

Villanova University
MS Program in Psychology — 2023-2024 Information
gradpsych.villanova.edu

APPLICATION PREREQUISITES

To be eligible to apply to the program, an applicant must have completed (or be currently enrolled in) at least 18 undergraduate hours in Psychology, including statistics. Official transcripts, three letters of recommendation, and a statement of purpose are required elements of an application. Please see next page for a list of FAQs.

TUITION

Tuition for the 2023-2024 academic year is \$890 per credit hour, plus \$50 general fees per semester. [See the most up-to-date information regarding tuition rates](#). Students in the program generally take nine credit hours per semester during Year 1 of the program and 6 credit hours per semester during Year 2.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The following types of financial support are available to students on a competitive basis (amount for 2022-2023):

- Tuition Scholarships: Remission of tuition and fees (7 hours per week commitment to the department)
- Half-time Graduate Assistantships: Remission of tuition and fees + stipend of \$9,720 divided over 9-months (14 hours per week commitment to the department)
- Full-time Graduate Assistantships: Remission of tuition and fees + stipend \$19,440 divided over 9-months (20 hours per week commitment to the department)

ENTERING CLASS STATISTICS

- Number of completed applications received: 97 (5-year average, rounded to the nearest whole number)
- Number of students entering program: 18 (5-year average, rounded to the nearest whole number)
- Mean undergraduate Grade Point Average: 3.76 (3.83 for Psychology courses)
- Number of students supported by institutional graduate assistantship: 10

PROGRAM CURRICULUM

The following courses are required:

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| PSY 8000 | Seminar in Research: Concepts, Issues, and Methods (generally taken Fall of First Year) |
| PSY 8050 | Biological Psychology (generally taken Fall of First Year) |
| PSY 8100 | Statistics and Experimental Design (generally taken Spring of First Year) |
| PSY 8150 | Cognitive Psychology (generally taken Spring of First Year) |
| PSY 9032 | Thesis I (generally taken Fall of Second Year) |
| PSY 9033 | Thesis II (generally taken Spring of Second Year) |

Program Electives (A total of four electives are required)

At least three electives from among the following (the fourth elective occasionally is a graduate course offered by another department with advisor approval):

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|----------|-------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------|
| PSY 8175 | Animal Learning and Cognition | PSY 8400 | Personality: Experimental Research |
| PSY 8200 | Perception | PSY 8450 | Psychological Measurement |
| PSY 8225 | Psychopathology | PSY 8500 | Psychopharmacology |
| PSY 8275 | Theories of Psychotherapy | PSY 8550 | Social Psychology |
| PSY 8300 | Developmental Psychology | PSY 8900 | Special Topics* |
| PSY 8325 | Psychological Testing | PSY 9031 | Individual Research |
| PSY 8350 | History and Systems | | |

***Special Topics courses offered since 2015:** Adult Personality Development; Attention & Memory; Close Relationships; Cognitive Science; Current Directions in Memory Research; Development of Imagination; Evolutionary Approaches to Psychology; Gender & Sexuality; Industrial/Organizational Psychology; Infant Development; Intimate Relationships; Judgment & Decision Making; Minds, Brains, & Machines; Psychology of Video Games; The Self; Translational Research in Developmental Science

Villanova University – MS Program in Psychology

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) About Admissions

Updated September 3, 2023

If you have remaining questions about the program and its suitability for your goals after reviewing the [Psychology Department MS Program webpage](#), [Office of Graduate Studies website](#), and this FAQ document, we'd be happy to discuss more by email. You can reach the Director of the Graduate Program in Psychology via email at irene.kan@villanova.edu. Questions about the mechanics of applying to the program should be directed to our department's office staff at 610-519-4720 or psychologyinformation@villanova.edu.

What should I include in the Statement of Goals?

In a cohesive statement, please describe: (a) your "immediate" and "long-term" career goals, (b) how your prior experiences (e.g., academic, research, professional, leadership) have helped prepare you for graduate education, and how those experiences may have shaped your current interests, (c) why you think our program is a good fit for you, and (d) why you think you are a good fit for our program. If there are specific [faculty members whose research](#) resonate with your interests, by all means, tell us about that, too. Please note that you are not required to identify specific faculty members in your application material. Many students come to our MS program (rather than directly to PhD program) because their interests are not yet focused on a specific research area, and our program can help them refine those interests. Finally, we invite you to briefly discuss lived experiences and other relevant details that might have impacted your academic performance. Please include a brief paragraph at the end of your statement to describe those factors. In sum, your statement will help us determine the fit between your interests and our program and also the fit between our program's strengths and your eventual goals. There is no specific length requirement, but we strongly recommend keeping your statement to no more than three pages.

Is the GRE required? What about the Psychology Subject Test?

GRE Tests are **not** required.

Do you review every application? Or do you use some kind of a triage process?

The admissions committee reviews all applications holistically—that means we consider your GPA, prior research/teaching experience, statement of goals, letters of recommendation, and fit with our program. We do not use cut-off scores, and we review all applications that we receive.

Are graduate assistantships available?

Graduate assistantships are merit-based, and our evaluation includes your entire application portfolio. Funding decisions are made separately from admission decisions and are made on a rolling basis. Those who complete their applications by March 1 will receive priority consideration, and the first round of funding decisions are typically made near the end of March.

The university also offers graduate assistantships in other offices. We encourage you to explore the "Funding Opportunities" section on the [Financing Your Education page](#).

When will I receive an admission decision?

Admission decisions are made on a rolling basis. In a typical year, we begin application review in mid-January. Completed applications are typically reviewed within a few weeks of submission.

Can I include a resume or CV? How about a writing sample?

Yes! The online application system will allow you to include additional materials that are not required. Resumes and writing samples are among the items that can be helpful for evaluating your application.

Who should I ask to write my letters of recommendation?

We would recommend submitting letters from professors or research supervisors who can speak to your academic aptitude and/or research abilities. While letters from Psychology professors will be the most directly relevant, letters from professors in other disciplines are often appropriate.

What if I don't have all the pre-requisites by the time of application?

In general, we only consider applicants who have fulfilled all the [application requirements](#). Under rare circumstances, we would consider special requests. Please email the Program Director at irene.kan@villanova.edu for additional information.

Are there special requirements for international students?

Yes, there are. Please [learn more about applying as an international student](#).

What are the kinds of research opportunities available to graduate students?

All of our students volunteer in research labs. In some cases, some students volunteer in multiple labs. [See additional information about specific labs](#).

How is thesis mentorship determined?

As students begin our program, we encourage them to explore/refine their interests by volunteering in faculty members' labs. That is usually a great way to get to know the faculty members, their interests, and the culture of their labs. At some point during the student's first year (usually towards the end of the Fall semester), they would approach potential thesis mentors and gauge mutual interests. Every faculty member has a slightly different timeline in terms of committing to a thesis student. To help with that process, each faculty member has a document that outlines their preferences and expectations, and these documents are available to all students to peruse. Related to that, faculty members will present their work in one of the required classes during the first semester. This is another opportunity for you to hear about active projects in the labs.

Do you interview candidates for admission?

On-campus interviews are not a necessary or typical part of our admission process. We invite all candidates accepted for admission to visit our department and meet with faculty members as well as current students. If you are interested in visiting before applying or during the admissions process, the program director will be happy to arrange a meeting with you. We also encourage you to consider attending the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Graduate Open House, where one of us will be available to chat, or a [Virtual Information Session](#) offered by Graduate Studies. In addition to learning more about the university, attendees of either event will receive an application fee waiver.

I have been placed on the Wait List. What does that mean?

Generally speaking, this means that although your credentials and aptitude make you a suitable candidate for admission to our program, we are unable to admit you at this time. This is because we typically receive a significantly higher number of applications from qualified candidates than we have available spots. All Wait List candidates' credentials will be re-evaluated at a later point in the admissions cycle. Although it varies from year to year, we generally begin this reconsideration process in late April or early May.