Welcome to Arizona State University’s Master of Science program in Forensic Psychology (Online). We have designed this program to give our students a strong foundation in forensic assessment, legal decision making, criminological theory, psychological research, and criminal law. Our program emphasizes an interdisciplinary approach involving both psychology and criminology courses allowing students to understand the field from multiple perspectives.

This program requires 33 credit hours of coursework including a 3 credit hour capstone course. For those admitted prior to Fall 2018, 33 credits and a comprehensive exam are required. The program can be completed in as little as 12 months or at your own pace. It is critical that you review this handbook thoroughly to ensure successful completion of all requirements.

Arizona State University comprises sixteen colleges and schools spread across four campuses in the Phoenix, Arizona metropolitan area. The online MS program in Forensic Psychology is offered by the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, which is part of the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, and is physically housed on ASU’s West Campus in Phoenix, AZ.

If you have any questions about our Online Forensic Psychology program, feel free to contact NCGradOnline@asu.edu.
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Admissions

Admission to the MS Forensic Psychology program is offered for the following sessions, five times a year: Fall A (August), Fall B (October), Spring A (January), Spring B (March), and Summer A (May). The program uses a rolling admission deadline and admission decisions are typically made within two weeks of files being completed. You can visit the program website for more information related to application and admission requirements. This program uses a rolling admission deadline and admissions decisions are typically made within two weeks of files being completed within an active review period. The deadline listed represents the date on which all application materials must be received and processed by Arizona State University. Prospective students are strongly encouraged to initiate and complete the application at least one month before the listed deadline. ASU Graduate Admissions establishes separate deadlines that impact late fees. For more information please visit: https://students.asu.edu/graduate/apply.

Applications are accepted online through the ASU Graduate College admissions system. The application fee is $70.

Application Materials

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor’s or master’s degree, in any field, from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.0 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of a student’s first bachelor’s degree program, or applicants must have a completed a minimum of 6 credit hours of graduate level coursework from an accredited institution and has achieved a 3.0 cumulative GPA, or higher. *However, it is strongly recommended that the applicant have a higher GPA then the minimum 3.0 GPA that is required.

All applicants must submit:

1. Graduate admission application and application fee
2. Official transcripts
3. Statement of purpose
4. Two letters of recommendation
5. Proof of English proficiency

*Please Note: The MS program in Forensic Psychology does not require the GRE; however, if you have below the recommended 3.30 GPA, it is strongly recommended that you take the GRE.
Application Deadlines

For information related to application and admission deadlines, please review this chart.

Tuition Costs

Tuition is set by ASU and the Arizona Board of Regents every year. As an example, for 2019-2020 per credit cost for the MS Forensic Psychology (Online) is $632 (base tuition plus program fee – does not include technology fee or financial aid trust fee). You can see the general tuition and fees and explore financial aid tools by clicking here. Students must be continuously enrolled in the program during the pursuit of the degree (see below on page 11 under Course Selection & Registration for more information).

Curriculum and Graduation Requirements

General Curriculum

Admitted Prior to Fall 2018

Required Statistics and Methods Courses (6 credits):
- PSY 500 Research Methods
- PSY 515 Quantitative Analysis I

Required Forensic Psychology Courses (9 credits)
- PSY 545 Advanced Legal Psychology
- PSY 546 Advanced Forensic Psychology
- PSY 573 Psychopathology

Required Criminology and Criminal Justice Courses (9 credits)
- CRJ 501 Seminar in Criminal Justice
- CRJ 502 Seminar in Criminology
- CRJ 513 Seminar in Courts and Sentencing

Elective Courses (6 credits)
Elective courses may be offered by psychology faculty or criminal justice and criminology faculty. Topics will be offered on a rotating basis.

Culminating Experience (3 credits)

PSY 590 - For those admitted prior to Fall 2018, PSY 590 is required for preparation for the final written comprehensive exam. This comprehensive exam is graded and the student must PASS with a grade of a “B” or better, to successfully complete the program and graduate. Students must meet the following criteria to be eligible to enroll in and complete the PSY 590 course.

1) Up to date iPOS on file
2) Graduate GPA, Cumulative GPA, iPOS GPA must all be at 3.00
3) All Core PSY courses must be completed prior to enrollment override of the culminating experience
4) Students can take ONE CRJ course or an elective with PSY 590
If a student does not meet one or more criteria above they may not be able to register for PSY 590 and/or may be removed from the course.

Admitted Fall 2018 or Later

Required Statistics and Methods Courses (6 credits):
- PSY 500 Research Methods
- PSY 515 Quantitative Analysis I

Required Forensic Psychology Courses (12 credits)
- PSY 545 Advanced Legal Psychology
- PSY 546 Advanced Forensic Psychology
- PSY 547 Advanced Correctional Psychology
- PSY 573 Psychopathology

Required Criminology and Criminal Justice Courses (6 credits)
- CRJ 501 Seminar in Criminal Justice
- CRJ 513 Seminar in Courts and Sentencing

Elective Courses (6 credits)
Elective courses may be offered by psychology faculty or criminal justice and criminology faculty. Topics will be offered on a rotating basis.

Culminating Experience (3 credits)
PSY 549 - Students admitted in the Fall of 2018 or later will complete a required capstone experience course, PSY 549. This capstone course is graded and the student must PASS with a grade of a “B”, or better, to successfully complete the program and graduate. This culminating experience must be completed during a student’s last semester of study. Students must meet the following criteria to be eligible to enroll in and complete the PSY 549 course.

1. Up to date iPOS on file
2. Graduate GPA, Cumulative GPA, iPOS GPA must all be at 3.00
3. All Core PSY courses must be completed prior to enrollment override of the capstone
4. Students can take ONE CRJ course or an elective with PSY 549

If a student does not meet one or more criteria above they may not be able to register for PSY 549 and/or may be removed from the course.

Curriculum Checklists
For curriculum checklists for your start term, please visit the advising website.
Program of Study

After completion of 50% of the credit hours needed to complete this degree you will be required to submit an online interactive Program of Study (iPOS). This iPOS is a list of courses that you have taken and will take to satisfy all degree requirements to earn your MS Forensic Psychology degree. The iPOS is submitted online via MyASU. For support filing your iPOS, please visit here. After you submit your iPOS, the Graduate Advisor and Program Director will review the courses. You can track the approval process online through your MyASU account. If you need to make changes after the iPOS is submitted and approved, it can be modified at any time.

When we evaluate your iPOS, we will look to see that you have met the program requirements listed in the advising check sheet (see page 5 if admitted prior to Fall 2018 and page 6 if admitted Fall 2018 or later). Prior to submitting your iPOS please make sure that it meets the following requirements:

1. All 12 credits of core coursework are included
2. For the culminating experience, student will choose PSY 590 (admitted before Fall 2018) or PSY 549 (admitted Fall 2018 or later)
3. Choose your program director as your chair: Dr. Nicholas Schweitzer

All courses that appear on your iPOS are applied toward your MS degree and are ineligible to be applied toward a future graduate degree. As such, we recommend listing only the 33 credits required for the MS degree on your iPOS. Any additional/excess credits you have earned could theoretically be used toward a different degree program at ASU.
Advising and Student Progress

Students are responsible for keeping track of their academic progress and making decisions with regard to which classes to take. However, we do have dedicated Graduate Academic Advisors who are available to answer questions and to help you achieve your academic goals.

We have established an advising website that provides information about course offerings, policies, and additional resources for online students. To access this website please click here.

If you have questions after reviewing this handbook, the ASU Graduate College Policies and Procedures, and the advising website, please reach out to our team at ncgradonline@asu.edu.

Each semester, one of our Graduate Academic Advisors will review your academic record. You may be put on academic probation or recommended for dismissal for poor academic performance, failure to meet ASU Graduate College policies or deadlines, or for a failure to demonstrate professional behavior or ethical violations.

Course Selection & Registration

It is recommended that you keep a copy of the advising checklist on the advising website easily accessible and review it as you register for courses each semester.

We strongly encourage you to complete the core courses when they are offered. These courses may only be offered during certain semesters and sessions each calendar year and if you do not take them when they are offered it may significantly delay your time to degree completion.

Students can find recommended course sequences for their start term on the Forensic Psychology MS – Online Advising Website under “Registration: Recommended Course Sequence” and then choosing the appropriate admit term.

Each semester you will register for classes electronically via MyASU. You can view the schedule of classes online here. To find out when classes are available and when you must register please visit the ASU Academic Calendar.

Graduate students are required to maintain continuous enrollment. This means that you must be enrolled in a minimum of one credit hour of graduate level coursework each fall and spring semester. Read the full policy on page 11 of the Graduate College Policy Manual.
University Resources

There are a number of resources available in the program and through the university.

New College/West Campus - Academic
  o Fletcher Library
  o Graduate Writing Center – in-person (all campuses) and online writing assistance and tutoring
  o Career & Professional Development Services – resource for finding jobs and internships, career advising, and more; online services available

MS Forensic Psychology/School of Social & Behavioral Sciences
  o SAM Lab – resource for receiving assistance for statistics and methodology courses and research; in-person (West campus), online, and phone appointments available

University Services
  o Student support services (e.g., International Student Services, Housing, Health, Counseling, Disability Resources, Veterans, Graduate and Professional Student Association).
  o Business and Finance services (e.g., parking and transit, student accounts, ID cards).
  o Contact information (e.g., Provost’s Office, Graduate College, GPSA Outreach, IT Help Office, department’s assigned librarian, emergency services).
ASU Graduate College Policies

Being a part of ASU means that all students, regardless of program, are held to the same high standards of academic integrity and excellence. It is important that all students familiarize themselves with these policies; these policies are outlined at the following website: https://graduate.asu.edu/current-students/policies-forms-and-deadlines.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

All graduate students are expected to make systematic progress toward completion of their degree. Students are responsible for verifying and tracking satisfactory progress policies as required by their degree program and the Graduate College. If a student fails to satisfy the requirements, the student may be dismissed from his/her program based on the academic unit’s recommendation to the Graduate College. These policies are detailed on the university’s Graduate College website: https://graduate.asu.edu/current-students/policies-forms-and-deadlines.

The MS Forensic Psychology Program also follows the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy. The current policy can be found at: https://newcollege.asu.edu/sites/default/files/files/advising/documents/nc-satisfactoryacademicprogresspolicy_fall_2014_v.1.pdf
Student Code of Conduct

All students are expected to adhere to the Arizona Board of Regents Student Code of Conduct and university policies and procedures: https://eoss.asu.edu/dos/srr/codeofconduct

Students are expected to regularly check their ASU email accounts for messages from the university and New College. Students also are expected to regularly check their MyASU priority tasks for messages and holds from the university. Students are responsible for managing their tuition payments, finances and tracking university academic calendar deadlines.

Academic Integrity

New College and the MS Forensic Psychology program has a zero tolerance policy toward academic dishonesty that is enforced within every course and educational activity offered or sanctioned by the school. Any allegation of academic dishonesty will be referred to the school’s Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for review and recommendation to the Dean of the school. If any student is found to have engaged in academic dishonesty in any form – including but not limited to cheating, plagiarizing and fabricating – that student shall receive a grade of XE for the class and will be dismissed from the school. There will be no exceptions. Please refer to the University’s Academic Integrity Policy for the full policy.

International students who violate academic integrity policies may be dismissed immediately. Being withdrawn from a degree program can have immediate consequences regarding visa status, and dismissed students are required to leave the country immediately per immigration and visa rules.

At the beginning of every MS Forensic Psychology class, each student will be given a copy of the full academic integrity policy, along with accompanying information on plagiarism in their course syllabus. More detailed guidance on how to avoid plagiarism and fabrication, can be found at: https://ori.hhs.gov/avoiding-plagiarism-self-plagiarism-and-other-questionable-writing-practices-guide-ethical-writing.

Professional Ethics

In addition to academic integrity commitments, students in MS Forensic Psychology program must abide by the highest levels of psychological ethics. This includes following the core principles of the APA Code of Ethics, including conducting research ethically and independently, privacy and confidentiality, and record keeping.
MyASU Portal

On your MyASU portal you will find information about your courses, transcripts, transportation, student success and support, finances, university policies and the academic calendar. Please take time to familiarize yourself with these areas:

Profile: Update your address, phone number, email information, or add guests, such as a parent, so they can look FERPA-protected information including grades.

My Classes: Click on the name of each course to access the corresponding Blackboard content. This is where you will see the syllabus, find links to readings and submit assignments. Take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with the structure of each course.

Final Transcript: If you sent in a transcript for admission to the program before you graduated, send your final transcript with your degree posted.

Academic Integrity Module: ASU Graduate College module reviewing academic integrity expectations. Please complete as soon as possible. Please note, this module explains the university-wide policy. The New College academic integrity policy includes additions specific to our students. Please be familiar with both policies.

Academic Calendar (bottom right box): This has important dates you need to monitor, including when classes begin, last day to register or drop/add classes, tuition and fee payment deadlines, holidays, withdrawal deadlines, schedule of classes available and when to enroll.

Campus Services: This includes Health and Wellness Resources, such as health insurance, counseling, disability services; Transportation, such as parking permits, METRO Light Rail, U-Pass and campus shuttles; Student Success and Support, such as disability services, tutoring and student success centers; and Job & Career Services. Please note these job resources are university-wide and not specific to the MS Forensic Psychology program.