

Master of Science Program

# Forensic Psychology

## Program Handbook

2021-2022

Updated June 2021



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## Welcome

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 MS forensic psychology program, please email [NCGradOnline@asu.edu](mailto:NCGradOnline@asu.edu).

# Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

## Statement

The New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences supports all forms of equity, diversity, and inclusion and aims to foster a sense of belonging for all its students, staff and faculty. Diversity and inclusion at New College encompass gender identity and expression, race and ethnicity and also socioeconomic background, religion, sexual orientation, age, disability status, veteran status, nationality, linguistic background and intellectual perspective. Our unit and the University are deeply committed to building excellence, enhancing access, and having an impact on our communities, state, nation, and the world. This is actualized by our faculty and staff who reflect the intellectual, ethnic, and cultural diversity of our nation and world to ensure that our students learn from the broadest perspectives, and are engaged in the advancement of knowledge with the most inclusive understanding possible of the issues that are addressed through our scholarly activities.

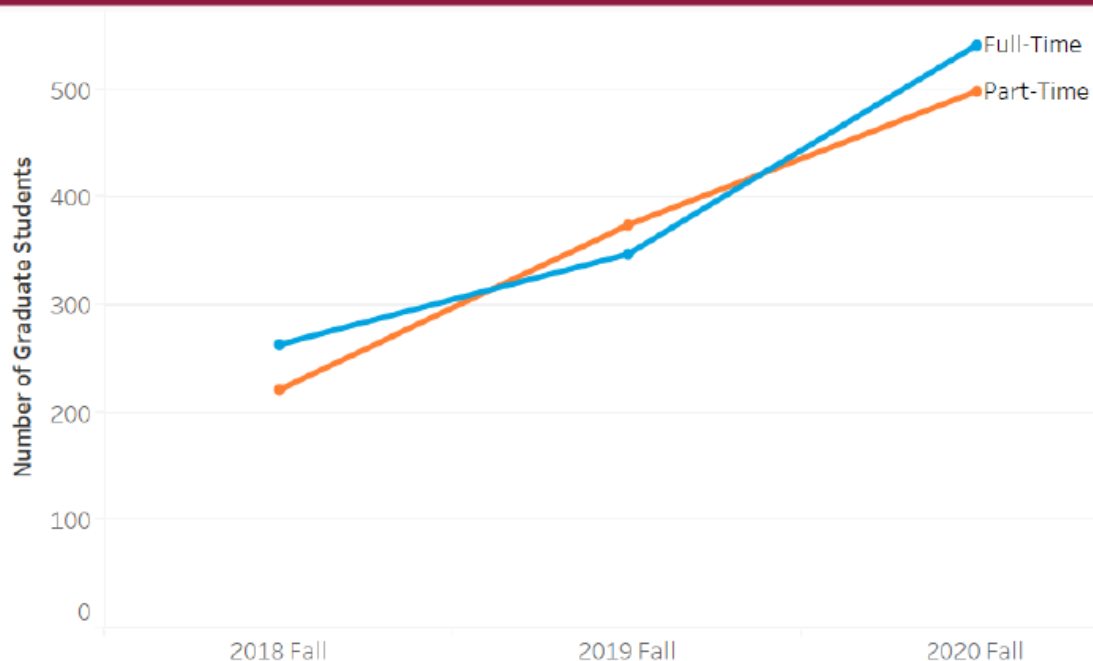
Resources: Find more information at [Graduate Student Diversity Resources](#); [Center for the Study of Race and Democracy](#)

## Student Body

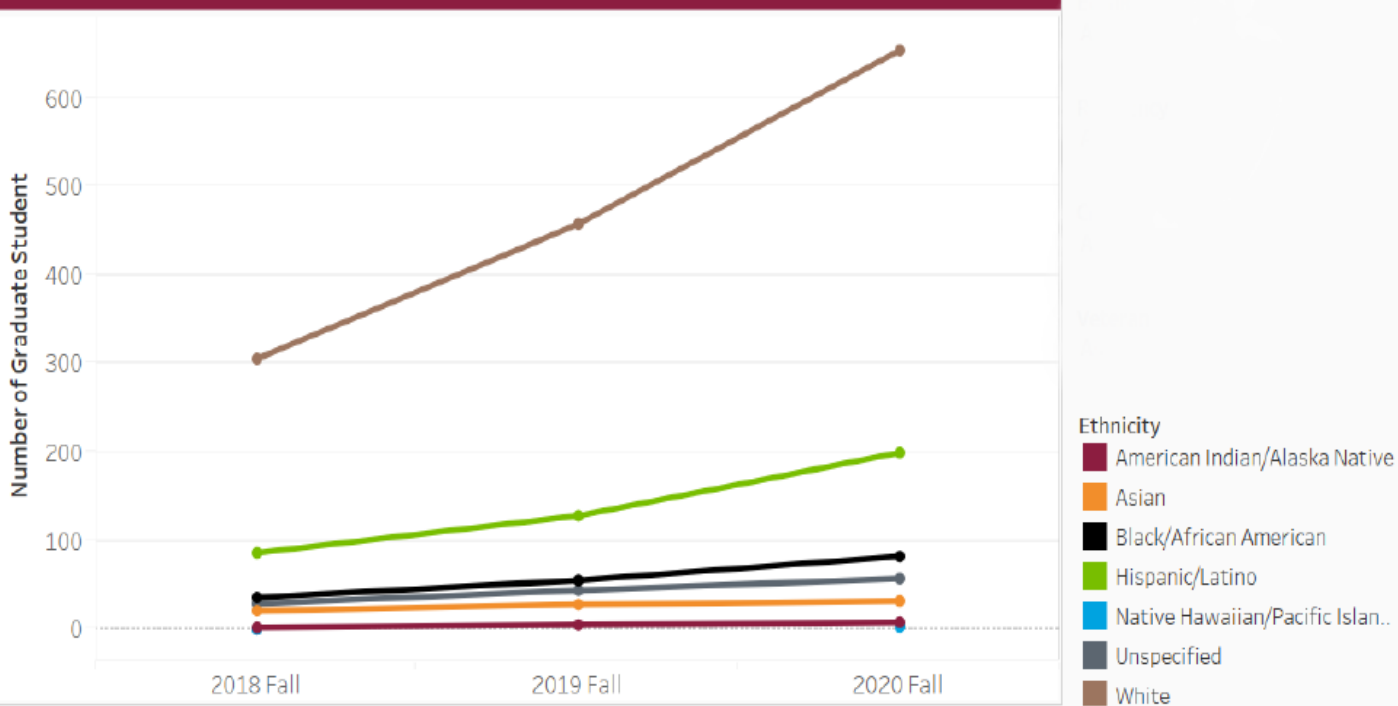
The below demographics represent the New College campus/ground and digital/online immersion students for the fall 2021-2022 academic year as of July 1, 2021.

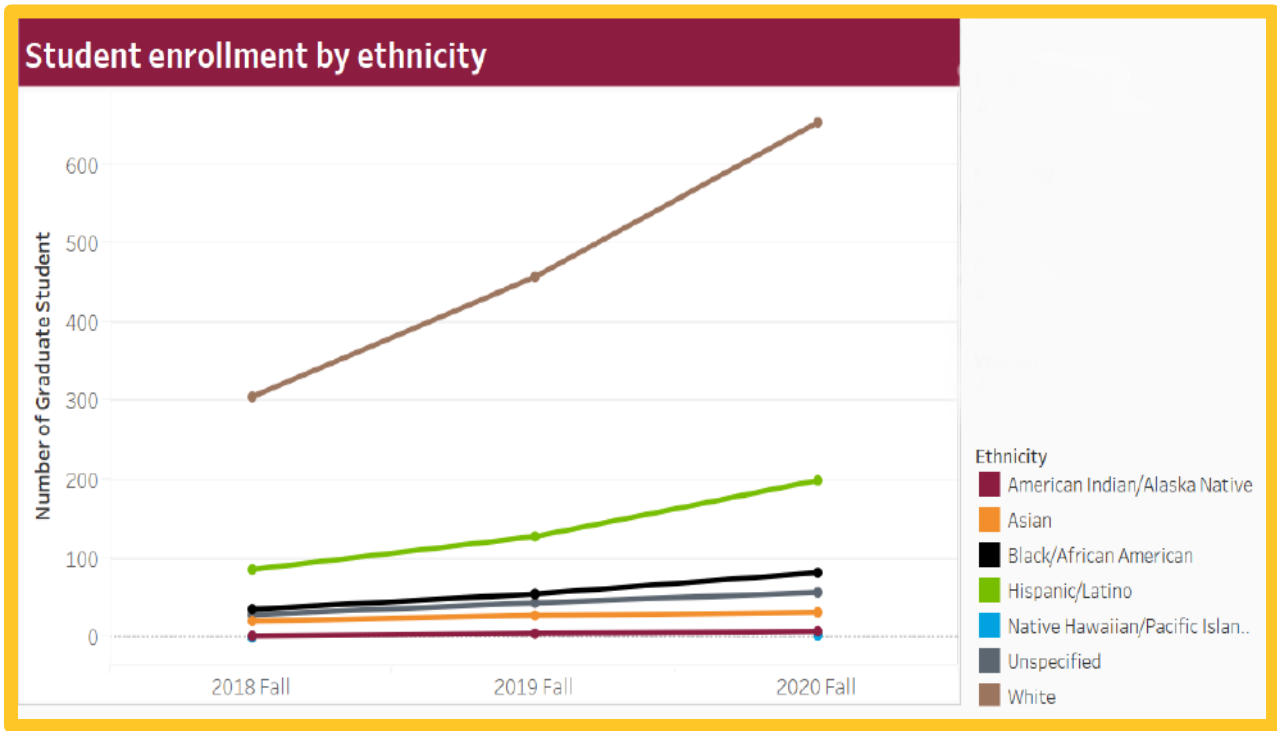


## Student enrollment full time vs part time



## Student enrollment by ethnicity





### Careers

- Correctional Counselor
- Crime Analyst
- Forensic Research Psychologist
- Forensic Social Worker
- Investigative Journalist
- Jail Supervisor
- Jury Consultant
- Police Consultant
- Probation Officer
- Victim Advocate

### Get Involved

Get involved by exploring the [Student Organizations website!](#)

# Admissions

Admission to the online MS forensic psychology program are 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. Prospective students are strongly encouraged to initiate and complete the application at least one month before the listed deadline.

For information related to the application process, admission requirements, and applications deadlines, please refer to the [Graduate Degree Search website](#).

# Tuition Costs and Financial Aid

Tuition is set by ASU and the Arizona Board of Regents every year. You can see the general tuition and fees chart by [clicking here](#), or calculate your specific tuition costs by visiting [ASU's tuition calculator](#).

For information and questions regarding financial aid, please visit [ASU's Financial Aid office website](#).



# Advising

## Faculty Advising

Dr. Nicholas Schweitzer is the program director for the online MS in forensic psychology program. More information on Dr. Schweitzer is [available here](#).



## Staff Advising

The New College Graduate Staff Advisor, also known as the Academic Success Advisor, provides general advising designed to direct the student to courses required for their degree requirements. The Graduate Staff Advisor is available to assist students in the development and completion of the Interactive Plan of Study (iPOS). For Graduate Staff Advisor questions call 602-543-3000 or email [NCGradOnline@asu.edu](mailto:NCGradOnline@asu.edu). To schedule an appointment, go to <https://advising.newcollege.asu.edu>.

## Student Progress

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](mailto:ncgradonline@asu.edu).

Each semester, one of our Graduate 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 failure to demonstrate professional behavior or ethical violations.

# Academic Requirements

## Degree Requirements & Culminating Experience

### *Admitted Fall 2021 or Later*

The online MS in forensic psychology consists of 33 credit hours of graduate level (500-level or above) credit hours. Please review the ASU Office of Graduate College at <https://graduate.asu.edu/current-students/policies-forms-and-deadlines/policy-manuals> regarding Pre-Admission Credit. All such courses must be cleared by the Program Director and the ASU Graduate College. The program requirements include:

#### **Required Statistics and Methods Courses (3 credits):**

- PSY 514 Fundamentals of Forensic Psychology Research

#### **Required Forensic Psychology Courses (15 credits)**

- PSY 544 Advanced Psychology of Criminal Investigation
- PSY 545 Advanced Legal Psychology
- PSY 546 Advanced Forensic Psychology
- PSY 547 Correctional Psychology
- PSY 573 Psychopathology

#### **Required Criminology and Criminal Justice Courses (3 credits)**

- CRJ 501 Seminar in Criminal Justice OR CRJ 513 Seminar in Courts and Sentencing

#### **Elective Courses (9 credits)**

Approved elective courses are offered on a rotating basis.

#### **Culminating Experience (3 credits)**

PSY 549 - Students admitted in the Fall of 2021 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 OR the student must be eligible to bring them up with the capstone grade.
- 3) All statistics and methods courses, as well as all required PSY core courses must be completed prior to taking the culminating experience.
- 4) Students can take ONE CRJ course OR ONE approved 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.

All work towards a master's degree must be completed within six consecutive years.

## Plan of Study (iPOS)

The Interactive Plan of Study (iPOS) functions as an agreement between the student, the academic unit and the Graduate College. The iPOS contains certain requirements such as coursework, faculty committee, and a culminating experience, which must be included before it can be approved. **NOTE:** Dr. Nicholas Schweitzer will serve as the chair for the faculty committee section of the iPOS.

To facilitate program completion and shorten time to complete the program, graduate students are encouraged to complete their iPOS in their **first semester**. Students who have not completed their iPOS by the time they have enrolled for 50 percent of the minimum credit hours required for their degree program will receive a registration hold. No student will be allowed to register for the culminating experience without an approved and up-to-date iPOS on file.

If a student needs help with filing the iPOS, the student can download the [iPOS How-To Guide](#), visit the [iPOS website](#), OR contact their Graduate Staff Advisor for assistance.

Your iPOS will be reviewed by faculty and staff to ensure that it meets the Academic Requirements as outlined in the degree requirements of this handbook.

All courses that appear on the iPOS are applied toward the online MS in forensic psychology degree and are ineligible to be applied toward a future graduate degree. As such, we recommend students list only the 33 credits required for the degree on the iPOS.

## Course Sequences & Registration

It is recommended that you keep a copy of the advising checklist for your admit term that is available 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 the “Registration & Degree Progress” tab and choosing the appropriate admit term.

Each semester you will register for classes electronically via My ASU. 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 in the [Graduate College Policy Manual](#).

## Graduation Checklist

For the appropriate checklist for your start term, please visit the [advising website](#) and refer to the “Program Links” box.

# Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

It is the responsibility of the graduate student to be aware not only of the program's requirements, but also policies set in place by the Graduate College. Students are required to be aware of and understand the current [ASU Graduate Policies and Procedures](#), the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences [Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy](#), as well as any policies outlined in this manual.

In addition to requirements outlined in New College Satisfactory Academic Progress Policies students must achieve a grade of "C" or higher in all **required courses** that appear on the approved iPOS (required courses are listed in the [ASU Academic Catalog](#)). A student who receives a "D" or lower in a course in their program must repeat the course in a regularly scheduled (not an individualized instruction) class. Although only the "C" or higher can be included on the iPOS GPA, both grades will be used to compute the Cumulative GPA and the Overall Graduate GPA.

# 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 My ASU 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

The highest standards of [academic integrity](#) and compliance with the university's [Student Code of Conduct](#) and [Academic Integrity Student Policy](#) are expected of all graduate students in academic coursework and research activities. The failure of any graduate student to uphold these standards may result in serious consequences including suspension or expulsion from the university and/or other sanctions as specified in the academic integrity policies of individual colleges as well as the university.

For more information please visit: the [Graduate College's Policies, Forms, and Deadlines](#) and [Maintaining Academic and Research Integrity](#).

# 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. The full policies and procedures manual can be found on the [ASU Graduate College website](#).

# Professional Ethics

In addition to academic integrity commitments, students in online 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.

# University Resources

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

## New College/West Campus – Academic

- [Fletcher Library](#)
  - ASU Library now has an online tutorial version of "Library 501: What Grad Students Need to Know about the Library" workshop available for online students and anyone else for whom it might be useful. The Library 501 tutorial can be found on the tutorials page under "Other Tutorials" <https://lib.asu.edu/tutorials> OR at [bit.ly/Library501Tutorial](http://bit.ly/Library501Tutorial). Students can review the full slate of workshop offerings here: [libguides.asu.edu/grad/workshops](http://libguides.asu.edu/grad/workshops)
  - Resources for ASU Online students through the ASU Library are available [here](#).
- [Graduate Academic Support Services](#) – in-person (all campuses) and online, no-cost writing and statistics tutoring (most services are free except for special sessions, refer to the website for more details).
- [Career & Professional Development Services](#) – resource for finding jobs and internships, career advising, and more; online services available.
- [Statistics and Methods \(SAM\) Lab](#) – resource for receiving assistance for statistics and methodology courses and research; in-person (West campus), online, and phone appointments available.

## New College/West Campus – Amenities

- [Dining Options](#)
- [Banks](#)
- [Parking & Transit](#)
- [Campus Shuttles](#)

## University Services

- [International Student Services Center \(ISSC\)](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Counseling](#)
  - [Graduate Student Wellness Resources](#)
  - [Graduate Student Wellbeing](#)
  - [360 Life Services](#)
    - ASU Online students have access to a resource called 360 Life Services. This resource gives students access to experts who can answer financial questions, provide legal advice, offer clinical or personal care, and provide career advice 24/7.
- [Student Accessibility and Inclusive Learning Services \(SAILS\)](#)
- [Veterans](#)
- [Educational Outreach & Student Services \(Dean of Students Office\)](#)
- [Student Rights and Responsibilities](#)
- [Graduate Student Diversity Resources](#)
- Business and Finances Services (e.g. [student business services](#), [ID cards](#))

## University Contact Information

- [Provost's Office](#)
- [Graduate College](#)
- [University Technology Office/IT Help](#)
- [Emergency Services](#)

## Title IX Information and Coordinator

- ASU prohibits all forms of discrimination, harassment and retaliation. To view ASU's policy please see <https://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/acd/acd401.html>.
- Title IX protects individuals from discrimination based on sex in any educational program or activity operated by recipients of federal financial assistance. As required by Title IX, ASU does not discriminate on the basis of sex in the education programs or activities that we operate, including in admission and employment. Inquiries concerning the application of Title IX may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator or to the U.S. Department of Education, Assistant Secretary, or both. Contact [titleixcoordinator@asu.edu](mailto:titleixcoordinator@asu.edu) or 480-965-0696 for more information. Office located at 1120 S. Cady Mall, INTDSB 284. For information on making a report please go to [www.asu.edu/reportit/](http://www.asu.edu/reportit/).

## Program Contact Information

With specific questions about the online MS in forensic psychology program, contact:

Online Graduate Studies Advising Team  
New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences  
(602) 543-3000  
[NCGradOnline@asu.edu](mailto:NCGradOnline@asu.edu)

With general questions about ASU Graduate Studies Policies/Procedures, contact:

ASU Graduate College  
Interdisciplinary Building, B Wing, Suite 285 – Tempe Campus  
[Grad-gps@asu.edu](mailto:Grad-gps@asu.edu)

With questions about tuition, scholarships, and financial aid, contact:

ASU Financial Aid  
University Center Building, Suite 101  
<http://students.asu.edu/financial-aid>

# My ASU Portal

On your My ASU 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 at FERPA-protected information including grades.

**My Classes:** Click on the name of each course to access the corresponding Canvas 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 this 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:** 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 online MS forensic psychology program.