

Master of Science Program

Forensic Psychology

Program Handbook

Version 1 | Fall 2017





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. 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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MS Program Faculty **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Admissions

Admission to the MS program is offered for the following sessions Fall A (August), Fall B (October), Spring A (January) and Spring B (March). The program uses a rolling admission deadline and admission decisions are typically made within two weeks of files being completed. For information related to application and admission requirements [click here](#).

Investment

Tuition is set by ASU and the Arizona Board of Regents every year. As an example, for 2017-2018 per credit cost for the MS Forensic Psychology (Online) is \$610. 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 7 under *Course Selection & Registration* for more information).

Curriculum and Graduation Requirements

General Curriculum

Required Statistics and Methods Courses (6 credits):

PSY 515 Quantitative Methodology and Statistics I
PSY 500 Research Methods

Required Forensic Psychology Courses (9 credits)

PSY 573 Psychopathology
PSY 546 Advanced Forensic Psychology
PSY 545 Advanced Legal Psychology

Required Criminology and Criminal Justice Courses (9 credits)

CRJ 502 Seminar in Criminology
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)

Students will complete a required written comprehensive exam as part of a 3 credit hour required capstone course. This course will be completed during a student's last semester of study.

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 Psychology degree. The iPOS is submitted online via MyASU. For support filing your iPOS please or [download the iPOS instruction manual](#). 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 (page 6). Prior to submitting your iPOS please make sure that it meets the following requirements:

1. No more than 6 credits of 400-level online Psychology coursework may be applied toward the MS degree
2. All 12 credits of core coursework are included
3. The Written Comprehensive Exam is selected as the culminating experience (online students may not select Thesis or Applied Project)

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.



New College of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences
Master of Science Program in Forensic Psychology (Online)
 Curriculum and Graduation Checklist (33 Credits Total)

Note: This is a general guide to our curriculum. The order in which you take the courses is determined by our course schedule and the semester/term in which you enter our program. Email NCGradOnline@asu.edu to connect with a member of our advising team.

Required Statistics and Methods Courses (6 credit hours)			
Course Name	Credits	Semester Taken	Grade
PSY 515 Quantitative Methodology and Statistics I	3		
PSY 500 Research Methods	3		
Required Forensic Psychology Courses (9 credit hours)			
Course Name	Credits	Semester Taken	Grade
PSY 573 Psychopathology	3		
PSY 546 Advanced Forensic Psychology	3		
PSY 545 Advanced Legal Psychology	3		
Required Criminology & Criminal Justice System Courses (9 credit hours)			
Course Name	Credits	Semester Taken	Grade
CRJ 502 Seminar in Criminology	3		
CRJ 501 Seminar in Criminal Justice	3		
CRJ 513 Seminar in Courts and Sentencing	3		
Elective Courses (6 credit hours from list below - not all are offered every year)			
*It is recommended that students complete PSY 547 Advanced Correctional Psychology as one of the elective choices.			
Course Name	Credits	Semester Taken	Grade
	3		
	3		
Required Comprehensive Exam Course (3 credit hours)			
Course Name	Credits	Semester Taken	Grade
PSY 590: Comprehensive Exam	3		
Elective Course List (Other courses must be approved by program director)			
PSY 547 Advanced Correctional Psychology (3)*	CRJ 519 Seminar on Victimization (3)	CRJ 529 Community Corrections (3)	
CRJ 532 Sex Crimes (3)	CRJ 520 Seminar on Violent Crime (3)	SWG 526 Mental Health for Sentencing (3)	
CRJ 514 Seminar in Corrections (3)	CRJ 521 Seminar on the Nature of Crime (3)	SWG 528 Presentence Investigations (3)	
CRJ 517 Seminar on Juvenile Delinquency & Juvenile Justice (3)	CRJ 522 Seminar on Gangs and Crime (3)	SWG 529 Alternative to Penal Sanctions (3)	
General Guidelines			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ It is strongly recommended to take core courses when they are offered. ✓ All courses must be 500-level or above ✓ Not all elective courses will be offered each semester ✓ The Interactive Program of Study (iPOS) must be filed when you have registered for or completed 50% of your coursework. ✓ You must maintain a 3.0 GPA in your iPOS Coursework, Graduate Coursework GPA, and Cumulative Graduate GPA. ✓ PSY 590 must be taken in your last semester of study. You must receive a "B" (3.0) in the course to graduate. A "B-" or lower will not count. ✓ All coursework must be completed within 6 years of the first course that appears on your iPOS. ✓ Any course not listed on this advising check sheet must be approved by the Program Director to count toward the program. 			

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 a dedicated Graduate Academic Advisor who is 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, a Graduate Academic Advisor 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 check list in this handbook 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 one time each calendar year and if you do not take it when it is offered it may significantly delay your time to degree completion.

For students beginning in the Fall 2017 please refer to the [recommended course sequence](#).

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 8 of the [Graduate College Policy Manual](#).

ASU Graduate Education 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/policies-procedures>

Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

Note: The MS Program follows the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy. The current policy can be found at http://graduate.asu.edu/faculty_staff/policies. Below is the policy put into effect on August 1, 2017.

Section I: Introduction

This policy applies to all graduate students in the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences.

All graduate students are expected to make systematic progress toward the completion of their degree. In order to remain in good standing in the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences (NCIAS), students must maintain satisfactory academic progress. This document sets forth the standards for “satisfactory academic progress” and “good standing” and explains the consequences of not meeting these standards.

In addition to the policies outlined in this document, all NCIAS graduate students are expected to adhere to applicable University guidelines including, but not limited to, the ASU Academic Integrity Policy, Student Code of Conduct, and Graduate Education policies.

Graduate students are expected to review and be familiar with all policies listed at http://graduate.asu.edu/faculty_staff/policies.

Section II: Academic Performance Requirements

College faculty and staff conduct regular reviews of student progress. Any student’s record that demonstrates concern for satisfactory progress may be placed on academic probation or may be dismissed (permanently removed) from the degree program.

To maintain satisfactory academic progress, all students must:

- 1. Maintain minimum GPA’s as required below:*
 - a. maintain a Plan of Study (iPOS) GPA of at least 3.0 every semester. The Plan of Study GPA is calculated on all courses that appear on a student’s approved iPOS.*
 - b. maintain a Graduate GPA of at least 3.00 every semester. The Graduate GPA is calculated from all courses numbered 500 or higher that appear on the transcript, with the exception of courses counted toward an undergraduate degree at ASU (unless shared with a master’s degree in an approved bachelor’s/master’s degree program)*
- 2. Achieve a grade of “B-” or higher (see ‘a-d’ below) in all **core courses** that appear on the approved Plan of Study. A student who receives a grade of C or lower in a core course in their program must repeat the course in a regularly scheduled (not an individualized instruction) class. Although only the “B-” or higher can be included on the iPOS GPA, both grades will be used to compute the Cumulative GPA and the Overall Graduate GPA.*
 - a. Communication Studies Core Courses (CMN 502, CMN 505, 506)*
 - b. Forensic Psychology (Online) Core Courses: (PSY 515, PSY 500, PSY 573, PSY 546, PSY 545)*
 - c. Interdisciplinary Studies Core Courses (MAS 501, MAS 502, MAS 505)*
 - d. Psychology Core Courses (Campus Based): (PSY 598/502, PSY 515, PSY 592, PSY 516)*

- e. Psychology Core Courses (Online): (PSY 502, PSY 515, PSY 516)
 - f. Social Justice & Human Rights Core Courses: (JHR 500, JHR 501, JHR 506, JHR 510, JHR 525, JHR 584)
 - g. Social Technologies Core Courses: (STC 505, STC 510, Selected Methods)
3. Achieve a grade of "C-" or higher in all non-core courses that appear on the approved Plan of Study.
 - a. Forensic Psychology (Online) limits non-required coursework to one "C-"
 4. Achieve a grade of "B" or higher in any culminating experience course (Applied Project, Capstone, or Thesis). **A grade of "B-" is not considered passing.**
 5. Earning a grade of "I" or "W" in multiple courses may be considered a lack of satisfactory progress
 6. Maintain Continuous Enrollment as required by ASU Graduate Education

A student receiving a grade of D and E must repeat the course in a regularly scheduled (not an individualized instruction) class if it is to be included in the Program of Study. However, both the D or E and the new grade is used to compute the Cumulative GPA and the Overall Graduate GPA.

Section III: Academic Probation for Unsatisfactory Academic Progress

Academic Probation may be imposed if a student has any one of the deficiencies listed below. A student placed on probation will be permitted to progress into the next term (unless the next term includes a culminating experience) while addressing the deficiency. The terms of probation will require that students make progress toward meeting the Academic Performance Requirements outlined in Section II within a specified timeframe.

If progress toward fixing the deficiency is not made, the Director of Graduate Studies will recommend a student be dismissed (see dismissal process in Section V).

Please note that a graduate student with a single semester GPA at or below 2.0 may be recommended for dismissal without the benefit of a semester of probation.

A graduate student in the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences is considered to be in violation of the Standards for Satisfactory Academic Progress if any of the following are true:

- Plan of Study (iPOS) GPA below 3.0
- Graduate GPA below 3.0
- Fail to meet requirements for Required Core Classes (see 2 a-d above).
 - Failure to achieve a B- or better on the second attempt may result in recommendation for dismissal from the program.

Section IV: Removal from Academic Probation and Reinstatement to Good Standing

To be restored to good standing, a student must

1. Maintain or improve grades within the specified timeframe to meet the Academic Performance Requirements described in Section II;
2. Participate in any required meetings due to address issues related to satisfactory academic progress.

Section V: Dismissal and Appeal Process

A student may be recommended for dismissal if they do not

1. Maintain a minimum of 3.00 GPA on both the iPOS and Graduate GPA's (outlined in Section II);
2. Satisfy all requirements of the degree program;
3. Satisfy the maximum time limit for graduation from the student's graduate degree program (six years for master's program)
4. Successfully pass applicable comprehensive exams, qualifying exams, and the oral defense of the proposal/prospectus for the thesis.
5. Successfully complete the culminating experience and, if required, the oral defense of the culminating

- experience;*
6. *Maintain continuous enrollment.*

The student has the right to appeal a recommendation for dismissal.

Steps in the Dismissal and Appeal Process:

1. *The student receives notice that a recommendation for dismissal from the program is being made to the Graduate College.*
2. *Within 10 business days of receiving this notice, the student may appeal in writing to the Director of Graduate Studies. Failure to file an appeal within 10 business days of the date of notification will result in an automatic denial of the appeal.*
 - a. *If the appeal is received, the student will be notified in writing that the appeal was received.*
 - b. *If no appeal is received, the student will be notified in writing that they are being recommended to ASU Graduate Education for dismissal.*
3. *The student will be notified of the decision on the appeal.*
 - a. *If the appeal is granted by Director of Graduate Services, the student will be contacted in writing by program faculty and/or academic advisor to determine next steps.*
 - b. *If the dismissal is upheld the dismissal recommendation and all supporting documentation (including the student's appeal) will be forwarded to ASU Graduate Education for review. ASU Graduate Education has final say in dismissal.*