Table of Contents

Program Structure ........................................................................................................................... 4
  Research Interest Groups (RIGs) .................................................................................................. 4
  Advisor ......................................................................................................................................... 4

Academic Requirements .............................................................................................................. 4
  Course Requirements .................................................................................................................. 4
    General Requirements ............................................................................................................. 4

First Year ..................................................................................................................................... 5
  Coursework .............................................................................................................................. 5
  First-Year Project ..................................................................................................................... 5
  Progress Reports ...................................................................................................................... 5

Second Year ................................................................................................................................ 6
  Coursework .............................................................................................................................. 6
  Second-Year Project ................................................................................................................ 6
  Forming Your Master’s Committee ........................................................................................ 6
  Progress Reports ...................................................................................................................... 6

Master’s Degree .......................................................................................................................... 7
  Candidacy ................................................................................................................................ 7
  Candidacy Petition .................................................................................................................... 7
  Proposal ................................................................................................................................... 7
  Defense .................................................................................................................................... 8
  Timeline ................................................................................................................................... 8

Doctoral Degree .......................................................................................................................... 8
  Candidacy ................................................................................................................................. 8
  Candidacy Petition .................................................................................................................... 9
  Proposal ................................................................................................................................... 10
  Progress of Research ............................................................................................................. 10
  Defense .................................................................................................................................. 11
  Timeline .................................................................................................................................. 11

Academic Progress and Expectations ........................................................................................... 12
  Expectations .............................................................................................................................. 12
Course Requirements for Provisional Admission to Master's Candidacy ................................. 23
Doctoral Course Requirements .................................................................................................. 23
Appendix B: Comprehensive Exams ....................................................................................... 25
The Industrial/Organizational Exam ....................................................................................... 25
  Purpose .................................................................................................................................. 25
  Timing ................................................................................................................................... 25
  Procedure ............................................................................................................................... 25
Comprehensive Exam Format ............................................................................................... 25
  Preparation ............................................................................................................................. 26
  Grading System ..................................................................................................................... 26
Doctoral Candidacy ............................................................................................................... 26
  Follow-up Meeting ............................................................................................................... 26
Program Structure

Research Interest Groups (RIGs)
All students must be members of at least one Research Interest Group. The current RIGs are:
- Cognitive
- Cognitive Neuroscience
- Human Factors/Human-Computer Interaction
- Industrial/Organizational
- Training

Advisor
All students must have an advisor throughout their graduate career; this advisor must be a tenured or tenure-track faculty member within the department. On entering the program, you will be assigned an advisor based on your research interests.

You will likely be in contact with your advisor during the summer prior to your matriculation, and you should meet with him or her the week before classes begin. The morning of the Friday before classes begin, all first-year students will attend a departmental orientation led by the director of the graduate program in psychology; at that meeting you will be informed about various departmental rules, requirements, and procedures as well as receive general advice on course selection. If you have not already met with your advisor by then, you should plan to meet in the afternoon following the departmental orientation.

You may change advisors, as long as you have the permission of the new advisor and the department chair. No special permission is required to change RIGs, but you should keep in mind that you will need to fulfill all the degree requirements of your new RIG.

Academic Requirements

Course Requirements
Each RIG sets its own course requirements. Please see Appendix A for a full listing by RIG.

As you progress through the program, you should continue to consult your advisor as needed, while selecting courses to fulfill your RIG’s course requirements and bearing in mind the time boundaries discussed in later sections of this handbook.

General Requirements
There are a few courses that are required of all psychology graduate students, regardless of RIG.

1. PSYC 529 (“Cog Tea”), PSYC 531 (HF/HCI Research Seminar), PSYC 533 (“I/O Brown Bag”) and other research seminars
   Each RIG has its own weekly lunchtime research seminar with its own specific requirements, and a few other research seminars are offered on occasion. Each week’s seminar is presented by a different person—sometimes students, sometimes faculty and sometimes outside guests. This allows students to familiarize themselves with
presenting to an audience, in addition to learning about their field from different perspectives than those offered by their instructors.

2. PSYC 571, PSYC 572, PSYC 700 and PSYC 800 (First-Year Project, Second-Year Project, Thesis Research and Dissertation Research)
Students are expected to engage in research throughout their time in the program. While specific requirements may vary depending upon the stage of the research, students are expected to make substantial progress. The student’s advisor will inform the student of the exact requirements, which will include some or all of the following: writing a comprehensive literature review, proposing experiments, analyzing data, and writing a report including discussion of the theoretical and practical implications of the research. The student is expected to work 10 hours per week for each credit hour signed up for.

**First Year**

**Coursework**
You will meet with your advisor during orientation week to discuss course enrollment for the first semester. In addition to the general courses listed above, most first-year students take PSYC 502 (Advanced Psychological Statistics I) in the fall and PSYC 503 (Advanced Psychological Statistics II) in the spring; a good foundation in statistics is essential to your academic career, and all the RIGs include these two courses as core requirements.

**First-Year Project**
All first-year students must complete a first-year project. By the last day of finals of the fall semester, you should have completed and submitted to your advisor a paper containing a literature review, proposed research, and a description of research accomplished (if any).

Submit two copies of your project, one in PDF format uploaded to the appropriate “Assignments” folder on the Psyc Grad Students OWL-Space site and the other to your advisor in his/her preferred format (hard copy or PDF), by 5:00 pm on the last day of finals of the spring semester.

**Progress Reports**
All first-year students are expected to provide a brief written report of what they have accomplished during the semester at the end of both the fall and the spring semesters. A form to be used for this purpose can be downloaded from the department website (https://psychology.rice.edu/Content.aspx?id=74). You should submit two copies, one in PDF format uploaded to the appropriate “Assignments” folder on the Psyc Grad Students OWL-Space site and the other to your advisor in his/her preferred format (hard copy or PDF), by 5:00 p.m. on the last day of classes. Please note that this is earlier than the deadline for the first-year project.
Second Year

Coursework
You should bear in mind to your RIG’s course requirements when selecting your second-year courses, as all RIG requirements for master’s candidacy must be completed before the beginning of your third year.

Second-Year Project
In the second year, students are required to complete a second-year project. Although students who enter with a “relevant” master's degree in psychology (or a related field) from another university are not required to complete a second master’s thesis at Rice, they are still required to submit a second-year project.

The second-year project requirement can be satisfied by submitting (1) a master's thesis or a near-final draft of the master’s thesis or (2) a written report of a research project conducted at Rice.

Submit two copies of your project, one in PDF format uploaded to the appropriate “Assignments” folder on the Psyc Grad Students OWL-Space site and the other to your advisor in his/her preferred format (hard copy or PDF), by 5:00 pm on the last day of finals of the spring semester of your second year. This is a hard deadline and not subject to extension. If your research is not completed by this time, hand in a report on what you have accomplished by the deadline.

Forming Your Master’s Committee
You will assemble a master’s committee composed of your advisor and two other faculty members from the department. The main functions of this committee will be to guide you through your master’s-level research and to ensure that your thesis meets the standard for the M.A. degree. At a minimum, you will meet with your committee at your proposal meeting and for your thesis defense. If circumstances require that your thesis research deviate meaningfully from the proposed research, then you must have another meeting to get the changes approved. In some cases the committee may agree that it is sufficient to communicate individually with each member of your committee about the proposed changes. You should ask potential committee members to join your master’s committee before April 15 of your second year of graduate study.

Progress Reports
Second-year students are expected to provide a brief written report of what they have accomplished since the previous report at the end of both the fall and the spring semesters. A form to be used for this purpose can be downloaded from the department website (https://psychology.rice.edu/Content.aspx?id=74). You should submit two copies, one in PDF format uploaded to the appropriate “Assignments” folder on the Psyc Grad Students OWL-Space site and the other to your advisor in his/her preferred format (hard copy or PDF), by 5:00 p.m. on the last day of classes. Please note that again, this is earlier than the deadline for the second-year project.
Master’s Degree
All students except those entering the program with a “relevant master’s” (a prior master’s degree approved by your advisor and the director of graduate studies as relevant to your degree work at Rice) are required to complete a master’s degree.

Candidacy
All students must petition for approval of candidacy for a master's degree before their fifth semester. Course requirements for candidacy are specified by each RIG; at the master’s level, there are no additional (non-coursework) requirements for candidacy. Please note that the master’s candidacy petition is independent of the thesis proposal; you may petition and gain candidacy prior to making your official proposal to your committee.

Candidacy Petition
Download and complete the Petition for Approval of Candidacy for a Master’s Degree, found on the website of the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. You will need to attach a completed checklist indicating that you have fulfilled your RIG’s course requirements; the checklist form is available for download on your RIG’s webpage.

Present the petition form and checklist to the department’s director of graduate studies or the department chair, who will sign the petition form. Then submit everything to your graduate coordinator, who will sign the form, prepare a copy of your transcript and submit the completed petition electronically to the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

Proposal
A formal proposal is required for your master’s thesis. The proposal should contain a literature review, but not necessarily as comprehensive a literature review as is required for the final version of the thesis. The literature review should make clear the research questions you are going to address and how these questions fit into the existing literature. The method(s) to be used in your research should be spelled out in detail. Depending on your research topic and the wishes of your thesis committee, you may be required to give details about how your data are to be analyzed and possibly to do a power analysis. In all cases, you should make clear how the data you collect are going to be used to address your research questions. Although there are not strict page limitations and the length of your proposal will depend on many things, most committees will expect the proposal to be between 20 and 50 double-spaced pages. You should use APA format with the exception that figures and tables should be inserted in the text rather than at the end of the document.

Your proposal must be approved by your thesis advisor before it is distributed to the other committee members. Be sure to allow ample time for your advisor to read your proposal and provide feedback for revisions.

Once your advisor judges that your proposal is ready to be presented to the committee, you should provide a copy of your proposal to the committee members and arrange a formal proposal meeting to get feedback on ways to improve the proposed study. At the end of the meeting, you and the committee members should agree on the exact nature of the study and whether or not another proposal meeting is required.
**Defense**
A complete draft of your thesis should be given to your advisor one month before it is given to the whole committee. The full version of the thesis (complete with all references, figures and tables) should be given to your committee at least one week prior to the scheduled defense; a copy should be emailed to the department office (psyc@rice.edu) as well.

The oral examination must be advertised at least one week ahead of time; if you fail to do so, you will not be permitted to proceed with the defense as scheduled. To advertise your defense, complete and submit the form at http://events.rice.edu/rgs/, which will post to the Graduate Studies calendar. The Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral studies will email your graduate coordinator, who will forward the announcement to the department; they will also mail a hard copy of the announcement, which will be posted in the mailroom and copy room.

Be sure to follow the thesis procedures described on the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies website (http://graduate.rice.edu/oraldefense).

**Timeline**
1. Ask potential committee members to join your master’s committee before April 15 of your second year.

2. Petition for approval of candidacy for a master’s degree before the beginning of your fifth semester at Rice. If you plan to receive your degree the same semester, you must submit your petition before November 1 for mid-year degree conferral or before February 1 for May conferral.

3. Defend your master’s thesis before the end of your eighth semester at Rice. Provide public notice of the oral defense at least one week in advance.

4. Submit your thesis to the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies no more than six months after your defense.

Master's students are required to complete their program, including thesis defense, within five years of initial enrollment. This includes any period in which the student was not enrolled or was enrolled part-time, for any reason.

**Doctoral Degree**

**Candidacy**
The attainment of candidacy marks the completion of all requirements for the doctoral degree other than those related to research leading to the writing, submission, and defense of the thesis. Since faculty and students in this department have diverse research interests and philosophies of education, we believe that a flexible system for admission to candidacy is preferable to a uniform set of requirements; thus, a student’s candidacy requirements are determined by his or her admission to candidacy committee.
As soon as you have finished your master's thesis (or earlier if you had a master's degree when you enrolled at Rice), you should form your admission to candidacy committee. A student’s admission to candidacy committee is often the same as the master's committee, but it does not have to be.

Once you have chosen your admission to candidacy committee, they should meet to decide on a set of candidacy requirements. You should initiate this process by giving each member of the committee a summary of your progress in the program. Your statement should include publications, research in progress, presentations, courses taken (with grades), and any other relevant information. The committee will use your statement as a basis for preparing candidacy requirements. Requirements may include (but are not limited to):

1. A completed version of the master's thesis, in a form suitable for submission to an appropriate journal.
2. Successful completion of at least one additional research project that has been written up in a form suitable for submission to a journal.
3. Presentation at a conference.
4. Completion of additional courses or reading necessary to fill in gaps in background.
5. A written exam (See Appendix B for details on the I/O RIG’s comprehensive exam).

Please note that your formal dissertation proposal is not a prerequisite for attaining candidacy and may be completed following successful admission to candidacy.

Once you have completed the candidacy requirements, obtain a signature from each member of your committee on a statement that your admission to candidacy requirements have been met. You can download a “Completion of Requirements” form from the department website for this.

After the candidacy committee approves your admission to candidacy, decide on a thesis committee for your dissertation. This committee will be responsible for reviewing your dissertation and for examining you on the subject matter contained therein. The committee must be comprised of at least four members: the chair and two other members must be department faculty, and the fourth “outside” member must be a Rice faculty member whose primary appointment is in another department within the university.

**Candidacy Petition**

Download and complete the Petition for Approval of Candidacy for a Doctoral Degree, found on the website of the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. You will need to attach the signed “Completion of Requirements” form mentioned above, along with a completed checklist indicating that you have fulfilled your RIG’s course requirements; the checklist form is available for download on your RIG’s webpage.

Present the petition form and attachments to the department’s director of graduate studies or the department chair, who will sign the petition form. Then submit everything to your graduate coordinator, who will sign the form, prepare a copy of your transcript and submit the completed petition electronically to the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.
Proposal

The doctoral dissertation represents the culmination of a student's graduate training and involves an original piece of research that advances psychology as a science. Typically, work on the dissertation begins with a series of conversations between you and your advisor. Once a clear direction for the research is established, you will write a formal dissertation proposal summarizing the relevant literature and outlining in detail the methods to be used in the dissertation research.

Depending on your research topic and the wishes of your thesis committee, you may be required to give details about how your data are to be analyzed and possibly to do a power analysis. In all cases, you should make clear how the data you collect are going to be used to address your research questions. Although there are no strict page limitations and the length of your proposal will depend on many things, most committees will expect the proposal to be between 20 and 50 double-spaced pages. You should use APA format with the exception that figures and tables should be inserted in the text rather than at the end of the document.

Once your advisor judges that your proposal is ready to be presented to the committee, you should provide a copy of your proposal to the committee members and arrange a formal proposal meeting to get feedback on ways to improve the proposed study. At the end of the meeting, you and the committee members should agree on the exact nature of the study and whether or not another proposal meeting is required.

Progress of Research

It is critical that you keep your advisor updated on the progress of your dissertation research and any changes and decisions made along the way. Your advisor must decide if any deviations from the proposed research warrant review by the rest of the committee.

At a minimum, you will meet with your committee at your proposal meeting and for your dissertation defense. If circumstances require that your dissertation research deviate meaningfully from the proposed research, then you must have another meeting to get the changes approved. In some cases, the committee may agree that it is sufficient to communicate individually with each member of your committee about the proposed changes.

Differences of opinion within the committee on any aspect of the research should be resolved as follows: (a) at the proposal meeting, anyone who does not accept the general process agreed upon by the majority should resign from the committee and be replaced by another faculty member and (b) any disagreement about any phase of the conduct of the research must be resolved in a timely fashion by the entire committee. If agreement cannot be reached by any other means, a vote must be taken. Those in the minority must then either accept the majority decision or appeal the matter to the department chair. If the chair cannot resolve the issue through discussion with the parties involved, he or she may replace the minority members through consultation with the majority and the student. The dissenting members may appeal the chair’s decision by calling a special meeting of the entire department faculty.

If you feel that your committee’s instructions are unclear or ambiguous, or that different members are making different or conflicting demands, it is your responsibility to obtain
clarification. It is your prerogative to call a committee meeting if you want assurance that the matter is resolved. Students accept verbal understandings with individual committee members at their own risk; the best procedure is to put all changes of plans in writing for the committee members.

Once your research is complete, you begin the process of writing and rewriting your dissertation. This revision process often takes several rounds before your advisorjudges that the document is ready to distribute to the committee for the final dissertation defense.

Defense
A complete draft of your dissertation should be given to your advisor at least one month before it is given to the whole committee. A full version of your dissertation (complete with all references, figures and tables) must be submitted to the committee at least two weeks prior to the scheduled defense; a copy should be emailed to the department office (psyc@rice.edu) as well.

A public oral defense is required for all Ph.D. degrees. Public notice must appear at least two weeks in advance of the oral examination; without sufficient notice, you will not be permitted to proceed with the defense as scheduled. To arrange for public notice, complete and submit the form at http://events.rice.edu/rgs/, which will post to the Graduate Studies calendar. The Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral studies will email your graduate coordinator, who will forward the announcement to the department; they will also mail a hard copy of the announcement, which will be posted in the mailroom and copy room. When you post your defense announcement to the Graduate Studies calendar, you should also email a copy of your dissertation to the department administrator, who will make it available in the department office for the two weeks prior to your defense, as required by the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

In certain circumstances, an oral examination for the Ph.D. may be scheduled during the summer; the procedure for posting of notice is the same as during the regular school year.

Be sure to follow the thesis procedures described on the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies website (http://graduate.rice.edu/oraldefense).

Timeline
1. Form your admission to candidacy committee as soon as you have finished your master’s thesis.

2. Petition for approval of candidacy for a doctoral degree before the beginning of your ninth semester at Rice. If you plan to receive your degree the same semester, you must submit your petition before November 1 for mid-year degree conferral or before February 1 for May conferral.

3. Defend your dissertation before the end of your 16th semester at Rice. Provide public notice of the oral defense at least two weeks in advance.

4. Submit your dissertation to the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies no more than six months after your defense.
Ph.D. students are required to complete their program, including thesis defense, within 10 years of initial enrollment. This includes any period in which the student was not enrolled or was enrolled part-time, for any reason.

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**Academic Progress and Expectations**

**Expectations**

The program has a strong research orientation. Students are expected to spend a large portion of their graduate years actively engaged in research whether or not they plan to pursue a research career.

All graduate students are expected to perform well in classes and in conducting scholarly research throughout their time in the program.

Every graduate student’s academic progress is evaluated at the end of each academic year. Although both course performance and research progress are considered in the evaluation, students whose cumulative grade point average or the average for the most recently completed semester (including the summer semester) falls below 3.0 are placed on probationary status.

Grades of B- reflect marginal but passing performance and grades below B- are considered failing. Students making below a B- in a required course are typically required to retake the course. However, the faculty may allow a student with a grade of C+ to retake the final or do other work demonstrating mastery of the material in order to satisfy the requirement. Normally, only one make-up chance will be granted. If there are extenuating circumstances, a student may appeal to the full faculty for a second make-up chance; in the case of PSYC 502 or PSYC 503, however, this option is not open.

Research progress is expected every semester, although the form of the progress will vary depending on the year of the student and the specific aspects of the research project. However, a high level of scholarly work is expected at all phases of the research.


**Evaluations**

All first-year students are reviewed after each semester at a faculty meeting. Students receive an evaluation letter from the director of the graduate program written based on the discussion at the faculty meeting, especially the evaluation from the student's advisor.

Beyond the first year, students who have not been performing at the expected level will be evaluated every semester. All students are evaluated in this manner at the end of each year and receive an evaluation letter from the director of the graduate program.

Students are evaluated in terms of course grades, research and TA performance. Doctoral students are expected to do well in courses and achieve a relatively high proportion of their
grades in the A range. Simply passing all courses is not doctoral-level performance. Research progress is assessed in a number of dimensions, including the student's ability to understand the research issues and formulate research to address these issues, carry out the research in a careful and timely manner, conduct an appropriate analysis, and write up the research in a clear, complete, and accurate manner. Naturally, the level of competence expected on each of these dimensions will increase with time in the graduate program.

If a student is not making adequate progress, a description of the areas in which progress is not adequate will be spelled out and steps required by the student to remedy the problem(s) will be contained in the written evaluation.

**Petitions and Appeals**
Petitions and appeals involve exceptions to academic requirements, regulations, and judgments.

**Academic Requirements and Regulations**
A student wishing to substitute a course for a required course must obtain the approval of his or her advisor and then his or her RIG. The RIG then recommends the substitution to the graduate director, who decides whether or not to approve the recommendation. If the course to be used as a substitute is on the same topic as the required course, then the advice of the current instructor of the required course will be sought. If the recommendation is not approved by the graduate director, the RIG can appeal the decision, first to the graduate committee and then to the whole faculty.

Petitions seeking exceptions to academic requirements or regulations should be submitted in writing at least 30 days before the requirement or regulation takes effect.

**Academic Decisions**
If a student wishes to appeal an academic decision made by a faculty member, he or she should present, in writing, an appeal to the graduate committee, who will reconsider the decision in view of the information provided in the petition and consult with the department chair when appropriate. This committee may choose to return the matter to the faculty, acting as a committee of the whole, for further consideration.

Petitions regarding academic decisions must be submitted in writing within 15 days from the time that the student knew or should reasonably have known of the decision being petitioned, or within 15 days after an unsuccessful effort to resolve the situation informally.


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**Student Wellbeing**

**Financial Support**
Most graduate students in the Psychology Department receive financial support from the program, in the form of stipends and tuition waivers. Continuation of support (departmental
stipend and associated tuition waiver) is dependent upon satisfactory performance, reasonable progress toward your degree, and the availability of funds. The department’s policies on reduction or termination of financial support are consistent with the university’s policies, which can be found in the General Announcements (http://ga.rice.edu/Home.aspx?id=2147483680).

**Mentorship**
Each incoming graduate student is assigned a more experienced graduate student to serve as a mentor during their first year of study. This mentor is appointed by your advisor and the director of graduate studies and is often, but not always, an advanced student in the same faculty laboratory. Your mentor will help you as you adjust to graduate student life, in both the academic and the non-academic arenas. The department as a whole is very welcoming, and you can always go to your advisor or the department staff when you need advice or assistance; this peer mentor is an addition to those resources.

**Vacation Time**
During the academic year, students engaged in research should follow the same holiday schedule as those engaged in course work, including midterm recess, winter recess and spring break. Please refer to http://registrar.rice.edu/calendars for specific dates. Students receiving a summer stipend are expected to be in residence and participating in research for two months during the summer; the third month is unpaid and should be treated as vacation time.

**Title IX**
Rice encourages any student who has experienced an incident of sexual, relationship, or other interpersonal violence, harassment or gender discrimination to seek support. There are many options available both on and off campus for all graduate students, regardless of whether the perpetrator was a fellow student, a staff or faculty member, or someone not affiliated with the university.

Students should be aware when seeking support on campus that most employees are required by Title IX to disclose all incidents of non-consensual interpersonal behaviors to Title IX professionals on campus who can act to support that student and meet their needs. The therapists at the Rice Counseling Center and the doctors at Student Health Services are confidential, meaning that Rice will not be informed about the incident if a student discloses to one of these Rice staff members. Rice prioritizes student privacy and safety, and only shares disclosed information on a need-to-know basis.

If you are in need of assistance or simply would like to talk to someone, please call Rice Wellbeing and Counseling Center, which includes Title IX Support, at x3311 (713-348-3311).

Policies, including Sexual Misconduct Policy and Student Code of Conduct, and more information regarding Title IX can be found at safe.rice.edu.

**Grievances and Problem Resolution**

**Grievances**
Unlike petitions and appeals, which involve academic exceptions, a grievance is a complaint regarding inappropriate conduct by other students, faculty members, or staff. Inappropriate
conduct encompasses both inappropriate personal conduct, such as sexual harassment, and inappropriate official conduct, such as violation of University policies. Specific policies exist to address grievances based on discrimination or sexual harassment, and those policies must be followed in situations involving such issues.

Grievances against another student may be raised with the Assistant Dean of Student Judicial Programs and addressed under the Code of Student Conduct. In other cases, a student may present a grievance in writing at the lowest appropriate level, typically the department or school. If a satisfactory resolution is not obtained at that level, the student may appeal the outcome of the grievance by presenting the problem at the next administrative level, such as the school, Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, Provost, or President. Grievances against non-faculty staff members may also be brought to the Employee Director in Rice’s Human Resources office.

The procedures for handling grievances are analogous to those for handling petitions and appeals. Students submitting grievances must so indicate in their submissions.

**Problem Resolution**
During the course of graduate studies, problems that do not fall under the category of grievances, described above, may arise in the relationship between a graduate student and his/her program or his/her advisor. Students should attempt to resolve such problems by informing the appropriate faculty members and working together to resolve the problem. When attempts to resolve the problem informally are unsuccessful, the following problem-resolution procedure will be used:

1. The student will submit the problem in writing to the department’s graduate program director, who will then attempt to resolve it, consulting with the department chair when necessary.

2. If the student remains unsatisfied, the problem will be presented to the department Graduate Committee for resolution. This is a standing committee independent of the student’s thesis/dissertation committee; its current members are Dr. Fred Oswald, Dr. Tatiana Schnur and Dr. Steve Motowidlo. Both the student and the graduate program director will submit a written record of their views to this committee.

3. If the student remains unsatisfied, the problem will be referred to a standing subcommittee of the Graduate Council and composed of three faculty members (representing diverse disciplines within the university) and a graduate student, with the Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies as an ex-officio member. A written report of proceedings at stage 2 will be presented to the Chair of Graduate Council for forwarding to the subcommittee, along with all other written materials generated during the investigation. The decision of this subcommittee is considered final.

The time frame for handling problem resolution is similar to that for handling petitions, appeals, and grievances.

In addition to being in agreement with the regulations stated in this departmental handbook, students must also be in agreement with the General Announcements and the Code of Conduct.

If there is conflicting information, university-wide regulations take precedence over department-wide regulations, which take precedence over research group-wide regulations.

In doubt, students should seek help first at the department level (graduate coordinator, director of graduate studies, advisor and/or department chair) and then at the central administration level (Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies).
Appendix A: Course Requirements by RIG

Cognitive

Master’s Course Requirements

Core Courses (all required)
1. Psyc 502 Advanced Psychological Statistics I
2. Psyc 503 Advanced Psychological Statistics II
3. Psyc 520 Foundations of Cognitive Psychology
4. Psyc 529 Weekly Cognitive Research Seminar--every semester

Three more courses including at least two of the first four listed below
1. Psyc 521 Perception or Psyc 581 Vision Science
2. Psyc 524 Memory
3. Psyc 525 Psycholinguistics
4. Psyc 527 Reasoning, Decision Making, Problem Solving
5. Psyc 511 History and Systems of Psychology
6. Psyc 550 Foundations of Social Psychology

Course Requirements for Provisional Admission to Master's Candidacy

Core Courses (all required)
1. Psyc 502 Advanced Psychological Statistics I
2. Psyc 503 Advanced Psychological Statistics II
3. Psyc 529 Weekly Cognitive Research Seminar--every semester

One of the following courses
1. Psyc 520 Foundations of Cognitive Psychology
2. Psyc 521 Perception
3. Psyc 524 Memory
4. Psyc 525 Psycholinguistics
5. Psyc 527 Reasoning, Decision Making, Problem Solving

Doctoral Course Requirements

Core Courses (all required)
1. Psyc 502 Advanced Psychological Statistics I
2. Psyc 503 Advanced Psychological Statistics II
3. Psyc 511 History and Systems of Psychology
4. Psyc 520 Foundations of Cognitive Psychology
5. Psyc 521 Perception
6. Psyc 524 Memory
7. Psyc 525 Psycholinguistics
8. Psyc 527 Reasoning, Decision Making, Problem Solving
9. Psyc 529 Weekly Cognitive Research Seminar--every semester
11. Weekly Research Seminar, such as Psyc 628 (Memory) or Psyc 629 (Psycholinguistics), possibly on a repeating basis, at advisor’s discretion
12. Psyc 660 Professional Issues
Three of the following courses
1. Psyc 350 Psychology of Learning
2. Psyc 504 Computer Applications in Psychology
3. Psyc 522 Information Processing and Attention
4. Psyc 526 Artificial Intelligence
5. Psyc 541 Human-Computer Interaction
6. Psyc 543 Computational Modeling
7. Psyc 565 Human Olfaction
8. Psyc 575/Neur 501 Cognitive Neuroscience I
9. Psyc 576/Neur 502 Cognitive Neuroscience II
10. Psyc 580 Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience
11. Psyc 581 Vision Science
12. Psyc 602 Psychometrics
13. Psyc 620 Topics in Cognitive Psychology (may be repeated)
14. Psyc 621 Topics in Memory (may be repeated)
15. Psyc 652 Social Cognition
16. Psyc 665 Seminar in Genes and Cognition

Cognitive Neuroscience

Master’s Course Requirements

Core Courses (all required)
1. Psyc 502 Advanced Psychological Statistics I
2. Psyc 503 Advanced Psychological Statistics II
3. Psyc 520 Foundations of Cognitive Psychology
4. Psyc 529 Weekly Cognitive Research Seminar--every semester

Two of the following Neuroscience Group courses
1. Psyc 574 Introduction to Cognitive Neuroscience
2. Psyc 575/Neur 501 Cognitive Neuroscience I
3. Psyc 576/Neur 502 Cognitive Neuroscience II
4. Psyc 577 Introduction to Functional Neuroanatomy (2-credit Baylor-taught course often offered in the fall or the equivalent UT course also taught in the fall)

One of the following Cognitive Group courses
1. Psyc 524 Memory
2. Psyc 525 Psycholinguistics
3. Psyc 527 Reasoning, Decision Making, Problem Solving
4. Psyc 581 Vision Science

Course Requirements for Provisional Admission to Master's Candidacy
1. All four core courses
2. One course from the neuroscience group
Doctoral Course Requirements

Core Courses (all required)
1. Psyc 502 Advanced Psychological Statistics I
2. Psyc 503 Advanced Psychological Statistics II
3. Psyc 520 Foundations of Cognitive Psychology
4. Psyc 529 Weekly Cognitive Research Seminar
5. Psyc 574 Introduction to Cognitive Neuroscience
6. Psyc 575/Neur 501 Cognitive Neuroscience I
7. Psyc 576/Neur 502 Cognitive Neuroscience II
8. Psyc 577 Introduction to Functional Neuroanatomy (2-credit Baylor-taught course often offered in the fall or the equivalent UT course also taught in the fall)
9. Psyc 660 Professional Issues

Two of the following courses
1. Psyc 524 Memory
2. Psyc 525 Psycholinguistics
3. Psyc 527 Reasoning, Decision Making, Problem Solving
4. Psyc 581 Vision Science

Two of the following courses
1. Psyc 511 History and Systems of Psychology
2. Psyc 522 Information Processing and Attention
3. Psyc 524 Memory
4. Psyc 525 Psycholinguistics
5. Psyc 527 Reasoning, Decision Making, Problem Solving
6. Psyc 543 Computational Modeling
7. Psyc 550 Foundations of Social Psychology
8. Psyc 578 Methods and Theory in Cognitive Neuroscience
9. Psyc 579 Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging Applications
10. Psyc 580 Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience
11. UT GS140024 Systems Neuroscience (UT course)
12. Psyc 581 Vision Science
13. Psyc 620 Topics in Cognitive Psychology (May be taken once)
14. Psyc 621 Topics in Memory (May be taken once)
15. Psyc 622 Topics in Psycholinguistics (May be taken once)
16. Psyc 665 Seminar in Genes and Cognition
17. Psyc 681 Perceptual Organization
18. Neur 430 Human Neuroimaging
19. Neur 505 Optical Imaging in Neuroscience
20. Neur 511 Integrative Neuroscience Core Course I
21. Neur 512 Integrative Neuroscience Core Course II
22. Neur 671 Methods in Cognitive Neuroscience
23. Bioe 592 Sensory Neuroengineering
24. Bioe 685 Fundamentals of Medical Imaging
Human Factors/Human-Computer Interaction

Master’s Course Requirements

Core Courses (both required)
1. Psyc 502 Advanced Psychological Statistics I
2. Psyc 503 Advanced Psychological Statistics II

Four additional courses (all required)
1. Psyc 520 Foundations of Cognitive Psychology
2. Psyc 540 Foundations of Human Factors/ Engineering Psychology
3. Psyc 541 Human Computer Interaction
4. Psyc 609 Methods in Human-Computer Interaction

Course Requirements for Provisional Admission to Master's Candidacy
1. Both core courses
2. Two of the four additional courses listed above

Doctoral Course Requirements

Core Courses (all required)
1. Psyc 502 Advanced Psychological Statistics I
2. Psyc 503 Advanced Psychological Statistics II
3. Psyc 520 Foundations of Cognitive Psychology
4. Psyc 531 Weekly HF/HCI Research Seminar
5. Psyc 540 Foundations of Human Factors/ Engineering Psychology
6. Psyc 541 Human-Computer Interaction
7. Psyc 609 Methods in Human- Computer Interaction
8. Psyc 660 Professional Issues

Five of the following courses
1. Psyc 504 Computer Applications in Psychology (or other approved programming experience)
2. Psyc 522 Information Processing and Attention
3. Psyc 524 Memory
4. Psyc 525 Psycholinguistics
5. Psyc 527 Reasoning, Decision Making, Problem Solving
6. Psyc 530 Foundations of I/O Psychology
7. Psyc 543 Computational Modeling
8. Psyc 581 Vision Science
9. Psyc 601 Multivariate Statistics
10. Psyc 602 Psychometrics
11. Psyc 630 Training
12. Psyc 634 Personnel Selection
13. Psyc 640 Topics in HF/HCI (can be repeated for credit)
Industrial/Organizational

Master’s Course Requirements

Core Courses (all required)
1. Psyc 502 Advanced Psychological Statistics I
2. Psyc 503 Advanced Psychological Statistics II
3. Psyc 530 Foundations of I/O Psychology
4. Psyc 533 Weekly I/O Research Seminar
5. Psyc 634 Personnel Psychology
6. Psyc 636 Organizational Psychology

One of the following courses
1. Psyc 507 Research Methods
2. Psyc 601 Multivariate Statistics
3. Psyc 602 Psychometrics
4. Other approved methodology course

Course Requirements for Provisional Admission to Master's Candidacy
1. Psyc 502 Advanced Psychological Statistics I
2. Psyc 503 Advanced Psychological Statistics II
3. Psyc 530 Foundations of I/O Psychology
4. Any other of the required master's courses listed above

Doctoral Course Requirements

Core Courses (all required)
1. Psyc 502 Advanced Psychological Statistics I
2. Psyc 503 Advanced Psychological Statistics II
3. Psyc 530 Foundations of I/O Psychology
4. Psyc 533 Weekly I/O Research Seminar
5. Psyc 634 Personnel Psychology
6. Psyc 636 Organizational Psychology
7. Psyc 660 Professional Issues

Three of the following courses
1. Psyc 511 History and Systems of Psychology
2. Psyc 520 Foundations of Cognitive Psychology
3. Psyc 540 Foundations of Human Factors/ Engineering Psychology
4. Psyc 550 Foundations of Social Psychology
5. Psyc 631 Foundations of Individual Differences

Two of the following courses
1. Psyc 507 Research Methods
2. Psyc 601 Multivariate Statistics
3. Psyc 602 Psychometrics
4. Other approved methodology course

(continues next page)
Three additional courses for breadth and depth
To be selected according to students' individual interests from the set of special topics courses taught by I/O faculty and other advanced courses taught by other psychology faculty.

Training

Master’s Course Requirements

Core Courses (all required)
1. Psyc 502 Advanced Psychological Statistics I
2. Psyc 503 Advanced Psychological Statistics II
3. Psyc 520 Foundations of Cognitive Psychology
4. Psyc 540 Foundations of Human Factors/Engineering Psychology
5. Psyc 602 Psychometrics
6. Psyc 630 Advanced Topics in I/O: Training or 488 Supervised Readings in Training
7. Seminar participation and attendance each semester (can be HF/IO/Cog Tea)

Course Requirements for Provisional Admission to Master's Candidacy
1. Psyc 502 Advanced Psychological Statistics I
2. Psyc 503 Advanced Psychological Statistics II
3. Any two other courses listed above

Doctoral Course Requirements

Core Courses (all required)
1. Psyc 502 Advanced Psychological Statistics I
2. Psyc 503 Advanced Psychological Statistics II
3. Psyc 520 Foundations of Cognitive Psychology
4. Psyc 540 Foundations of Human Factors/Engineering Psychology
5. Psyc 602 Psychometrics
6. Psyc 630 Advanced Topics in I/O: Training
7. Psyc 660 Professional Issues

Students must choose either a cognitive or an I/O emphasis. The cognitive emphasis requires four courses from Group A and two courses from Group B; the I/O emphasis requires two courses from Group A and four courses from Group B.

Group A
1. Psyc 504 Computer Applications in Psychology
2. Psyc 522 Information Processing and Attention
3. Psyc 524 Memory
4. Psyc 527 Reasoning, Decision Making, Problem Solving
5. Psyc 541 Human-Computer Interaction
6. Psyc 543 Computational Modeling
7. Psyc 581 Vision Science
Group B
1. Psyc 507 Research Methods
2. Psyc 511 History and Systems of Psychology
3. Psyc 530 Foundations of I/O Psychology
4. Psyc 550 Foundations of Social Psychology
5. Psyc 634 Personnel Psychology
6. Psyc 636 Organizational Psychology
Appendix B: Comprehensive Exams

Individual RIGs may require comprehensive exams. Currently only the Industrial/Organizational RIG has this requirement. Note that admission-to-candidacy committees in other RIGs have the option to require comprehensive exams.

The Industrial/Organizational Exam

Purpose
The I/O comprehensive exam (“comps”) is one way the Rice I/O doctoral program ensures that graduate students are well trained and can “think like an I/O psychologist” as a minimal requirement for professional competence. Students’ answers to comps questions reflect prior specialized learning and readiness for continuing in the program. Passing comps is the RIG’s formal mechanism for a graduate student to transition from being a doctoral student to being a doctoral candidate.

Timing
All graduate students in the I/O RIG are required to take comps, even those who have transferred from a different RIG. Before taking comps, students must have been in the I/O RIG for at least one year and have obtained their master’s degree in I/O at Rice University (or its approved equivalent from another university). Comps are scheduled at a time mutually agreed upon by the student and his/her “comps committee” (see below).

Procedure
Comps committees comprise three I/O faculty members chosen by the student and his/her advisor and approved by the advisor. They need not be members of the student’s dissertation committee. The student is encouraged to coordinate a date and time for comps committee members to meet and generate the student’s comps questions, even though the student will not be attending this meeting. Each comps committee operates independently of any others and is responsible for generating, reviewing and approving the specific questions that appear on the student’s comprehensive exam; the committee also decides on the exam dates.

Comprehensive Exam Format
The number and type of questions are determined at the discretion of the student’s comps committee, so the questions on one student’s comprehensive exam will not necessarily be the same as those appearing on another student’s exam.

Comps are taken as a sit-down closed-book exam that has three test sections addressing:

1. General knowledge
2. Research methodology and statistical methods
3. Specific knowledge (research areas in which the student has particularly been involved)

Questions regarding professional issues (e.g. research ethics, applied-research interactions) are relevant to any of these sections.
Students are allowed a maximum of three hours to complete each test section, each of which must be completed in one sitting. All sections of comps are to be completed within a week-long (5-business-day) period.

**Preparation**
Graduate students who have gained a thorough understanding of all material that is reflected in their seminar syllabi and who remain actively engaged in research projects (master’s thesis and otherwise) should not have to prepare intensively for comps.

**Grading System**
Student answers to comps are reviewed by all committee members independently; then each exam item is discussed jointly as a committee, and a grade is assigned for each item. The committee arrives at item grades using the following grading scale:
Pass+ = 4, Pass = 3, Marginal = 2, Fail = 1.

Items are then averaged within each of the three sections to arrive at section grades, using the following grading scale:
Pass = 2.5-4.0, Marginal = 1.5-2.49, Fail = 0-1.49.

To pass comps, students must receive a Pass on all three sections.

A student who receives a Pass on two sections and a Marginal on a third section is allowed to orally defend the Marginal section to his/her committee. The comps committee will then decide whether the Marginal becomes a Pass, in which case the student passes comps. An oral defense is not allowed for more than one Marginal.

A student who receives one Marginal and does not pass the subsequent oral, or a student who receives either two or three Marginals, must retake comps the following academic year.

A student receiving a Fail on any section fails comps and will not proceed to doctoral candidacy.

**Doctoral Candidacy**
Upon passing comps, the advisor and comps committee will all sign a form that approves the student’s promotion into doctoral candidacy within the I/O RIG. This form will be kept on file in the psychology department. The student will also need to petition the university for admission to candidacy, using the procedures described in that section of this document and on the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies’ website.

**Follow-up Meeting**
After comps, the student should schedule a meeting with the comps committee to discuss comps-related matters and/or broader career-related matters as the student prepares for the job market.

Last updated 10/9/15