

PSYCHOLOGY, M.A. (RESTRICTED TO STUDENTS IN THE PSYCHOLOGY, PH.D. PROGRAM)

The Masters Degree (MA) was established as a way to formalize courses taken and research experience acquired for students enrolled in our Ph.D. program in Clinical-Community Psychology. In addition, the conferring of this degree to students in their second or third year in the doctoral program increases opportunities for them for on-campus teaching, and for externships in community settings. The MA does not increase the course requirements which students will have to take to achieve their Ph.D. but rather specifies core courses and experiences students typically complete by the end of their second year, or by the end of first semester in their third year in the doctoral program, with the thesis requirement included in this degree. Students will be required to defend the Masters thesis and jointly take an oral comprehensive examination on their knowledge based on coursework and experiences to date at the time of the defense. All students who enter the program without a Masters Degree must complete the requirements for a Masters. In rare cases, students not showing adequate progress toward the Ph.D. may be declined the ability to continue in the doctoral program, and may be guided toward completion of the MA as their terminal degree at the USC.

Learning Outcomes

1. Synthesize advanced knowledge in their selected concentration (School Psychology, Clinical Community Psychology, Cognitive and Neural Sciences, or Quantitative Psychology) and specific field of inquiry.
2. Select and use appropriate analytic tools and methods to conduct high quality research and/or select and use evidence-based assessment, intervention, or prevention practices.
3. Conduct ethical research that advances the state of knowledge in their selected field of inquiry.
4. Communicate effectively in written and oral formats appropriate to a variety of different constituents in applied and/or research settings.
5. Apply knowledge of diversity and multi-cultural sensitivity issues (cultural, racial, and gender differences, similarities, and contributions) to professional practice and research issues in their field of inquiry.