

Master's of Science in Psychology

Program Information



ROANOKE COLLEGE

Coordinator: Danielle Findley-Van Nostrand, Ph.D.

M.S. in Psychology: Program Overview

- M.S. in *General Psychology*
- Trains students to have advanced disciplinary knowledge, research skills, professional development, and ample opportunity for mentorship
- Two-year program
- In-person (though supervised research and thesis work will have some flexibility)



M.S. in Psychology: What it is not...

- The M.S. is not a licensure-based program (that is, you will not be a Licensed Professional Counselor upon completion)
- However, it *does* prepare students for doctoral level admissions in any field of psychology, including clinical and counseling areas that could lead to being a mental health practitioner, in addition to preparation for jobs in a variety of industries.
 - ... those Ph.D. admissions are tough!



M.S. in Psychology: Intended Professional Outcomes

- Doctoral study in any area of psychology
- Jobs in a wide array of industries
 - Government
 - Assessment/evaluation
 - Human resources and organizational behavior
 - Education – teaching, leadership, other roles
 - Non-profits
 - Research analysts
 - **Among many others!**



M.S. in Psychology: Intended Curriculum Outcomes

- **Advanced disciplinary knowledge of the core domains of psychology and methodological practices**
- **Scientific Mindedness to solve problems using evidence**
- **Specialized expertise in the area of research your thesis is on**
- **Development of ethical and social responsibility in the profession**
- **Advanced communication skills** in and out of class
- **Professional Development:** learn about professional career options, workforce and disciplinary standards, enhance professional identity, and refine project management skills



How is research and travel supported?

- Each student works with a research supervisor from the start of the program. Supervisor pairings are based on student interests.
- Each student will have access to \$2000 in research and travel funding. This is expected to support research costs like equipment or participant compensation, and travel costs to support professional development for opportunities like attending and presenting at conferences.



What are the course requirements?

- Disciplinary Seminars (1 per semester): *Advanced Development, Advanced Cognitive Psych, Advanced Social Psych, and Advanced Psychophysiology*
- Advanced Quantitative and Psychological Methods (I and II – 1st Fall/Spring)
- Applied Skills Labs (1st Fall/Spring)
- Professional Development (one taken each semester)
- Supervised Research and Thesis (each semester)



Projected Course Schedule:

- **Mon-Thurs., morning until ~12pm for courses**
- **Flexibility for employment and focus on research**

	Fall – 3.25 units	Spring – 3.25 units
Year 1	PSYC502 Advanced Quantitative and Psychological Methods (I) 1 unit PSYC503 Applied Quantitative and Lab Skills (I) .5 units *PSYC521 Advanced Topics in Developmental Psychology 1 unit PSYC580 OR PSYC584 Supervised Research (or Community Research) .5 units PSYC510 Professional Development in Psychology I .25 units	PSYC504 Advanced Quantitative and Psychological Methods (II) 1 unit PSYC505 Applied Quantitative and Lab Skills (II) .5 unit *PSYC541 Advanced Topics in Cognitive Psychology 1 unit PSYC582 OR PSYC586 Supervised Research (or Community Research) .5 units PSYC511 Professional Development in Psychology II .25 units

	Fall – 2.25 units	Spring – 2.25 units
Year 2	*PSYC551 Advanced Topics in Social Psychology 1 unit PSYC590 or PSYC594 Thesis Study or Community Thesis Study 1 unit PSYC512 Professional Development in Psychology III .25 units	*PSYC521 Advanced Topics in Psychophysiology 1 unit PSYC592 or PSYC596 Thesis Study or Community Thesis Study 1 unit PSYC513 Professional Development in Psychology IV .25 units



Multiple routes to completing thesis:

- Empirical project completed with faculty member
- Community-centered quantitative project in collaboration with a local organization
- In either case, you:
 - 1. specialize within the area of your research, and
 - 2. become the expert on the topic you are focusing on



Program Faculty



Dr. Wen Bu

Assistant Professor of Psychology

Dr. Bu joined the college in 2023. She earned a B.S. in chemistry and political science from Furman University, a J.D. from Harvard Law School, a post-baccalaureate in psychology at Columbia University, and a Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of Minnesota. Her research interests include social identity and identity threat/safety; stereotypes, prejudice, and intergroup relations; political psychology; and psychology and law.

[> Research Lab Overview](#) [> Contact](#)



Dr. Christopher Buchholz

Associate Professor of Psychology

Dr. Buchholz joined the college in 2004. He earned a B.S. in psychology from Virginia Tech, a M.A. in cognitive psychology from Appalachian State University, and a Ph.D. in social and personality psychology from Florida Atlantic University. His research interests include well-being, meaning, purpose, mindfulness, awe, consciousness, self-awareness, and evolutionary psychology.

[> Research Lab Overview](#) [> Contact](#)



Dr. Travis Carter

Associate Professor of Psychology

Dr. Carter joined the college in 2017. He earned a B.A. in psychology from the University of Chicago and a Ph.D. in social and personality psychology from Cornell University. His research interests are in judgment and decision-making, social cognition, and consumer behavior.

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Dr. Anthony Cate

Assistant Professor of Psychology

Dr. Cate joined the college in 2020. He earned a B.A. in psychology from Yale University and a Ph.D. in psychology from Carnegie Mellon University. His research interests are in investigating the cognitive and systems-level neural processes of visual object and scene perception in order to explain aspects of complex cognitive skills, especially memory and reasoning.

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Dr. Danielle Findley-Van Nostrand

Associate Professor of Psychology, Graduate Program Coordinator

Dr. Findley-Van Nostrand joined the college in 2017. She earned a B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. at the University of South Florida. Her research interests center on social status and belonging and affiliated aspects of social behaviors, motivation, and the self.

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Dr. Katherine Kane

Assistant Professor of Psychology

Dr. Kane joined the college in 2025. She earned a B.A. in psychology from the University of Virginia, M.A. in mental health counseling from Boston College, and Ph.D. in clinical psychology with a curriculum emphasis in geropsychology from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Her research interests include neuropsychology (clinical issues and test construction), geropsychology/aging, and training, supervision, and diversity factors within assessment.

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Dr. Lauren Kennedy-Metz

Assistant Professor of Psychology

Dr. Kennedy-Metz joined the college in 2022. She earned a B.S. in psychology from Roanoke College and a Ph.D. in translational biology, medicine, and health from Virginia Tech. Her research interests include characterizing psychophysiological indicators of stress and developing biofeedback-based approaches to stress management interventions.

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Dr. David Nichols

Professor of Psychology

Dr. Nichols joined the college in 2009. He earned a B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. at Florida Atlantic University and completed a post-doctoral position at the Centre for Vision Research at York University in Toronto. His research interests are in cognitive neuroscience and sensation and perception, among other areas.

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What is the tuition cost for the program?

- Tuition is priced at \$25,000 for the entirety of the program, billed on a per-unit basis. Since units taken in each year vary, this means year 1 will cost more than year 2 (year 1 approximately \$14,773, year 2 approximately \$10,227).



Is the M.S. accredited?

- Yes!
- The Master of Science in Psychology is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.



What makes us unique?

- Opportunities for mentorship
- Professional development opportunities
- Financial support for research and travel
- Opportunity for community-focused thesis
- Convenient course times
- Cost



How to apply (by March 1!)

Applicants should have:

- A bachelor's degree in psychology or related field.
- A minimum GPA of 2.5

What To Submit:

- Transcripts
- Contact information for two references, including at least one professor
- Personal statement of 500-1200 words that discusses:
 - Your areas of interest within psychology
 - Your educational and career goals
 - Your experiences (academic, professional, and other) that contributed to your skills and development
- *Applicants are asked if they prefer to work with a particular faculty member on their master's research and thesis.*



Questions?