply-Now>
2. Three letters of recommendation
  - a. From individuals who can attest to the applicant's likely success in graduate work.
3. Official transcripts from all universities attended
  - a. Applicants must have at least a baccalaureate degree at the time they will begin the program.
4. Entrance examinations
  - a. Acceptable scores on Graduate Record Examination (<http://www.gre.org/ttindex.html>).
  - b. International students are required to document English proficiency by providing scores from an internationally accepted standardized examination before a decision is made on admission.
5. Personal statement
  - a. Please submit a statement of 300-400 words with your rationale for seeking admission to a PhD program in Behavioral Neuroscience and the faculty member(s) with whom you would like to work.
6. Grade Point Average
  - a. Minimum of 3.0 on 4.0 scale.

### **Application Deadline**

The deadline for receipt of all admission materials is January 15 of each year for admission to the Fall Semester only.

### **Application Fee**

\$50 for domestic applicants; \$40 for international applicants

### **Assistantships**

Assistantships are currently funded with stipends of approximately \$12,000 per year on a competitive basis. They include a scholarship from the Graduate School for tuition.

**Graduate Program Director:** Dr. George Taylor

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