

**Psychological Sciences
PhD Major
Concentration in
Health Psychology and
Behavioral Medicine
Research Proposal**

**Approved by the
Faculty Senate
November 20, 2019**

**Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Degree in the field of Psychology (PhD-PSYC)
New Major Concentration: Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine Research
Department of Psychological Sciences
Rice University**

CONCENTRATION Head and Contact

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Formal Title: Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine Research

Justification (& Answers to Questions Outlined) per Graduate Major Concentration Guidelines Document section 4 (a)

Department of Psychological Sciences proposes a new PhD-PSYC major concentration that aligns with our interests and expertise that we will call the Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine Research major concentration. For the last five years, we have been building a health psychology curriculum at the graduate level. In Academic Year 2018-2019, we added PhD-PSYC major concentrations in i.) cognitive and affective neuroscience, ii.) human-computer interaction and human factors, iii.) industrial-organizational psychology, and iv.) psychometrics and quantitative psychology. We have concluded that we need a formal concentration in Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine Research as well. Last year we did not add a health psychology major concentration because we thought students who were health-oriented could choose to work in other concentrations and take additional courses in health psychology, psychoneuroimmunology, and translational research methods. However, in practice, this was not effective. Current health psychology oriented students feel overburdened by fulfilling requirements outside their interest. The majority of students who are health-oriented realized that taking so many classes in either industrial-organizational psychology or cognitive neuroscience was distracting them from their progress. Furthermore, they were all planning to obtain jobs in Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine, not neuroscience or industrial-organizational psychology. The health concentration will allow them to have a curriculum based on their goals and career interest.

This new PhD-PSYC major concentration will not require additional funds. No additional graduate student fellowships will be needed to start this concentration because (a) the faculty who will participate in this concentration is currently in the department, and (b) the department allocates fellowships to individual faculty, not concentrations within the department.

Scientists and public health professionals estimate that 70% of all diseases are preventable. In perfect alignment with this point, health psychology plays an important role in understanding how behaviors, cognitions, and emotions impact mental and physical health. With this knowledge, health psychologists design interventions to reduce disease risk, improve treatment outcomes, and enhance the quality of life of people coping with illness or seeking to prevent

illness. Importantly, health psychology plays an important role in primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention. The field of health psychology has clinical and non-clinical health psychology training options. In alignment with many top-ranked psychology programs (e.g., UCLA and Carnegie Mellon), we will offer the non-clinical health psychology degree option via this major concentration, which is a basic science degree.

The research PhD-PSYC degree with a major concentration in Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine Research will further facilitate the relationship Rice has with the Texas Medical Center. Faculty in this area of research currently have National Institute of Health (NIH) sub-contracts with faculty in the medical center, and multiple medical center faculty guest lecture in our graduate-level health psychology classes; medical center faculty also help supervise our Ph.D. students; thus, the health psychology major concentration leverages the intellectual capital Rice benefits from by being adjacent to the largest medical center in the world. This training model has already resulted in seven individual training grants (primarily from the National Institute of Health (NIH) awarded to our trainees and primarily supervised by our health-focused psychology faculty. In comparison to other psychology departments with health psychology Ph.D. programs, we will have a strategic advantage because of our proximity to (a) the largest medical center in the world, (b) largest and highest-ranked cancer center in the world, (c) the world's largest children's hospital, and (d) the Center for Clinical and Translational Research Center, which our health faculty utilize. Accordingly, the health psychology Rice faculty are well-positioned to obtain large health grants; increasing external grant funding is also a high priority at Rice over the next decade. The NIH is the primary funder of most of this work and offers funding for research, training, and educational opportunities. The Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine Research major concentration will align with other V2C2 goals, such as its focus on health and health disparities.

We want to recruit our first class in the fall of 2020. Currently, two of our students want to be in this major concentration; they are still junior enough in their graduate careers to graduate on time if this new major concentration is approved soon. They have already taken many of the required classes.

What is the target audience for the Major Concentration?

The target audience is Psychology Ph.D. students working within the Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine Research major concentration within the department. Drs. Fagundes and Denny will be the core faculty members. Other faculty who have students interested in health psychology include Drs. Mikki Hebl (social/health), Fred Oswald (personality/health), Stephanie Leal (neuroscience/health), Randi Martin (neuroscience/health), Margaret Beier (Aging and Health), Pat DeLucia (Medical Human Factors), and Eden King (health psychology in the workplace). Students who have lines of research that apply to primary, tertiary, or secondary disease prevention will benefit. Dr. Fagundes will oversee this concentration; as evidenced by his publication, award, and grant record in health psychology, he is qualified to do so.

What is the need or demand for the Major Concentration?

Health psychology and Behavioral Medicine Research is a common interest among nine faculty within the Psychological Sciences department. Currently, there is a health psychology weekly seminar. With this major concentration, students will have credentials for obtaining health psychology jobs, and the Department of Psychological Sciences will be able to recruit graduate students into health psychology more easily. As is evident from our department's track record securing health psychology research and training grants (primarily via NIH), our department is becoming known for excellence in this major concentration. Trainees who work in this domain have already obtained competitive tenure-track positions at elite universities (e.g., Penn State University) under the mentorship of faculty in the Department of Psychological Sciences at Rice. Thus, a research interest group is a natural next step.

How do the Major Concentration requirements and curriculum differ from the other graduate degrees offered by the academic unit?

Requirements for the major concentration in Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine Research includes courses in psychoneuroimmunology, foundations of health psychology, and translational research methods. These courses include topics not covered in other major concentrations, including psychoneuroimmunology, health behavior interventions, clinical trial design, autonomic psychophysiology, and basic pathophysiology of stress-related diseases. Students also obtain a strong foundation in social and personality psychology. These requirements are different from those of other core research concentrations in the department. Importantly, this is a research degree, not a clinical degree. These requirements do not include courses in psychotherapy, clinical assessment, or consultation.

Is there any potential for the Major Concentration to attract students to the detriment of existing graduate degrees?

No.

How will it complement their graduate degree?

This new major concentration, as with the other four existing PhD-PSYC major concentrations, provides official recognition of existing specializations and research areas within the graduate program in the Department of Psychological Sciences.

How is the Major Concentration distinct or related to previously approved major concentrations?

A major concentration in Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine Research is distinct from our other programs because it teaches students to utilize a biopsychosocial approach to understand mental and physical health risks and develop evidence-based interventions. It will also be unique in that it teaches translational research methods (an approach where

researchers start from basic science research, then create interventions, and ultimately disseminate research in the community). The Translational Research Methods course that will be offered would alleviate concerns about overburdening PSYCH 507 (research methods) instructors. Yet it will be novel enough that students could take both as the current psychology curriculum does not offer training in clinical trials.

Is a student required to complete a Major Concentration to complete the graduate degree program, or is the completion of a Major Concentration optional?

Psychology Ph.D. students must complete a Major Concentration to complete the graduate degree program.

Justification (& Answers to Questions Outlined) per Graduate Major Concentration Guidelines Document section 4 (b)

Provide a description of the requirements for the Major Concentration. Please list any required courses, electives, other requirements to complete the Major Concentration.

Please see the end of this section for a list of Major Concentration requirements.

The courses that are required for the Ph.D. will be offered on a schedule that will easily allow students to obtain their Ph.D. on time. Health psychology will be offered every year because it is a “Foundations Course” and thus fulfills other a core requirement for other concentrations. Translational research methods and psychoneuroimmunology will be offered every other year. The Health Research Seminar is offered every semester. Advanced Psychological Statistics I is offered every fall, and Advanced Psychological statistics II is offered every spring. Social and Affective Neuroscience is offered every other year. Foundations of Social Psychology and Foundations of Cognitive Psychology are offered at least every other year. At least one advanced statistical course (e.g., multivariate, psychometrics) is offered annually. Dr. Fagundes will start offering History and Systems every other year. In sum, every course unique to the “health concentration” will be offered at least every other year. Furthermore, all other requirements are currently offered at least every other year because they fulfill requirements for existing concentrations. All other requirements are offered regularly to satisfy Ph.D. requirements in the other existing major concentrations.

In sum, all requirements proposed for the satisfaction of the major concentration are already offered to Ph.D. students in the department of psychological sciences regularly, except for translational research methods. Dr. Fagundes is currently developing this course and going through the approval process. Because students in the health psychology concentration have the option of taking research methods in industrial-organizational psychology to fulfill this requirement, all courses to obtain a Ph.D. in the proposed Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine Research concentration are currently offered.

Per Graduate Major Concentration Guidelines Document section 4 (c), Multiple concentrations. Will students in the graduate program be permitted to declare and pursue more than one Major Concentration?

Yes.

If so, please provide a justification. Please describe how the additional Major Concentration is identified and earned. How will it provide benefits to a student?

Multiple existing major concentrations at Rice have sub-fields with a health emphasis. Within the field of cognitive-affective neuroscience, a new field called “health neuroscience” is emerging. Students will be able to obtain multiple major concentrations, making them highly competitive for these jobs. In the field of industrial-organizational psychology, there is a sub-concentration called occupational health psychology (OHP). Multiple major concentrations in industrial-organizational psychology and health psychology would make students highly competitive for these jobs. Within the field of human factors, there is a field called medical human factors. Human factors students may benefit from both major concentrations. To complete and receive recognition for multiple major concentrations, students must fulfill both major concentration requirements. If students plan appropriately, they will be able to graduate with a PhD-PSYC and multiple major concentrations in 5 years. Graduates will be well qualified for tenure track jobs and post-docs in psychology departments, medical centers, cancer centers, and colleges of public health. They will also be eligible for jobs at the CDC, NIH, and in some medical schools and comprehensive cancer centers.

Is there a potential for it to be detrimental to a student?

No.

Could the set of requirements for one Major Concentration automatically fulfill the requirement for other Major Concentrations within the graduate program?

No.

Ph.D. Program: Update and Change to Program Justification (& Answers to Questions Outlined) per Graduate Major Concentration Guidelines Document section 4 (d)

Provide a list of participating faculty. Identify faculty who will have primary roles in administering the Major Concentration and advising student participants.

The target audience is Psychology Ph.D. students working within the field of Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine at Rice. They do not have their major concentration as of now. Drs. Fagundes and Denny will be the core faculty members in health psychology. Other faculty who have students interested in health psychology include Drs. Mikki Hebl (social/health), Fred

Oswald (personality/health), Stephanie Leal (neuroscience/health), Randi Martin (neuroscience/health), Margaret Beier (Aging and Health), Pat DeLucia (Medical Human Factors), and Eden King (health psychology in the workplace). Students who have lines of research that apply to primary, tertiary, or secondary disease prevention will benefit.

The primary responsibility for administering the Major Concentration and advising student participants will be Dr. Christopher Fagundes.

**Per Graduate Major Concentration Guidelines Document section 4 (e)
 Procedures and qualifications for approval to pursue the Major Concentration (i.e., document the departmental/program procedures that will be put in place to certify eligibility and completion of the Major Concentration requirements, etc.)**

Ph.D. students admitted to the Doctoral Program in Psychology in the School of Social Sciences, whose graduate advisor is affiliated with the Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine Research concentration will be eligible. The offices of the Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Psychological Sciences and the Director of the health psychology and behavioral medicine major concentration will be responsible for certifying eligibility and for monitoring progress in the program and completion of the major concentration requirements.

**Per Graduate Major Concentration Guidelines Document section 4 (f)
 List the procedures and qualifications to comply with SACSCOC accreditation requirements, as well as best practices in curriculum design; the proposal must include:
 (1) Description of the Major Concentration’s student learning outcomes that are clear standards for observable, measurable student-centered outcomes in terms of knowledge, skills, and behaviors;**

Students completing the Major Concentration will:

1. Apply the theoretical tools and basic biobehavioral research methods to carry out independent research in health psychology.
2. Apply the methodological and statistical tools necessary to carry out independent research in health psychology.
3. Conduct a focused literature review tied to an independent research question, design and run a health research study, and write up the results in an APA formatted paper.
4. Communicate and defend their research designs and modeling choices when presenting papers and presentations.
5. Write an independent and original dissertation that is of sufficient quality to merit publication in a top journal within the field of health psychology.

(2) A curriculum map that relates the components of the proposed Major Concentration curriculum to the specified student learning outcomes (SLO);

SLO	Core Courses	Substantive Courses	Statistical Courses	Research Opportunities	Thesis Work
1	X	X		X	X
2		X	X	X	X
3				X	X
4				X	X
5		X		X	X

For the first three columns above—core courses, substantive courses, and statistical courses—please see the end of this section.

(3) An assessment plan for measuring the success and effectiveness of the Major Concentration curriculum and students' achieving the learning outcomes after implementation.

Progress and performance are assessed through a variety of feedback and evaluation mechanisms: continuous meetings and feedback from advisors and other faculty, monitoring course grades during and after each semester, conducting semester performance reviews in the department, and conducting an annual review within the health major concentration.

Students are evaluated on their coursework, their independent research projects and research collaborations, their first-year and second-year projects, and their master's thesis and doctoral thesis work. Each semester, students take a Health Psychology Research Seminar (PSYC 532), where they are required to present their master's thesis and conference-based research.

**Per Graduate Major Concentration Guidelines Document section 4 (g)
Supporting letters from the chair(s) of participating departments/programs and the appropriate dean(s) verifying that:**

a. The proposed Major Concentration has been reviewed and received faculty approval through appropriate governance procedures;

The proposed PhD-PSYC major concentration has been approved by the graduate committee in the Department of Psychological Sciences (Drs. Fred Oswald, Randi Martin, Mikki Hebl, and Christopher Fagundes). Dr. Eduardo Salas, Chair of the Department of Psychological Sciences, also approves and has been included in these critical discussions and meetings.

b. Resources to support the Major Concentration, as presented in the proposal, are available without impacting other courses and programs for at least five years.

See answers to related questions. This proposal has been approved by the department Chair and department Director of Graduate Studies, and it is awaiting review and approval by all other involved parties (e.g., Graduate Council, OIE).

**Per Graduate Major Concentration Guidelines Document section 4 (h)
The complete and specific language describing the official name of the Major Concentration and the exact requirements for students to complete it – as they would appear in the General Announcements if the proposal were approved. The Major Concentration must be in place and the General Announcements for the year in which the student matriculates, or graduates, or any year in between.**

Upon approval, the Office of the Registrar will work with the Department of Psychological Sciences on updating the General Announcements text.

Per Graduate Major Concentration Guidelines Document section 4 (i)

Specification of a CIP code for the proposed Major Concentration with justification. The Offices of the Registrar, Institutional Research, and Institutional Effectiveness can assist and will ultimately determine the appropriate CIP code to be assigned.

The proposed assigned CIP code is and will be *CIP 42.2810 Health/Medical Psychology*

MAJOR CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS:

Summary

Total Credit Hours Required for the MA Degree in the field of Psychology	30
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Requirements for the PhD Degree in the field of Psychology

PhD Degree Program

For general university requirements, please see [Doctoral Degrees](#). For additional requirements, regulations, and procedures for all graduate programs, please see [All Graduate Students](#). In addition, students pursuing the PhD degree in the field of Psychology must:

- Complete all coursework with a minimum grade of B- (2.67 grade points) in each required course.
- Complete all of the course requirements in their major concentration.
- Successfully complete and present the first-year project in May of the first year.
- Successfully complete and present the second-year project in May of the second year.
- Write and defend a thesis. The thesis committee must be in the area of Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine Research and be overseen by a Psychology faculty member affiliated with the Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine Research Major Concentration.

Students who have not previously completed a master's degree in Psychology or a related field, must successfully defend a master's thesis and earn the MA degree in Psychology. Students who come to Rice with a master's degree in a related field can be exempted from this requirement.

Summary

Total Credit Hours Required for the PhD Degree in the field of Psychology and a Major Concentration in Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine Research	90
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Degree Requirements for the PhD Degree in the field of Psychology and a Major Concentration in Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine Research

Core Requirements		
<u>PSYC 502 / STAT 509</u>	ADVANCED PSYCHOLOGICAL STATISTICS I	4
<u>PSYC 503 / STAT 510</u>	ADVANCED PSYCHOLOGICAL STATISTICS II	3
<u>PSYC 520</u>	FOUNDATIONS OF COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY	3
<u>PSYC 532</u>	HEALTH RESEARCH SEMINAR	1-3
<u>PSYC 546 or PSYC 586</u>	PSYCHONEUROIMMUNOLOGY OR SOCIAL AND AFFECTIVE NEUROSCIENCE	3
<u>PSYC 547</u>	FOUNDATIONS OF HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY	3
<u>PSYC 550</u>	FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY	3
Statistical Requirements		
<i>Select 1 course from the following (all 3 credits)</i>		3
<u>PSYC 507</u>	RESEARCH METHODS	
<u>PSYC 601</u>	MULTIVARIATE STATISTICS	
<u>PSYC 602</u>	PSYCHOMETRICS	
Professional Issues		
<u>PSYC 660</u>	PROFESSIONAL ISSUES	3
Elective Requirements¹		
<i>Select 3 courses from the following (all 3 credits):</i>		9
<u>PSYC 511</u>	HISTORY AND SYSTEMS OF PSYCHOLOGY	
<u>PSYC 546</u>	PSYCHONEUROIMMUNOLOGY	
<u>PSYC 552</u>	EMOTION REGULATION	
<u>PSYC 586</u>	SOCIAL AND AFFECTIVE NEUROSCIENCE	

<u>PSYC 630</u>	ADVANCED TOPICS IN I/O
<u>PSYC 631</u>	FOUNDATIONS OF INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES
<u>PSYC 636</u>	ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY
<u>PSYC 651</u>	TOPICS IN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
First-Year Project	
Second-Year Project	
Thesis Requirement	
<i>Completion and public defense of a thesis</i>	
Additional Coursework as Approved by Department	
Total Credit Hours	Minimum of 90

¹ Students may select other elective courses if approved by an advisor in consultation with the faculty under the Major Concentration.

Psychological Sciences

[Overview](#) | [Undergraduate](#) | [Graduate](#) | [Faculty](#) | [Courses](#) | [Codes](#)

The Department of Psychological Science's undergraduate program offers the core preparation found across the nation's leading graduate schools of psychology, combined with advanced courses and research opportunities offered by the nation's leading scholars and teachers in psychological science. Programs of study may be tailored to graduate school and future careers in several major fields of psychology, as well as in medicine, law, business, or education.

Program emphasis in graduate study is on doctoral training. An important feature of our doctoral program is its strong research orientation. Graduate students are expected to spend most of their time actively engaged in research and are expected to acquire a high level of research and statistical competence. Faculty research interests and PhD major concentrations for graduate students include:

- **Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience:** understanding the psychology and neuroscience behind basic mental activities (e.g., perceiving, attending, remembering) and higher forms of behavior (e.g., memory, language, social cognition, emotion, health);
- **Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine Research:** understanding how behaviors, cognitions, and emotions impact mental and physical health; designing and testing evidence-based interventions to reduce health risk and improve quality of life; examining biological factors underlying risk, resilience, and mechanisms of change;
- **Human-Computer Interaction and Human Factors:** understanding interactions between humans and other elements of a physical system, and the application of theories, principles, data, and other methods of design that optimize human well-being and overall system performance and usability;
- **Industrial-Organizational Psychology:** understanding human behavior in organizational and work situations, addressing research problems such as motivation at work, the aging workforce, discrimination in the workplace, job performance, and team training;
- **Psychometrics and Quantitative Psychology:** understanding specialized skills related to appropriate and innovative study design; statistical modeling and analysis; and interpretation of psychological measures, experiments, and interventions.

Psychological Sciences

[Overview](#) | [Undergraduate](#) | [Graduate](#) | [Faculty](#) | [Courses](#) | [Codes](#)

Master's Program

- [Master of Arts \(MA\) Degree in the field of Psychology*](#)
- [Master of Human-Computer Interaction and Human Factors \(MHC IHF\) Degree](#)

Doctoral Program

- [Doctor of Philosophy \(PhD\) Degree in the field of Psychology](#)
 - [and a Major Concentration in Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience](#)
 - [and a Major Concentration in Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine Research](#)
 - [and a Major Concentration in Human-Computer Interaction and Human Factors](#)
 - [and a Major Concentration in Industrial-Organizational Psychology](#)
 - [and a Major Concentration in Psychometrics and Quantitative Psychology](#)

* Although students are not normally admitted to a Master of Arts (MA) degree program, graduate students may earn the MA as they work towards the PhD.

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Degree in the field of Psychology and a Major Concentration in Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine Research

[Outcomes](#) | [Requirements](#) | [Policies](#) | [Opportunities](#)

Program Learning Outcomes for the PhD Degree in the field of Psychology and a Major Concentration in Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine Research

Upon completing the PhD degree in the field of Psychology and a major concentration in Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine Research, students will be able to:

1. Apply the theoretical tools necessary to carry out independent research in health psychology.
 2. Apply the methodological and statistical tools necessary to carry out independent research in health psychology.
 3. Conduct a focused literature review tied to an independent research question, design and run a health research study, and write up the results in an APA formatted paper.
 4. Communicate and defend their research designs and modeling choices when presenting papers and presentations.
 5. Write an independent and original dissertation that is of sufficient quality to merit publication in a top journal within the field of health psychology.
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Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Degree in the field of Psychology and a Major Concentration in Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine Research

[Outcomes](#) | [Requirements](#) | [Policies](#) | [Opportunities](#)

Requirements for the MA and PhD Degrees in the field of Psychology

MA Degree Program

The MA degree is a thesis master's degree. For general university requirements, please see Thesis Master's Degrees. For additional requirements, regulations, and procedures for all graduate programs, please see All Graduate Students. Although students are not normally admitted to study for an MA in Psychology, graduate students may earn the MA degree after obtaining approval of their candidacy for the PhD. For general university requirements for PhD degrees, please see Doctoral Degrees. For both MA and PhD degrees, students must complete a research thesis, including a public oral defense. Required coursework is determined by the student's major concentration. Students must complete an admission-to-candidacy procedure to establish their expertise in their chosen major concentration. Competence in a foreign language is not required.

Summary

Total Credit Hours Required for the MA Degree in the field of Psychology	30
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Requirements for the PhD Degree in the field of Psychology

PhD Degree Program

For general university requirements, please see [Doctoral Degrees](#). For additional requirements, regulations, and procedures for all graduate programs, please see [All Graduate Students](#). In addition, students pursuing the PhD degree in the field of Psychology must:

- Complete all coursework with a minimum grade of B- (2.67 grade points) in each required course.
- Complete all of the course requirements in their major concentration.
- Successfully complete and present the first-year project in May of the first year.
- Successfully complete and present the second-year project in May of the second year.
- Write and defend a thesis. The thesis committee must be in the area of [Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine Research](#) and be overseen by a Psychology faculty member affiliated with the [Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine Research](#) Major Concentration.

Students who have not previously completed a master's degree in Psychology or a related field, must successfully defend a master's thesis and earn the MA degree in Psychology. Students who come to Rice with a master's degree in a related field can be exempted from this requirement.

Summary

Total Credit Hours Required for the PhD Degree in the field of Psychology and a Major Concentration in Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine Research	90
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Degree Requirements for the PhD Degree in the field of Psychology and a Major Concentration in **Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine Research**

Core Requirements		
<u>PSYC 502 / STAT 509</u>	ADVANCED PSYCHOLOGICAL STATISTICS I	4
<u>PSYC 503 / STAT 510</u>	ADVANCED PSYCHOLOGICAL STATISTICS II	3
<u>PSYC 520</u>	FOUNDATIONS OF COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY	3
<u>PSYC 532</u>	HEALTH RESEARCH SEMINAR	1-3
<u>PSYC 546 or PSYC 586</u>	PSYCHONEUROIMMUNOLOGY OR SOCIAL AND AFFECTIVE NEUROSCIENCE	3
<u>PSYC 547</u>	FOUNDATIONS OF HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY	3
<u>PSYC 550</u>	FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY	3
Statistical Requirements		
<i>Select 1 course from the following:</i>		3
<u>PSYC 507</u>	RESEARCH METHODS	
<u>PSYC 601</u>	MULTIVARIATE STATISTICS	
<u>PSYC 602</u>	PSYCHOMETRICS	
Professional Issues		

<u>PSYC 660</u>	PROFESSIONAL ISSUES	3
Elective Requirements¹		
<i>Select 3 courses from the following:</i>		9
<u>PSYC 511</u>	HISTORY AND SYSTEMS OF PSYCHOLOGY	
<u>PSYC 546</u>	PSYCHONEUROIMMUNOLOGY	
<u>PSYC 552</u>	EMOTION REGULATION	
<u>PSYC 586</u>	SOCIAL AND AFFECTIVE NEUROSCIENCE	
<u>PSYC 630</u>	ADVANCED TOPICS IN I/O	
<u>PSYC 631</u>	FOUNDATIONS OF INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES	
<u>PSYC 636</u>	ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY	
<u>PSYC 651</u>	TOPICS IN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY	
First-Year Project		
Second-Year Project		
Thesis Requirement		
<i>Completion and public defense of a thesis</i>		
Additional Coursework as Approved by Department		
Total Credit Hours		Minimum of 90

¹ Students may select other elective courses if approved by an advisor in consultation with the faculty under the Major Concentration.

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Degree in the field of Psychology and a Major Concentration in Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine Research

[Outcomes](#) | [Requirements](#) | [Policies](#) | [Opportunities](#)

Policies for the PhD Degree in the field of Psychology

Department of Psychological Sciences Graduate Program Handbook

The General Announcements (GA) is the official Rice curriculum. As an additional resource for students, the department of Psychological Sciences publishes a graduate program handbook, which can be found here: https://gradhandbooks.rice.edu/2019_20/Psychology_Graduate_Handbook.pdf

Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Psychological Sciences website: <https://psychology.rice.edu/>

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Degree in the field of Psychology and a Major Concentration in Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine Research

[Outcomes](#) | [Requirements](#) | [Policies](#) | [Opportunities](#)

Opportunities for the PhD Degree in the field of Psychology

Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Psychological Sciences website: <https://psychology.rice.edu/>



Susan Keech McIntosh, Ph.D.
Dean of the School of Social Sciences (Interim)
Herbert S. Autrey Professor of Anthropology

15 October 2019

Professor Deconick and members of Graduate Council:

I enthusiastically support the proposed creation of a fourth graduate concentration, Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine Research, in the Psychological Sciences Ph.D. program. Christopher Fagundes has designed the new concentration in response to graduate students in the Psychology Ph.D. program who wish to focus in this area. This new concentration reflects the research activities and expertise of several faculty in the department, assuring a robust curriculum. Of particular note is the strong program of funded research in this area, with health-focused research projects that engage with the Texas Medical Center. The opportunities that these afford for graduate student participation and training are a key attraction of this concentration, which students may pursue on its own or in concert with one or more other concentrations in the graduate program. Postgraduate job possibilities for these Ph.D.s exist in both academic and non-academic sectors, including medical centers, public health, and the CDC. With no additional costs or departmental resources required, this concentration has only positives attached to it. I am pleased to express my wholehearted support.

With my best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Keech McIntosh".

Susan Keech McIntosh



Eduardo Salas, Ph.D.
Allyn R. & Gladys M. Cline Professor of Psychological Sciences
Chair, Department of Psychological Sciences

September 30, 2019

TO: Graduate Council
FROM: Eduardo Salas, Department Chair
RE: CIP Designation

The Department of Psychology is supportive of a health psychology and behavioral medicine concentration. This concentration will not require any funds or resources. We have the courses in place for graduate students in this concentration.

Establishing major concentrations with their associated CIP codes is important to the department because the Major Concentration will show up on the graduate student's transcript upon receipt of the Ph.D., providing official support for the graduate student's expertise in a specific subfield of Psychology.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eduardo Salas'.

Eduardo Salas