
Graduate Program in Applied Social & Health Psychology

At Colorado State University

Program Overview

Applied Social & Health Psychology (ASHP) is one of five doctoral programs within the Department of Psychology at Colorado State University. Students trained in this program develop a strong methodological background and learn to use multiple research techniques to investigate social issues that have major impacts on people, organizations, and communities. Through a selection of courses, active research involvement, and teaching opportunities, students tailor a program of study to their individual career goals. Graduates from the program go on to careers in academia, the private sector, and government agencies.

The program utilizes a mentorship model. Students are matched to a specific faculty member according to area of interest and by mutual consent of the student and faculty member. The faculty member serves as a mentor to the student, helping to guide the student through the program. However, students are strongly encouraged to collaborate with other faculty and students to gain a wide range of research experiences. Our faculty have diverse training and interests, but all share a desire to use social psychological research to improve people's lives.

Research and Training Foci

The program faculty and students concentrate their research emphases into several domains, including behavioral medicine, environmental psychology, family health, and occupational health, with a special emphasis on the study of underserved groups including women, ethnic minorities, criminal justice populations and rural communities. These foci are described below:

Environmental psychology: This research focus emphasizes the relationship between human behavior and the environment, from both directions-how the environment affects behavior, and how people's

behaviors and attitudes affect the environment. Research topics include promoting energy conservation, the design of smart homes, and the relationship between walkability and health outcomes.



City Park, Fort Collins

Relationships and Family Health: Faculty study the role of intimate relationship and family processes in relation to a wide variety of health outcomes and problems, such as HIV prevention and substance use and domestic and family violence (e.g. parental alienation).

Occupational Health Psychology: The CSU Department of Psychology offers training in Occupational Health Psychology (OHP). OHP is the application of psychological theories and research methods to protect and promote worker safety, health, and well-being.

Public Health: Students in ASHP may decide to pursue a master's degree in public health in addition to their doctorate, and their research focus reflects this interdisciplinary approach. The MPH program is part of the Colorado School of Public Health, a partnership with the University of Colorado at Denver, the University of

Northern Colorado and Colorado State University. There are different curriculum requirements for the two programs, and students are able to navigate both with the help of the ASHP faculty. More information about the program can be found at:
<https://publichealth.colostate.edu>

For additional information on the types of research programs, publications, funded grants, and examples of course plans of study for each of these foci, visit <http://psychology.colostate.edu/aps/>.

Course Requirements

Master of Science:^{1, 2} Credits

Methods:

PSY 652 Methods – 1	4
PSY 653 Methods II	4
PSY 655 Methods Seminar	3

Content:

PSY600G Advanced Social Psychology	3
PSY 600J Health Psychology	3
PSY600M Measurement	
Additional course from PSY600:	3
Personality	
Physiological	
Human Learning and Memory	
Human Performance	
Cognitive Processes	
Neuropsychology	
Developmental	
Sensation & Perception	
History & Systems	
Research practicum ⁴	6
Thesis	6

Doctor of Philosophy:² Credits

Specialty classes ³	12
Research Practicum ⁴	6
Dissertation	6
Additional specialty seminars and courses as determined by student's interests and research focus. These courses can be in Psychology or other departments across campus (e.g., from Statistics, Sociology, Human Dimensions of Natural Resources, Computer Science, Journalism and Media Communication, Human Development and Family Studies, Landscape Architecture, and Environmental and Radiological Health Sciences.)	

Notes:

¹Students are not admitted for a terminal M.S. degree.

²Credit hours over 30 taken during the M.S. degree at Colorado State University may be counted toward the Graduate School's PhD credit hour requirement.

³Students are expected to be actively involved in research each semester. The Research Practicum is a mechanism through which academic credit is given for this activity.

Sample Schedule

COURSE Credits		COURSE Credits	
Fall I		Spring I	
PSY 652	4	PSY 653	4
PSY 600/692F	1-3	PSY 655	3
PSY 600J	3	PSY 600G	3
Practicum	3	Practicum	2-3
Fall II		Spring II	
PSY 600/692F	1-3	PSY 600K	3
Seminar/Special Topics	3	Seminar/Special Topics	3
Thesis	3	Thesis	3
Practicum	1	Practicum	1

Some courses in the PSY 600 series are not taught every year. Check with the graduate committee for a schedule and register accordingly. Specialty seminars in other programs and departments should be selected by the student in consultation with their advisor.

Seminar topics change each semester. Examples of upcoming topics are: Attitudes and Persuasion, Psychology of Gender, Perspectives in Global Health (taught under PSY 517), Women's Health (taught under PSY 515), Close Relationships, Energy Efficiency and Behavioral Science, Structural Equation Modeling, Longitudinal Methods and Multilevel Modeling, Occupational Health Psychology and Methods in Social Psychology. The specific plan of study for each student varies depending on their research focus and is developed as part of their professional development plan (see below).

Course Waivers

Graduate Core Classes (PSY600 A-M): Waiver requests for core courses are handled through Graduate Committee (GC). The petitioning student should submit their written request for a waiver, including a copy of the course syllabus from the class they took, to their program's GC representative. GC will determine if the course meets the scope, rigor, and type of content of the department's graduate core classes, and will where possible identify the closest match of an existing CSU class.

Graduate Statistics (PSY652 & PSY 653). Waivers are done on the basis of passing the waiver exam set by the current course instructor, the previous instructor, or someone designated by the department. Waiver exams

should be taken either prior to, or early in the semester. The content of the exam, and the threshold for obtaining a waiver, are set by the individual administering the test.

Other Graduate Courses: Waivers for other course requirements, including research methods, required and optional courses, and seminars, are at the discretion of the doctoral program. Waivers will be granted in accordance with that program's policies and procedures. Such waivers typically require assent of the instructor of a matching course at CSU or approval from a majority of program faculty where no direct equivalent course exists at CSU (unless another mechanism is specified by the program for granting waivers).

Additional Degree Requirements

The training model taken by the ASHP program is product-focused. We believe that students should be working toward publications, grant proposals, and developing into excellent teachers/communicators. Students begin by completing a first-year research project. Depending on the student's level, students may collaborate on an ongoing research project or may conduct a study of their own design. In many cases, the first year project will serve as pilot data for the student's thesis. It is expected that the Master's thesis will be completed before Spring of the student's third year.

After completion of the master's thesis, or after the first year for students who have entered the doctoral program with a master's degree, students are required to submit to the ASHP a **professional development plan**. The purpose of this Plan is to help students formulate a clear set of activities and projects that they will complete during their formal doctoral training in the ASHP program. The plan contains a summary of career goals, planned coursework, a timeline, dissertation plan, and a summary of competency three "competency projects" designed to demonstrate teaching/presentation, research, and writing skills.

The doctoral program in Applied Social & Health Psychology does not include a preliminary or qualifying exam. Rather, students are admitted to candidacy for the PhD after completing PSY652, PSY653, PSY655, 12 hours of PSY600 courses, the M.S. thesis, and upon approval from the ASHP faculty after reviewing the student's Professional Development Plan. Students may defend the dissertation and graduate two semesters after being admitted to candidacy.

Committee members for the master degree need to include four faculty (or approved affiliate faculty); one member being the student's primary advisor, two being a faculty member from the psychology department, and the third being a faculty member from another academic

department outside of psychology. Doctoral dissertation committees require four members: the primary advisor, two faculty members from the psychology department, and one faculty member from outside of the psychology department.

Centers/Institutes

There are several research centers that are available to assist ASHP students in their academic pursuits.

The Tri-Ethnic Center for Prevention Research (TEC) is a research center established to investigate social problems including substance use, violence, victimization, and environmental impacts, especially in rural communities. TEC conducts federally, privately, and state-funded research and outreach. A core piece of recent TEC efforts is the Community Readiness Model, which is aimed at helping communities develop their own responses to their own problems using their own resources. Students in the Applied Social & Health Psychology Program often participate in TEC projects and have access to the rich database and expertise of TEC faculty and staff.

The Columbine Health Systems Center for Healthy Aging is a catalyst for interdisciplinary research and evidence-based outreach and education about healthy aging. As a community-engaged center, they aim to be a premier local, regional, and nationally recognized resource for discovery and application of research on biological, cognitive, psychological, social, and behavioral factors that lead to healthy and successful aging.

The Early Childhood Center is the lab school for HDFS. ECC provides on-campus training for undergraduates and assistantship opportunities for graduate students. Opportunities for natural observation of very young children in a variety of activities and data collection on their behavior are key features of the ECC.

Funding for Students

Numerous sources of funding are available for students in the program. It is our intention and practice to provide 4 years of financial support to all our graduate students who remain in good academic standing (3 years for those entering with a Master's degree). Financial support is contingent on availability of funds. Funding sources include Graduate Teaching Assistantships, Graduate Research Assistantships, and Graduate Fellowships, all of which include tuition coverage. The Carol Lynne Baird Memorial Scholarship and the Will Szlemko Memorial Fellowship are available for ASHP students after their first year. Colorado State University has a

variety of fellowships including the Bridge to the Doctorate and McNair graduate fellowships.

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Horsetooth Reservoir, Fort Collins

Fort Collins

Fort Collins is a community of approximately 156,000 people located 1 hour north of Denver. Consistently ranked as one of the top places in the country to live, Fort Collins has a low crime rate, affordable housing, and more than 300 days of sunshine each year. Its location at the foot of the Rocky Mountains affords residents endless opportunities for outdoor activities including hiking, bicycling, skiing and white water rafting. For more info, go to <http://www.ftcollins.com/>



Images from around the Behavioral Sciences Building where the Psychology Department is housed at CSU

Core Program Faculty
*(available to mentor students, except as noted *)*

Pat Aloise-Young, Associate Professor
PhD, University of Florida, 1990
Specialization: Persuasive strategies for promoting sustainable behavior; Smart home design

Dan Graham, Associate Professor
PhD, University of California, Irvine, 2009
Specialization: Health Psychology; Nutrition labeling; physical activity promotion; eye tracking; social ecological influences on physical activity and healthy eating.
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Jennifer J. Harman, Associate Professor and Coordinator, Applied Social and Health Psychology graduate program
PhD, University of Connecticut, 2005
Specialization: Intimate relationships, family violence (specifically parental alienation), social status, power, and health.
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Kimberly L. Henry, Associate Professor
Applied Social and Health Psychology graduate program
PhD., The Pennsylvania State University 2002
Specialization: School disengagement, adolescent and young adult development, drug use, delinquency, longitudinal methodology, prevention science
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Lorann Stallones, Professor
PhD, The University of Texas School of Public Health, 1982
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Old Town Square, Fort Collins

Photos of Fort Collins courtesy of the Fort Collins Convention & Visitors Bureau