

PSYCHOLOGY (PH.D.)

Offered by: Psychology (Faculty of Science)

Degree: Doctor of Philosophy

Program Description

All candidates for the Ph.D. degree must demonstrate broad scholarship, mastery of current theoretical issues in psychology and their historical development, and a detailed knowledge of their special field. Great emphasis is placed on the development of research skills, and the dissertation forms the major part of the evaluation at the Ph.D. level.

Ph.D. students in Clinical Psychology must fulfil similar requirements to Ph.D. students in the Experimental Program and must also take a variety of specialized courses, which include practicum and internship experiences.

Note: For information about Fall 2025 and Winter 2026 course offerings, please check back on May 8, 2025. Until then, the "Terms offered" field will appear blank for most courses while the class schedule is being finalized.

Thesis

A thesis for the doctoral degree must constitute original scholarship and must be a distinct contribution to knowledge. It must show familiarity with previous work in the field and must demonstrate ability to plan and carry out research, organize results, and defend the approach and conclusions in a scholarly manner. The research presented must meet current standards of the discipline; as well, the thesis must clearly demonstrate how the research advances knowledge in the field. Finally, the thesis must be written in compliance with norms for academic and scholarly expression and for publication in the public domain.

Required Course

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
PSYC 701	Doctoral Comprehensive Examination.	0

Complementary Courses (12-24 credits)

12 credits (one course per term in Year 2 and Year 3) chosen from the following list:

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
PSYC 712	Comparative and Physiological Psychology 3.	3
PSYC 715	Comparative and Physiological Psychology 6.	3
PSYC 722	Personality and Social Psychology.	3
PSYC 723	Personality and Social Psychology.	3
PSYC 724	Personality and Social Psychology.	3
PSYC 725	Personality and Social Psychology.	3
PSYC 727	Personality and Social Psychology.	3
PSYC 728	Ethics and Professional Issues.	3

PSYC 729	Theory of Assessment.	3
PSYC 730	Clinical Neuroscience Methods.	3
PSYC 732	Clinical Psychology 1.	3
PSYC 733	Clinical Psychology 2.	3
PSYC 734	Developmental Psychology and Language.	3
PSYC 735	Developmental Psychology and Language.	3
PSYC 736	Developmental Psychology and Language.	3
PSYC 740	Perception and Cognition.	3
PSYC 741	Perception and Cognition.	3
PSYC 742	Perception and Cognition.	3
PSYC 743	Perception and Cognition.	3
PSYC 744	Perception and Cognition.	3
PSYC 746	Quantitative and Individual Differences.	3
PSYC 747	Quantitative and Individual Differences.	3
PSYC 748	Quantitative and Individual Differences.	3
PSYC 749	Quantitative and Individual Differences.	3
PSYC 750	Applied Bayesian Statistics.	3
PSYC 752D1	Psychotherapy and Behaviour Change.	3
PSYC 752D2	Psychotherapy and Behaviour Change.	3
PSYC 753	Health Psychology Seminar 1.	3

0-12 credits from the following (students without a master's degree from McGill need to take all 12 credits):

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
PSYC 650	Advanced Statistics 1.	3
PSYC 651	Advanced Statistics 2.	3
PSYC 660D1	Psychology Theory.	3
PSYC 660D2	Psychology Theory.	3

Note: The Department of Psychology does not ordinarily require an examination in a foreign language however, all students planning on practicing clinical psychology in the province of Quebec will be examined based on their proficiency in French before being admitted to the professional association.