SEATTLE PACIFIC
SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY

MS Degree in
Research Psychology

Research Psychology at Seattle Pacific University

Do you have an undergraduate degree in psychology or a research-related field and a desire to advance your skills and research training? Are you interested in pursuing a PhD in psychology but don't have enough research experience or relevant coursework to be a competitive applicant? Are you interested in designing and implementing surveys and questionnaires sensitive to diverse samples? Do you envision yourself securing funding for an important social justice or community development project?

SPU's Master of Science in Research Psychology program is designed to equip you with the advanced statistics and research skills necessary to thrive in a job at a major company or nonprofit organization, or in a PhD program. Our 11-month, accelerated program pairs a tight-knit cohort of students with highly skilled faculty mentors to move through three curriculum components:

- Research Psychology Core Curriculum
- Discipline-Specific Electives
- Capstone Project

Featured on cover: *Emily Northey '22 at the Seattle Aquarium, the site of her Research Psychology Capstone project, where she designed and led a study on the impact of new animal introductions on the behavior of marine mammal species. She completed her research project under the supervision of SPU's psychology faculty and the Seattle Aquarium staff.*

Mission and Distinctives

The Research Psychology program graduates students who possess advanced competence in research methods, statistical techniques, and grant writing.

By the end of the program, you will demonstrate:

- **Effective problem-solving and project-management skills** in the organization, design, and implementation of empirical research.

- **Advanced research skills sensitive to issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion,** including awareness of power dynamics affecting research relationships.

- **Advanced competency in statistical analysis and interpretation** of empirical research findings.

- **Critical assessment of the relationship between Christianity and scientific worldviews** relevant to career trajectories in research.

About the Research Psychology Program

Research Psychology Core Curriculum

The Core Curriculum provides a strong foundation for advanced statistical analysis and research methods. Our core curriculum offers you the opportunity to develop and refine data analysis skills using relevant statistical software. It also:

• Trains you to design studies and use statistical models that are sensitive to diverse samples

• Prepares you to design, implement, and present an independent research project

• Equips you to identify and write grants to fund lab research or nonprofit ventures

• Asks you to consider your worldview and how that impacts your work as a researcher

Discipline-Specific Electives

As a Research Psychology student, you will benefit greatly from access to discipline-specific electives in graduate-level courses in other disciplines such as:

• Industrial-Organizational Psychology

• Clinical Psychology

• Data Analytics

Discipline-specific electives will allow you to collaborate with faculty and master's students in these disciplines, as well as equip you with specific skills you might need to prepare for and successfully complete your Capstone project. Electives, such as Survey Research and Applied Research Design, have also been specifically designed for this program. Whatever your research interest, there is flexibility in finding the right electives for you.

Capstone Project

The strength of the Capstone project is its flexibility. It serves as a culmination of your graduate school experience and can take several forms, including:

• **A research proposal,** which includes a demonstration of comprehensive knowledge of psychological literature, research methods, and statistical design

• **A traditional research thesis,** which requires you to propose a topic, and collect and analyze data. You also have the option to synthesize findings into an APA-style manuscript.

• **An applied Capstone** (e.g., a program evaluation or grant application), which directly relates to your professional goals

"The program was a very positive and formative experience

— it opened a lot of opportunities, in terms of positions and networking, and the faculty helped me to see myself as a researcher."

Devin Noel-Harrison, MS '22
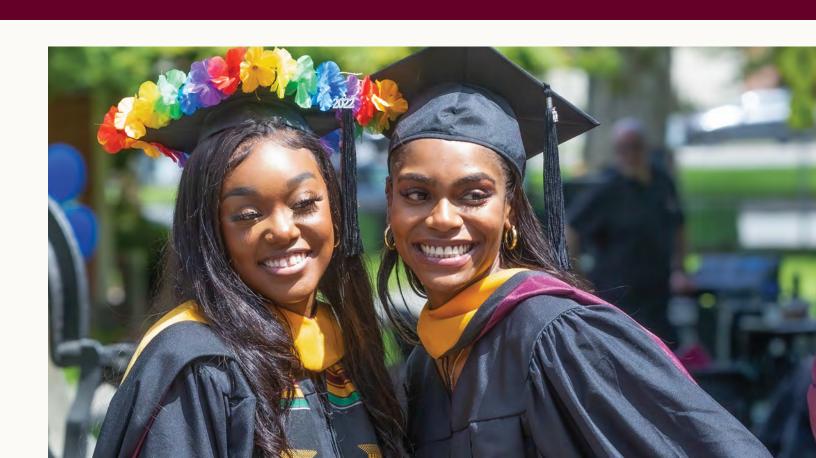*Capstone: "Distress and Growth*
in the Black Community"

"Students bring to the Research Psychology program a diverse set of perspectives, interests, and career ambitions.

That variety of student experiences creates a rich classroom environment."

Baine Craft, PhD
Professor of Psychology
and Biology

> **"As the world of work evolves, we are committed to developing the next generation of researchers, data analysts, entrepreneurs, and leaders in their field.**
>
> This accelerated and tailored program provides students with essential skills in research that can be flexibly translated into a wide range of careers and PhD programs."
>
> *Jenny Lee Vaydich, PhD*
> *Chair of Research Psychology;*
> *Associate Professor of Psychology*

Research Psychology Faculty

Phillip M. Baker, PhD
Assistant Professor of Psychology

- BA, Eastern Mennonite University, 2007
- PhD, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2013
- At SPU since 2018

Baine Craft, PhD
Professor of Psychology and Biology

- BS, Mississippi College, 2001
- MA, University of Montana, 2004
- PhD, University of Montana, 2005
- At SPU since 2006

Jessica Fossum, MA
Instructor of Research Psychology;
Director of Research

- BA, Seattle Pacific University, 2019
- BS, Seattle Pacific University, 2019
- MA, UCLA, 2020
- At SPU since 2022

Bethany F. Hoff, PhD
Assistant Professor of Psychology

- BA, Whitworth University, 2014
- MS, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 2018
- PhD, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 2021
- At SPU since 2021

Jenny Lee Vaydich, PhD
Chair of Research Psychology;
Associate Professor of Psychology

- BA, St. Olaf College, 2004
- MA, University of Notre Dame, 2008
- PhD, University of Notre Dame, 2011
- At SPU since 2015

For faculty profiles and research interests, visit spu.edu/researchpsychfaculty.

Sample MS Program Sequence

This 11-month, accelerated master's program includes a sequence of statistics and research methods classes that prepare you to complete your Capstone project. You may also select electives compatible with future academic or career goals. A minimum of 33 quarter credits is required to complete the program. The chart below shows a typical student's course sequence.

MS Program Sequence
Quarter Credits Required for Completion: 33

Autumn Quarter (8 credits)
PSY 6010 Research Methods and Stats 1 (4)
PSY 6300 Grant Writing (4)
Capstone Contract submitted at end of quarter

Winter Quarter (7–9 credits)
PSY 6020 Research Methods and Stats 2 (4)
PSY/ORG/CPY/ISM Elective (3–5)*
Capstone Proposal submitted mid-quarter

Spring Quarter (9–13 credits)
PSY/ORG/CPY/ISM Elective (3–5)*
PSY/ORG/CPY/ISM Elective (3–5)*
PSY 6995 Research and Thesis (3)

Summer Quarter (6 credits)
PSY 6995 Research and Thesis (3)
PSY 6200 Christian Faith and Worldview (3)
Capstone presentation mid-quarter

*Total elective credits required: 12

Note: Electives offered in other departments may have a higher tuition rate.

Class and Elective Times
Research Psychology core classes typically meet 1–5 p.m. one day per week. Elective schedules are variable, but also typically meet one day per week for three to five hours, depending on the number of credits offered.

Capstone Project
In addition to coursework, Research Psychology students should expect to work on their Capstone project 20–25 hours per week and may need to budget time in the research laboratory, depending on their Capstone project topic.

Visit **spu.edu/researchpsych** for more information.

Spectacular natural beauty

combined with diverse cultural and professional opportunities enriches Seattle's reputation as a world-class city and one of the nation's best places to live.

Research Psychology

Seattle Pacific University
School of Psychology, Family, and Community

spu.edu/researchpsych

FOR ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

Graduate Admissions
3307 Third Avenue West, Suite 320
Seattle, Washington 98119

206-281-2091
800-601-0603 toll-free

gradadmissions@spu.edu

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