Graduate Study in Psychology
Graduate Program in Psychology

• Graduate school is advanced training in a specific area of psychology.

• Outcomes:
  - Clinical Psychologist
  - Research Analyst
  - Industrial Psychologist
  - University/college Professor
DEVELOPMENT OF READING AND LANGUAGE LABORATORY

AMY S. DESROCHES, PH.D.

INFO  RESEARCH INTERESTS  LAB MEMBERS AND COLLABORATORS  PUBLICATIONS  OPPORTUNITIES

CONTACT INFORMATION

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office: 4L05D

ACADEMIC TRAINING

Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2008-2011
Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory
Northwestern University

Ph.D., 2008
Language, Reading and Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory
The University of Western Ontario

M.A., 2004
Language, Reading and Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory
The University of Western Ontario

B.A. (Hons)
The University of Western Ontario

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
Department of Psychology
The University of Winnipeg
Proven Effective Treatment

I am a licensed psychologist with a private practice in Montreal (Westmount) who specializes in the use of Cognitive-Behavioural Therapy (CBT) and in the treatment of various mental health problems.

My practice is professional and confidential, and all clients are treated with warmth and acceptance.

Please contact me by phone or email if you wish to make an appointment.

I am also author of the book “The Need to be Liked.”

245 Victoria Avenue, #520 Westmount, QC. H3Z 2M6

e-mail: roger@drcovin.ca

Call: 514-465-5151
Are You Ready To Create A Life You Love?

I’m an author, speaker, researcher and yoga teacher who helps people create a life they love. I offer tools, techniques and resources that promote wellness on all levels: mind, body and spirit. I serve as a catalyst for positive change and a guide on your path toward living in authenticity.

I truly believe that happiness is our birthright. We’re all meant to live a life we love, but we forget. We get bogged down by daily tasks and “shoulds.” We do what society tells us to do because we think this will make other people happy.

In my role as a change agent for authenticity, I encourage you to live life like you mean it. I help you bust through fears and limiting beliefs. I teach you how to be well on all levels - one step at a time.

Join my whole-self health revolution by signing up for my e-newsletter, following me on Facebook, and learning more about the tools and services that I offer.
Graduate Program at Western
Western's Psychology Department

- We have about 54 full-time faculty
  - Behavioural and Cognitive Neuroscience
  - Clinical
  - Cognition and Perception
  - Developmental
  - Industrial/Organizational
  - Personality and Measurement
  - Social
GRADUATE PROGRAM IN PSYCHOLOGY

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

- The Application Procedure
- Overview
- The Faculty
- Financial Support and Fees
- The University, the Dept., and Austin TX
- Frequently Asked Questions

AREAS OF STUDY

- Clinical Psychology
- Cognitive Systems
- Behavioral Neuroscience
- Developmental Psychology
- Individual Differences & Evolutionary Psychology
- Social & Personality
- Perceptual Systems
- Cognitive & Translational Neuroscience Group

NEW! Cognitive & Translational Neuroscience Group

The Cognitive and Translational Neuroscience group in the Department of Psychology at the University of Texas is a collaborative effort with faculty in different specialty areas to understand the underlying neural basis of human behavior by taking a broad perspective, examining both normal and abnormal populations across the lifespan from childhood through old age. Read more...

Neuroimaging Track in Psychology

Are you a graduate student looking to enhance the statistical modeling component of your research?

- Earn a Portfolio in Applied Statistical Modeling (download flyer)
- Portfolio in Applied Statistical Modeling (web site)
Graduate Studies

Introduction to Graduate Training in our Department at McMaster University

Thank you for your interest in the graduate program in Psychology at McMaster. There are 30 faculty in the Department of Psychology and approximately 87 graduate students. The department has a strong research base in the areas of Animal Behaviour, Systems and Behavioural Neuroscience, Cognition/Perception, Developmental Psychology and Evolution and Social Behaviour. The breadth of faculty research areas provides a rich environment for graduate training in the field of Experimental Psychology.

Our graduate program is research-oriented and provides flexibility to optimize the program around the interests of the student. There is a strong collegial environment in the department that supports scientific interactions among faculty and students, and, as a consequence, students often undertake research projects with more than one faculty member. The graduate program introduces students to the issues and questions in the field of Experimental Psychology and trains them in the theoretical basis and research approaches used to study the problems.

If the information you're looking for pertains to the research of a particular faculty member, then we encourage you to contact them directly, by telephone or by e-mail, or visit their web pages which can be accessed from our faculty web page or by looking at the descriptions of the Research Areas.
Divisions of the Psychology Department at Illinois

The Psychology department is composed of nine substantive divisions, with each faculty person participating in one or more divisions. Graduate students in the department belong to one division, and the different divisions can have different curricula and requirements. The division structure is fairly flexible, and the department encourages collaboration and interaction across divisions. Faculty often are loosely affiliated with multiple divisions, and students regularly work with faculty from multiple divisions.

- Behavioral Neuroscience
- Clinical/Community
- Cognitive
- Cognitive Neuroscience
- Developmental
- General
- Quantitative
- Social-Personality
- Industrial-Organizational
- Visual Cognition and Human Performance
Western's Psychology Department

• Several Research Institutes and Areas
  - Brain and Mind Institute
  - Collaborative Graduate Program in Migration and Ethnic Relations
  - Animal Cognition Research Group
  - Language and Concepts Research Group
One of Canada’s Leading Research Departments

• Citation impact of publications
• Number of publications
• Grant funding per faculty member
Western's Psychology Department

- about 135 MSc and PhD students combined (and additional Neuroscience students)

- a research-based graduate program
  - graduate experience tailored to individual research areas
  - Full time study – it’s like having a job
Applying to a Graduate School
Where to apply

• See “Graduate Study in Psychology” (by APA)
  - available at DB Weldon Library Circulation Desk (2-hour loan) as well as at some Affiliate Libraries
  - Check websites

• Talk to professors
  - Where did they go?
  - What programs do they think are great?
Contact Prospective Supervisors

• Late fall is a good time

• Think about why you’re contacting them
  - Are they taking students?
  - Would they be interested in someone who has interests like yours?

• Think about how you’re contacting them
  - “Dear Mrs. Sutton” is a lousy way to start an email to a Professor with a Ph.D.
  - “Hi Jen” is probably even worse
  - Might not want to not emoji either 👏👏👏
When to apply

• Most programs have December-March deadlines
  - Ours is January 1, 2016
Competition

• Applications to Western’s Graduate Program in Psychology in 2015:
  - 308 applicants; 60 received offers of admission, 48 accepted our offer
  - The acceptance rate varies, though

• Clinical is by far the most competitive program: 80% of applicants, 10% of acceptances

• Apply to more than one program
  - Consider whether you’re competitive
Your application

• Grades
  - Minimum B+ (78%) average required, but higher average is typically expected.
  - Usually an honours thesis degree in Psychology “or equivalent”

• GRE
  - verbal, quantitative, and analytical writing
  - The subjects test is optional @ UWO
    - And the actual GRE requirement can be waived, sometimes
  - You need “reasonably good” GRE scores...above 50th percentile
  - higher is better, BUT often, no firm cutoff values for GREs
Your application

• Letters of Reference
  - academic sources (i.e., professors) are probably best
  - should be familiar with your record of academic accomplishments and goals

• Statement of Interest
  - make sure it’s composed well (grammar, spelling, etc.)
  - demonstrate your knowledge of relevant literature and faculty members
  - specific but not too specific.
What Not To Do

Kisses of Death in the Graduate School Application Process

Drew C. Appleby
Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis

Karen M. Appleby
Idaho State University

A survey of psychology graduate admissions committee chairs revealed 5 categories of mistakes applicants make that diminish their probability of acceptance. We discuss 3 strategies that psychology departments can use to decrease the likelihood that students will commit these mistakes in their graduate school applications and provide suggestions that will help students avoid these mistakes.

The ideal student, seen through the eyes of graduate faculty, is gifted and creative, very bright and extremely motivated to learn, perfectly suited to the program, eager to actively pursue the lines of inquiry valued by the faculty, pleasant, responsible, and devoid of serious personal problems.

—Keith-Spiegel & Wiederman (2000, p. 32)

This statement indicates that applicants must convey these impressions to graduate school admissions committees throughout the application process to gain acceptance into graduate programs. Numerous authors have offered advice to

Data Analysis

Eighty-eight of the 457 chairs (19%) returned their surveys, and these responses yielded 156 examples of KODs. This relatively low response rate is common in qualitative research that uses open-ended questions because, although this type of question gives respondents freedom to "expand on ideas," it often "requires more time to answer than closed questions" (Thomas & Nelson, 2001, p. 263). We qualitatively analyzed the 156 examples of KODs according to the following procedures (Miles & Huberman, 1994; Patton, 1990). First, we independently inductively analyzed each example (McCracken, 1988). This approach required us to consider each response individually and to identify its central theme (poorly written application, harmful letter of recommendation, or lack of interest in research). Second, we independently grouped these inductive findings into categories, or "words, phrases, sentences, or whole paragraphs, connected ... to a specific setting" (Miles & Huberman, 1994, p.
Damaging Personal Statements

• discussing personal mental health

• excessive altruism:
  - “I want to help all people”

• excessive self-disclosure:
  - “my fight against all odds to graduate high school”

• professional inappropriateness:
  - “a 10-page narrative of herself as Dorothy on the yellow-brick road to graduate school”
Harmful Letters of Recommendation

• You can control this!

• Ask the right people
  - Say, someone who thinks highly of you

• Understand what they need to comment on
  - Say, someone who actually knows who you are

• Person who is appropriate
  - “therapists,” “travel agents,” “parents,” “boyfriend[s] or girlfriend[s],” “family friends,” and “the applicant.”
More KODs

• Poor writing skills
  - Graduate work involves a lot of writing
  - Show that you can write
  - Ask an advisor for help

• Misfired attempts to impress
  - Criticizing your current institution/department/supervisor
  - Name dropping
Application Requirements

Graduate Application Requirements

- Honours (or equivalent) bachelor's degree with at least a B+ average in your final year in all courses in your discipline. Requires 1 official transcripts*.
- Applicants are encouraged, but not required, to submit scores for the Graduate Record Examination (General Test)*
- If English is not your native language, an official copy of your TOEFL score (minimum score=550)*.
- Two confidential letters of recommendation from instructors available on-line.
- Completed On-Line application. Paper copy is no longer accepted.
- Statement of interest in pursuing graduate studies in the fields of psychology, neuroscience and behaviour. May list on a separate sheet any research, teaching, or work experience that is related to the fields of psychology, neuroscience and behaviour, this can be a one page short description of what you would be interested in studying and the faculty members that you would like to work with.*
- Applications must be accompanied by the required $100 application fee. This fee is non-refundable and must be paid in Canadian dollars by means of a credit card payment or a cheque (or world money order) drawn on a Canadian bank made payable to McMaster University. Cheques (or world money order) drawn on Canadian banks should also include a $15 processing fee for a total of $115. If you pay the application fee by cheque or world money order, please send the cheque (or world money order) to the following address:

School of Graduate Studies
McMaster University
Gilmour Hall, Room 212
1280 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario Canada L8S 4L8

Send to (deadline date for applications is December 15. applications are still considered after this date, but you are advised that the sooner is better)

On-Line Application Forms
General Admission Requirements

Admission requirements for all programs include:

- normally an Honours Bachelor's degree or its equivalent in Psychology with at least a B overall standing (75%)
- three letters of reference from academic sources
- official transcripts from all other post-secondary institutions which you will be required to upload; try not to use unofficial transcripts which you can download from the net, as they are hard to read
- completion of the Supplementary Information Form
- submission of results from the Graduate Record Examination (Verbal, Quantitative and Analytic) General scores. The Institution Code for the University of Waterloo is 0996. The Department Code (Psychology) is 2016. Note: Psychology at the University of Waterloo does not require the GRE Psychology Subject scores. You are only required to submit GRE General scores.
- proof of competency in English (if applicable). On the computerized version of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the minimum overall score is 550, with a minimum score of 50 in each section, plus a minimum score of 4.0 for the TWE. For the Internet-Based Test, the minimum overall score is 90, with a minimum score of 24 in both the Speaking and Writing sections.

The Institution Code for the University of Waterloo is 0996. The Department Code (Psychology) is 08. See Academic Regulations - English Language Proficiency Certification for other acceptable tests of English.

For complete application procedures, go to Application Procedure.

Candidates for admission to a graduate program in Psychology who possess a general Bachelor's degree must meet at least three preliminary terms of qualifying work in Psychology to ensure that their preparation is equivalent to that of a graduate of an Honours degree in Psychology. Students should be aware that we receive over 200 applications for our various programs. The majority of these applicants have the necessary requirements of an Honours degree in Psychology. We can usually admit enough students from these applications that we find that we can not accommodate students who do not have a BA or BSc in Psychology. Note: Clinical psychology is very competitive, more than half the applications are for this program and as such an application which does not have the necessary background would not be considered very strong. It is strongly recommended that you complete the requirements for an Honours degree in Psychology before applying to our program.

Candidates applying with a Master's degree in Psychology may request advanced standing in a PhD program.

All applicants for graduate study must arrange to have their Graduate Record Examination (GRE) general scores forwarded to the Department when applying for admission. When you are completing your OUAC form, if you do not have your GRE scores, you can leave this section blank and submit your OUAC application without the scores. You will still be required to have written the GRE General exam, but we are aware that you may not have your results by the time that you submit your application. It is still your responsibility to ensure that your official scores are sent to the Department.

**NOTE:** Because the number of applicants always far exceeds the number of available spots, meeting the requirements does not always guarantee admission.
Graduate Study
How long does it take?

- M.Sc.: typically 2 years
- Ph.D.: typically another 4 years after M.Sc.
  - (plus practica/internship requirements for clinical)
What’s It Like?

• Courses:
  - Statistics/research design
  - Seminar courses in your own area and in other areas
    - Format: reading papers and discussing them, written assignments

• Research proseminar/“brown bag” talks
What Else?

• Thesis Research:
  - M.Sc. Thesis
  - Ph.D. Thesis (dissertation)

• Additional research:
  - Publications
    - With your advisor
    - With other collaborators
  - Conference presentations
Publications

Please email me if you’d like a electronic copy of any of these papers.

In press


2014


doi:10.1089/brcn.2013.0171 [PDF]
Financial Support

• Graduate Teaching Assistantships, Graduate Research Assistantships, other internal funding

• Provincial and national scholarships:
  - **OGS**: Ontario Graduate Scholarship
  - **NSERC**: Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council
  - **SSHRC**: Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council
  - **CIHR**: Canadian Institutes for Health Research
Funding at Western

- Each student’s financial package comes from a variety of sources
  - Graduate Scholarships (WGRS)
  - Teaching Assistantships (GTA)
  - external scholarships (OGS, NSERC, SSHRC)
  - supervisor support

- Our goal is to fund our students as much as possible, fairly and equitably
  - External scholarships = more income

- between $22,000 and $45,000 per year
  - Minus $8,000/year tuition
Scholarships

• Internal deadlines at Western in 2016
  - **Masters NSERC/SSHRC(CGS-M)**: Dec 1
  - **OGS**: January 29
  - Please see the SGPS website for details!
  - [http://grad.uwo.ca](http://grad.uwo.ca)
What is graduate school like?

• graduate school ≠ undergraduate training

• more like a job (though not really)

• the deadlines may seem very distant
  - "Lean reward schedule"
  - requires personal discipline
People

• Professor Marc Joanisse
  - Associate Chair

• Stephanie Saar
  - Graduate Program Coordinator

• Colleen Keech
  - Graduate Program Assistant
Additional Information

• psychology.uwo.ca/graduate
• psychology.uwo.ca/research
• professors you would like to work with.