



# How to Apply to Graduate Programs in Psychology at Stanislaus State

## **What programs are available?**

### **Master of Arts (MA)**

#### **M.A. Psychology – General (30 units)**

- The M.A. program in General Psychology is designed (1) to prepare students for advanced graduate work, and (2) for students who desire a research-oriented program. This is a 30-unit program including a master's thesis. Students following the course plan will complete this program in 1.5 years.

#### **M.A. Applied Behavior Analysis (40 units)**

- The M.A. program in Applied Behavior Analysis is designed to provide students with knowledge and experience in applying the science of Behavior Analysis to a variety of areas in society. This is a 40-unit program including a master's thesis. Students following the course plan will complete this program in 2 years. The Association for Behavior Analysis International has verified the courses toward the coursework requirements for eligibility to take the Board-Certified Behavior Analyst® or Board-Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst® examination.

### **Master of Science (MS)**

The M.S. program is designed to train masters-level professionals who can apply the techniques and knowledge of psychology to the solution of human problems. The M.S. program has two tracks: Behavior Analysis and Counseling. Both tracks meet the educational requirements for the California Marriage Family Therapist (MFT) license.

#### **M.S. Psychology – MFT – Counseling track (60 units)**

The M.S. Counseling track is a 60-unit program including a master's thesis. Students following the course plan can complete the program in 2.5 of full-time participation. The Counseling track emphasizes a variety of counseling theories and skills in training students for positions in counseling settings. The Counseling track meets the academic requirements of the California Board of Behavioral Sciences for the licensure in Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) in California.

#### **M.S. Psychology – MFT – Behavior Analysis track (61 units)**

The M.S. MFT Concentration, Behavior Analysis track is a 61-unit program including a master's thesis. Students following the course plan will complete this program in 3 years. The Behavior Analysis track meets the academic requirements of the California Board of Behavioral Sciences for the licensure in Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) in California. In addition, the Association for Behavior Analysis International has verified the courses toward the coursework requirements for eligibility to take the Board-Certified Behavior Analyst® or Board-Certified

Assistant Behavior Analyst® examination. This track is unique in that it provides extensive training in behavioral theory, experimentation, and application, as well as extensive training in counseling theory and techniques.

### **Minimum prerequisites to be considered for admission**

- Completion of a bachelor's degree
- Overall GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Completion of pre-requisite courses
- Personal statement
- Three letters of recommendation
- Approval by the Psychology Department

### **Prerequisite Courses**

All prerequisites must be upper-division courses; lower-division courses and courses taken at a community college will not be accepted. The required prerequisite courses must be completed with a letter grade of B or better.

	<b>Program</b>			
	<b>MA GEN</b>	<b>MA ABA</b>	<b>MS MFT BA</b>	<b>MS MFT CO</b>
<b>Prerequisite Courses</b>				
<b>Experimental Methods and Design (research/stats)</b> <u>Stanislaus State equivalent: PSYC 3000</u>	YES	YES	YES	YES
<b>Applied Behavior Analysis or the Experimental Analysis of Behavior</b> <u>Stanislaus State equivalent: PSYC 3700 or 4720</u>	NO	YES	YES	NO
<b>Additional Psychology course with a behavior analytic component</b> <u>Stanislaus State equivalent: PSYC 3610, 3700, 4720, 4725, 4750, or 4790</u>	NO	YES	NO	NO
<b>Abnormal Psychology</b> <u>Stanislaus State Equivalent: PSYC 3350</u>	NO	NO	YES	YES
<b>Counseling Theory</b> <u>Stanislaus State Equivalent: PSYC 3790</u>	NO	NO	YES	YES
<b>Counseling Techniques</b> <u>Stanislaus State Equivalent: PSYC 4770</u>	NO	NO	YES	YES

## **How do I apply?**

1. Apply to the University as a Graduate Student through [Cal State Apply](#)
2. Add a Graduate Program
  - a. M.A. Psychology – General
  - b. M.A. Applied Behavior Analysis
  - c. M.S. Psychology – MFT – Behavior Analysis track
  - d. M.S. Psychology – MFT – Counseling track
3. Complete sections of the program application
  - a. Transcripts
  - b. Pre-requisite courses
  - c. Upload documents
  - d. Open-ended questions

## **Transcripts**

You do not need to submit official transcripts if:

- You attended (are attending) Stanislaus State for your bachelor's degree
- You previously sent Stanislaus State the transcripts from transfer schools and have not taken any other courses there since they last sent transcripts

You must submit official transcripts if:

- You completed (will complete) your bachelor's degree from another university
- You took any classes from another college or university since transferring to Stanislaus State

You can submit transcripts electronically, but they will be unofficial. Students should request official transcripts from their institution. Then, the institution will email Graduate Studies directly with a link to access the transcripts. All transcripts submitted electronically should be emailed to: [graduate\\_school@csustan.edu](mailto:graduate_school@csustan.edu), not submitted through the online application. If your institution mails you an original (hard) copy of your transcript in the sealed envelope, you should mail the sealed envelope to the Graduate School.

California State University, Stanislaus  
Graduate School MSR 240  
One University Circle  
Turlock, California 95382

## Enter Prerequisite Courses

You will need to enter the institution, course number, and grade for each prerequisite course for the program that you are applying. For example, if you completed PSYC 3000: Experimental Methods and Design at Stanislaus State and earned an A for the prerequisite “Experimental Methods and Design,” you would enter:

- Institution: CSU Stanislaus
- Course number: PSYC 3000
- Grade: A

Please read the FAQ below to determine how to complete this section if you are missing a prerequisite course, currently enrolled in a prerequisite course, or completed courses at another university.

### FAQ about prerequisite courses

**1. I am currently enrolled in a prerequisite class this fall but do not have my grade yet, what should I do?**

*If you can, wait for your grade to post before you submit your application. If your grade has not posted before the application is due, you can list the course information and term, but write IP (in progress) for the grade.*

**2. I am enrolled to take a prerequisite course in the spring, what should I do?**

*You can list the course information and term, but do not enter a grade. Write IP (in progress) for the grade.*

**3. I plan to take a prerequisite course over the summer if I need to, what should I do?**

*If you are not currently enrolled in the course, leave the lines blank.*

**4. I am not a Stanislaus State Student, will my courses count?**

*If you complete prerequisites at another university, the Graduate Committee will determine whether the course meets our prerequisite requirements (e.g., covers essential topics/materials). See faculty contact information below.*

**5. I already graduated but need to take a prerequisite. How can I do that?**

*You can complete the prerequisite courses at any university if the course meets our content requirements. We encourage you to seek feedback from the Graduate Committee before enrolling in a course to ensure that the content is equivalent. You can also enroll in a course at Stanislaus State through [University Extended Education's Open Enrollment](#) during the regular semesters, or Summer/Winter Session options (if offered).*

## 6. What happens if I do not complete the prerequisites?

*You must complete the prerequisite courses to be fully admitted to the program. If you are accepted to the program but you are missing one or more prerequisite courses, you will be given a conditional status and must complete the prerequisite(s) by the end of your first semester in the program. We strongly encourage students to complete all prerequisite courses prior to beginning graduate coursework (e.g., during the spring or summer term) and avoid completing prerequisite course(s) concurrently with graduate coursework in the fall.*

### Documents you will be asked to upload in the application

- A. Personal statement. Please discuss the following in your personal statement:
- Why you are interested in pursuing graduate training in this field.
  - Your understanding of the professional role of someone who obtains this degree.
  - Why you are applying to this specific program at Stan State.
  - What training, experience, and skills make you an excellent candidate for this program.
- B. *MA General ONLY*: Research Outline and Letter of Support from Chairperson.
- You must identify an advisor who agrees to serve as your thesis chair (contingent on acceptance) prior to applying to the program.
  - After consultation with the proposed Thesis Chair, create an outline that includes the following information:
    - i. A description of a sample problem you might choose as a thesis.
    - ii. A proposed sequence of courses.
    - iii. A letter of support from the faculty member stating that he or she agrees to service as a chair of your master's committee and will direct the research for your chosen project. **\*\*NOTE: Chairperson must be consulted before application and research outline are submitted.**

### Open-ended questions you will be asked to complete in the application

- A. List any academic honors or awards you have received.
- B. Describe any research experience you have outside of classes (e.g., as a research assistant, honors thesis).
- C. List any relevant conference presentations and publications that you are an author.
- D. Briefly describe your current research interests.
- E. List all jobs, paid or voluntary, relevant to psychology including start and end dates. Describe your duties.
- F. Indicate any other information you would like considered in the evaluation of your application.
- G. Indicate your career plans after receiving your MA/MS degree.
- H. Enter GPA.

- I. Do you plan to be a full-time or part-time student? (Full-time / Part-time)
- J. Prerequisites: Write the institution, course number, date completed, and grade for each prerequisite course.
  - a. Write “IP” (in progress) for your grade if you are currently enrolled in a course but the grade has not been posted.
  - b. Leave the lines blank if you are not currently enrolled in the course.

### **Recommendations (3 are required)**

Submit the name, relationship, and email for each recommender.

- A. Recommendations should be from persons who know the quality of your academic and/or professional abilities and potential. Specifically, these recommenders should be able to attest to your skills which are relevant to this graduate program. Recommenders may have observed you in academic, community, professional or volunteer positions.
- B. Common recommenders are college professors, researcher supervisors, or supervisors at an agency that provides counseling or behavior analysis services to the community.
- C. *Note: You should formally ask each recommender if they agree to write you a letter prior to submitting their information.*

### **Submit your application**

After you complete all required fields in the application, submit!

- **Applications are due January 15, 2024.**
- All materials, including completed letters of recommendation must be submitted by this date. It is your responsibility to ensure that your letters of recommendation are submitted by your recommenders by the deadline. The Graduate Committee will not review applications completed after this date.

### **What happens after I submit my application?**

1. Visit the [What's Next?](#) Page.
2. The Psychology Graduate Committee will review all completed applications at the beginning of the spring semester.
3. The Psychology Graduate Committee will invite a select number of applicants to an interview.
4. After all interviews are completed, the Psychology Graduate Committee will make final recommendations and request approval from the Psychology Department Faculty.
5. After the Psychology Department Faculty approves the Psychology Graduate Committee recommendations, decision letters will be sent to all applicants.
  - a. Accept: Congratulations! Your letter will indicate that you are offered admission to the graduate program.
  - b. Wait List: Your letter will indicate that you are not offered admission to the graduate program, but you may be considered if a position becomes available.

- c. No Offer: Your letter will indicate that you are not offered admission to the graduate program.
6. Please note that acceptance is not guaranteed. Furthermore, acceptance rates vary each year and are dependent on the number and quality of applicants.

### **Who can I talk to about the program options and my application?**

- If you have general questions about advising or admissions, you can contact the Office of Admissions and Outreach services ([Outreach\\_Help\\_Desk@csustan.edu](mailto:Outreach_Help_Desk@csustan.edu)).
- If you have questions about the status of your application, you can email [graduate.psync@csustan.edu](mailto:graduate.psync@csustan.edu).
- If you have questions about the programs, you can contact Dr. Katie Wiskow ([kwiskow@csustan.edu](mailto:kwiskow@csustan.edu); Graduate Academic Director, behavior analysis faculty), Dr. Kurt Baker ([kbaker@csustan.edu](mailto:kbaker@csustan.edu); Graduate Clinical Director, counseling faculty), or any other graduate faculty listed below:
  - a. Dr. Yamini Bellare ([ybellare@csustan.edu](mailto:ybellare@csustan.edu); counseling faculty)
  - b. Dr. Vincent Campbell ([vcampbell2@csustan.edu](mailto:vcampbell2@csustan.edu); behavior analysis faculty)
  - c. Dr. Aletha Harven ([aharven@csustan.edu](mailto:aharven@csustan.edu); general faculty)
  - d. Dr. Ziyang Jin ([zjin2@csustan.edu](mailto:zjin2@csustan.edu); counseling faculty)
  - e. Dr. Victor Luevano ([vluviano@csustan.edu](mailto:vluviano@csustan.edu); general faculty)
  - f. Dr. Esteban Montenegro-Montenegro ([emontenegro1@csustan.edu](mailto:emontenegro1@csustan.edu); general faculty)
  - g. Dr. Anita Pedersen ([apedersen1@csustan.edu](mailto:apedersen1@csustan.edu); counseling faculty)
  - h. Dr. Bill Potter ([wpotter@csustan.edu](mailto:wpotter@csustan.edu); behavior analysis faculty and Psychology Department Chair)
  - i. Dr. Shrinidhi Subramaniam ([ssubramaniam@csustan.edu](mailto:ssubramaniam@csustan.edu); behavior analysis faculty)
  - j. Dr. Gary Williams ([gwilliams1@csustan.edu](mailto:gwilliams1@csustan.edu); general faculty)
- You can also schedule appointments with faculty through [psync.setmore.com](http://psync.setmore.com).

### **Helpful Resources**

- Stanislaus State Graduate School: [How to Apply](#)
- Stanislaus State: [Graduate Programs in Psychology](#)
- American Psychological Association: [Applying to Graduate School](#)
- [California Board of Behavioral Sciences](#)
- [Behavior Analyst Certification Board](#)





### Summary of Graduate Programs in Psychology at Stanislaus State

TRACK	MA IN APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS N/A	MS IN PSYCHOLOGY: MFT CONCENTRATION Behavior analysis Track	MS IN PSYCHOLOGY: MFT CONCENTRATION Counseling Track	MA IN PSYCHOLOGY: GENERAL CONCENTRATION N/A
PRE-REQUISITE COURSES (ALL UPPER-DIVISION)	Experimental methods and design (research methods and analysis)			
	Applied behavior analysis or the experimental analysis of behavior			
	Psychology course with a behavior analytic component	Counseling Theory Counseling Techniques Abnormal Psychology		
TOTAL UNITS	40	61	60	30
THESIS	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
PRACTICUM	Yes, BA site/hours required	Yes, MFT site/hours required Additional BA site/hours optional	Yes, MFT site/hours required	None
*ACADEMIC REQ FOR	BCBA certification exam	BCBA certification exam MFT licensure exam	MFT licensure exam	None
REQUIRED COURSES	5990 Master's Thesis (3 units)			
	5080 Legal and Ethical Issues			
			5005 Introduction to Thesis	
			5010 Advanced Methods for Psychological Research 5020 Advanced Statistical Analysis of Psychological Data	
	5025 Research Methods in Behavior Analysis 5055 Foundations in Behavior Analysis 5090 Behavioral Assessment 5150 Clinical Interventions with Families and Individuals 5640 Conceptual Issues in Behavior Analysis 5750 Advanced ABA 5870 Behavior Analysis of Personnel Supervision		5030 Clinical Assessment and Diagnostics Practicum 5755 Couples Counseling 5790 Family Counseling 5810 Group Counseling	
	5065 Experimental Analysis of Behavior 5930 Practicum in BA PSYC electives (3 units)	5140 Applied Psychopharmacology 5160 Multicultural and Developmental Perspectives 5360 Seminar in Clinical Psychopathology 5650 Child Clinical Interventions 5690 Counseling Sexual Problems 5740 Community Counseling Interventions 5770 Substance Abuse Counseling 5780 Advanced Counseling 5860 Domestic Violence & Trauma Interventions 5910 Practicum in Counseling and Diagnostics		PSYC electives (22 units)

\*These graduate programs meet the academic and educational requirements to be eligible to sit for the BCBA and/or MFT examinations. Completion of our graduate program results in a master's degree; it does not provide you with BCBA certification or MFT licensure. You must meet all other requirements indicated by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, Inc.® (for BCBA exam eligibility) or the California Board of Behavioral Sciences (for MFT exam eligibility), take the exam, and pass it.