

# Experimental Psychology

## 2025-2026 Graduate Program Handbook

**CMU**

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CENTRAL MICHIGAN  
UNIVERSITY

<https://www.cmich.edu/program/experimental-psychology>

**DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY**  
**EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY**



COLLEGE OF  
**LIBERAL ARTS &  
SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Fall 2025/Spring 2026

Dear Incoming Student:

On behalf of the Experimental Psychology Program faculty and the Department of Psychology, I am happy to welcome you to Central Michigan University. This student manual is a guide for working your way through the Master's Program in Experimental Psychology. It is arranged in the approximate order of your progress through the program.

The Experimental Psychology faculty welcomes any questions you have about the Experimental Program, as well as suggestions you might have for improving this handbook.

Best wishes,

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## About This Handbook

This handbook will provide an overview of the Master's program in Experimental Psychology and its degree requirements. This handbook, however, is not intended to replace the *CMU Graduate Bulletin* and the faculty advisor. Thus, the student is expected to:

- a. Become familiar with the academic regulations of the university and the requirements of the specific program.
- b. Contact the advisor on a regular basis to keep informed of program requirements and to obtain general assistance in the completion of the program.
- c. Assume primary responsibility for complying with all regulations of the university, the College of Graduate Studies, and the department, and for meeting all requirements for the degree within the allowable time limits.

If you have any questions regarding the Experimental Psychology Program, please contact the program director.

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## Experimental Core Faculty

**Emily K. Bloesch**, Ph.D., **Program Director**, Washington University, 2013. Cognitive aging, peripersonal space representations, body-modulated visual attention and perception, psychedelic science.

**Christopher Davoli**, Ph.D., Washington University, 2010. Psychedelic studies, alterations of consciousness, visual cognition, embodied cognition, peripersonal space, perception, and attention.

**Gary Dunbar**, Ph.D., Clark University, 1988. Behavioral neuroscience and stem cell and pharmacological treatment of brain damage and neurodegenerative diseases.

**Kyunghee Han**, Ph.D., University of Minnesota, 1993. Scientific study of culture, quantitative methods, and psychological test/scale development and evaluation.

**Yannick Marchalant**, Ph.D., University de Caen, France, 2004. Influence of brain aging and neuroinflammatory processes on the development of neurodegenerative diseases.

**Hajime Otani**, Ph.D., University of Georgia, 1989. Human memory and cognition.

**Kevin Park**, Ph.D., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2002. Identifying pathogenic mechanisms and process underlying neuronal cell cycle re-entry as a primary pathogenic driver of Alzheimer's disease using *in vitro* and *in vivo* models.

**Mark Reilly**, Ph.D., West Virginia University, 1996. Experimental analysis of behavior, animal learning, behavioral pharmacology, quantitative models, and self-control/ impulsivity.

**Michael Sandstrom**, Ph.D., Ohio State University, 1998. Brain plasticity, compensatory neuronal activity, and behavior associated with deteriorative diseases using animal models.

**Kyle Scherr**, Ph.D., Iowa State University, 2011. Social psychology/psychology and law.

## Experimental Affiliated Faculty

**Neil Christiansen**, Ph.D., Northern Illinois University, 1997. Personality in the workplace, personnel selection, and structural equation modeling in I/O psychology.

**Stephen Colarelli**, Ph.D., New York University, 1982. Personnel psychology, evolutionary psychology, and influences on the HRM utilization.

## M.S. in Experimental Psychology Program Description

The major goal of the program is to prepare students for doctoral training in psychology. In addition to preparing students for doctoral programs, the mission of the program also includes preparing students for research positions in the private and public sector. The program has been very successful, with many of its graduates completing doctoral degrees in psychology and attaining desired employment. Some of these individuals have attained national and international reputations in scientific psychology. In addition, the program has produced graduates who have become successful in other endeavors including administration, health and legal professions, and business and industry.

The faculty-student relationship is based on a mentoring system. All incoming students are required to be actively involved in research with a program faculty member throughout their program of study (typically two years). The mentoring system allows students to develop their research skills as well as develop close interpersonal and academic relationships with faculty. Finally, students are provided feedback regarding their progress in the program via evaluations by program faculty at the end of each academic year.

## M.S. Degree Requirements

The Master of Science degree in Experimental Psychology is based upon the satisfactory completion of a minimum of 36 semester hours of graduate work, including a thesis. The program is broad yet flexible enough to develop individual scholarship in the student's area of study. Each student is assigned to a faculty member who serves as the student's mentor/advisor. The mentor is responsible for monitoring the student's progress through the program particularly with respect to the development of research skills. Each student is required to be actively involved in research with his or her mentor. See the *Graduate Bulletin* for details at <https://bulletins.cmich.edu/> for course descriptions.

### M.S. Degree Requirements:

| Required Courses: |         |   | 26 | Cr. |
|-------------------|---------|---|----|-----|
|                   |         |   |    |     |
|                   | PSY 511 | Statistics in Psychology  | 3  | Cr. |
|                   | PSY 609 | History and Systems of Psychology   | 3  | Cr. |
|                   | PSY 690 | Research Seminar in Experimental Psychology<br>(Taken each semester in the first year for total of 2 credits) | 2  | Cr. |
|                   | PSY 798 | Thesis (with oral defense)<br>(See Committee Requirements on page 12)   | 6  | Cr. |

|   |         |   |      |     |
|---|---------|---|------|-----|
| Select at least one course from each of the following four groups:            |         |   |      |     |
| {   | PSY 611 | Research Design                             | 3    | Cr. |
|   | PSY 612 | Applied Multiple Regression and Correlation |      |     |
|   | PSY 613 | Multivariate and Correctional Methods       |      |     |
|   |         |   |      |     |
| {   | PSY 587 | Physiological Psychology                    | 3    | Cr. |
|   | PSY 687 | Physiological Foundations                   |      |     |
|   |         |   |      |     |
| {   | PSY 589 | Cognitive Psychology                        | 3    | Cr. |
|   | PSY 680 | Learning                                    |      |     |
|   | PSY 681 | Sensation and Perception                    |      |     |
|   |         |   |      |     |
| {   | PSY 624 | Advanced Developmental Psychology           | 3    | Cr. |
|   | PSY 630 | Advanced Social Psychology                  |      |     |
|   |         |   |      |     |
| <b>Cognate Courses:</b> To be chosen in consultation with an advisor.         |         |   | 0-6  | Cr. |
|   |         |   |      |     |
| <b>Electives:</b> To be chosen in consultation with an advisor.               |         |   | 4-10 | Cr. |
|   |         |   |      |     |
| In addition to coursework, a student must pass an oral defense of the thesis. |         |   |      |     |
|   |         |   |      |     |
| Total (minimum hours for first and second years)                              |         |   | 36   | Cr. |

A total of (6) credit hours can be earned outside of the Psychology Department (i.e., non-PSY designator courses) to be used to satisfy elective and/or cognate credit requirements. Such course(s) must be decided upon in consultation with the student's advisor and approved by the Director of the Experimental Program.

## Milestones in Completing Degree

### M.S. DEGREE

| 1 <sup>st</sup> Year |              | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year |              |
|----------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Fall                 | Spring       | Fall                 | Spring       |
| PSY 511 (3)          | PSY 690 (1)  | PSY 612 (3)          | PSY 624 (3)  |
| PSY 609 (3)          | PSY 798 (3)  | PSY 687 (3)          | PSY 798 (3)  |
| PSY 680 (3)          | Elective (3) | Elective (3)         | Elective (3) |
| PSY 690 (1)          | Elective (1) |                      |              |

Students also need to check with the College of Graduate Studies for deadlines to submit their Graduation Application.

## Accelerated M.S. in Experimental Psychology Option

Advanced undergraduate students majoring in psychology who want to obtain additional training in experimental psychology may want to consider an option by which they can obtain their Bachelor of Science with the General Major in Psychology and their Master of Science in Experimental Psychology in five years. The accelerated program requirement is identical to the General Major in Psychology and to the Master of Science in Experimental Psychology; and allows the student to apply 12 credit hours of graduate coursework toward both their Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees.

To be eligible for the accelerated program, students must meet all of the admissions requirements for regular admission to the Master of Science in Experimental Psychology program and have completed at least 84 credit hours of undergraduate coursework, including all General Education, University Program, and competency requirements. **It is expected that students will already be engaged in research with a faculty member prior to admission to the accelerated program.**

The Accelerated Master of Science in Experimental Psychology program is a 12-month program. Students will complete the Bachelor of Science degree requirements and the first year of coursework for the Master of Science by the end of the summer term of their fourth year. Students will complete the coursework for the Master of Science in conducting and defending their thesis by the end of the summer term of their fifth year. A sample curriculum for a student who has completed 84 credit hours of undergraduate coursework is given below. Undergraduate coursework completed beyond 84 credit hours would lead to conferral of the Bachelor of Science degree prior to the end of the summer term in Year Four.

### Accelerated M.S. Sample Curriculum

| Year Four                   |                             |                              |                          |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Fall                        | Spring                      | Summer                       | Degree                   |
| PSY 511-3 hrs*              | Graduate Requirement-3 hrs* | Undergraduate Courses-10 hrs | BS Degree<br>Conferred   |
| Graduate Requirement-3 hrs* | Graduate Requirement-3 hrs* |                              |                          |
| PSY 690-1hr**               | PSY 690-1 hr**              |                              |                          |
| Undergraduate Courses-9 hrs | Undergraduate Courses-9 hrs |                              |                          |
| Total - 16 hrs              | Total - 16 hrs              | Total - 10 hrs               |                          |
| Year Five                   |                             |                              |                          |
| Fall                        | Spring                      | Summer                       | Degree                   |
| Graduate Requirements-6 hrs | PSY 798-3 hrs               | PSY 798-3 hrs                | M.S. Degree<br>Conferred |
| Graduate Elective-3 hrs     | Graduate Elective-3 hrs     | Graduate Elective-4 hrs      |                          |
| Total-9 hrs                 | Total-6 hrs                 | Total-7 hrs                  |                          |

\*Courses that apply to both the B.S. and M.S. Degrees. Required courses are (PSY 511, 609, [611 or 612 or 613], [587 or 687], [589 or 680 or 681], and [624 or 630]). Students must register for graduate credit for these courses.

\*\*Applies to the M.S. degree only.

### Milestones in Completing Degree

#### ACCELERATED M.S. DEGREE

| Year            | Semester | Milestones  |
|-----------------|----------|---|
| B.S. 4 / M.S. 1 | Fall     | Begin Coursework (e.g., PSY 690 & PSY 511)  |
| B.S. 4 / M.S. 1 | Spring   | Begin M.S. Thesis Proposal<br><b>Submit Authorization of Degree Program-Graduate form</b> |
| B.S. 4 / M.S. 1 | Summer   | Complete B.S. degree  |



|        |        |   |
|--------|--------|---|
| M.S. 2 | Fall   | M.S. Thesis Proposal Approved<br><b>Submit Prospectus form</b>                |
| M.S. 2 | Spring | Continue work towards M.S. Thesis   |
| M.S. 2 | Summer | Complete M.S. Thesis<br><b>Submit Plan A &amp; B Completion Sign-off form</b> |

Students also need to check with the College of Graduate Studies for deadlines to submit their Graduation Application.

## CMU Policy on Incomplete and Deferred Grades

**Incomplete Grade.** An “I” (Incomplete) grade is a temporary grade used by the instructor in cases when a student is unable to complete course requirements because of illness or other justifiable circumstances. An incomplete grade does not indicate enrollment for the period of time in which the work is done. It is assigned only in cases in which the student has completed satisfactorily the major portion of the course requirements, and has convinced the instructor of the student's ability to complete the remaining work without re-registering for the course. It is not to be given to a student who is already doing failing work. A form must be completed and signed by the faculty member (and the student, when possible) whenever a grade of “I” is assigned. The form is to be kept on file in the departmental office. An instructor who assigns a grade of “I” also submits a formal statement to the department chairperson of requirements to be satisfied for removal of the Incomplete grade. A copy of the statement of requirements, including deadlines for their completion, shall be made available to the student.

It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor to make arrangements for completing the remaining work. The required work should be completed and a grade reported by the end of the student's next semester in residence, but in no case later than one calendar year following the receipt of the “I” grade. A student not completing the remaining work by the end of one calendar year following the receipt of an “I” would retain an “I” only if the instructor chooses not to change the “I” to a specific grade ranging from A to E by the end of the calendar year. An “I” may not be removed by registering again for the course. Students will not be allowed to register for the same course with an outstanding grade of I.

If the instructor of the class in which the “I” was incurred is no longer a member of the faculty, the student should contact the department chairperson, who shall act on behalf of the former instructor.

Exceptions to these regulations can be made only when requested by the student and approved by the instructor or the department chairperson and the dean of the college, and certified by the dean of the college to the Registrar.

**Deferred Grade.** The “Z” (deferred) grade may be recorded for students registered for independent study, for thesis, International Program Studies courses, or for other courses specifically approved for “Z” grades in the Bulletin, if the instructor believes that the quality and quantity of work completed by the end of the semester justifies an extension of time. An instructor who assigns a grade of “Z” shall submit, on the proper form, a statement to the department chairperson of remaining requirements for removal of the deferred grade. A copy of the statement of requirements, including deadlines for their completion, shall be made available to the student.

*(Academic Senate, 2/16/21)*

*For students on financial aid, see also Satisfactory Academic Progress toward your Degree.*

## Graduate Repeat Course Policy

To improve a grade previously earned at CMU, a student may repeat any course except an Independent Study course up to two times at the graduate level. This includes repeats where the student has earned a grade of A through E, or attempts where the student was awarded grades of CR, NC, I, W, or Z. The last grade and credit hours earned at CMU completely replace the previous grade and credit hours in computing the grade point average, although the earlier record remains a part of the student's transcript. A grade of A through E must be earned in a repeat course to replace the previous grade in computing the average. If the designator or the course number has changed since the student's previous attempt, the student is encouraged to email the Registrar's Office at [records@cmich.edu](mailto:records@cmich.edu). This will ensure that the repeat will be noted and will be included in the current semester calculations. A graduate student cannot transfer in a course previously taken at CMU in order to earn credit. For exceptions to this limitation policy, a student may appeal to the Office of Graduate Studies. (*Graduate Committee, 10/11/17*)

## Thesis Committee

Students should consult their advisor in selecting a committee chairperson and at least two committee members. The advisor may or may not be the committee chairperson, depending on the student's academic emphasis. **Thesis committees must consist of three members with graduate faculty status.** Two members, including the chairperson, must be from the Experimental Core faculty, and the 3rd member must be a Psychology Department faculty member. An optional 4th member can be a content specialist with graduate faculty status.

Under special circumstances (e.g., a student's original chairperson left CMU), the chairperson can be someone without Experimental Core faculty status (contingent on two-thirds approval from the Experimental Core faculty). In these cases, committees must still contain two Experimental Core faculty members.

## Thesis Proposal

A Prospectus for Theses must be completed to begin research on a thesis. Students should have their Thesis Prospectus approved by Fall of their second year. See also the *Guidelines to Beginning Research and the Prospectus Process*: <https://www.cmich.edu/offices-departments/office-research-graduate-studies/graduate-studies/student-services/forms>. Students must complete the following steps for their prospectus forms:

- a. Email thesis committee members to schedule prospectus meeting.
- b. Email Program Secretary to schedule a room with date and time of prospectus.
- c. Complete [Prospectus Form](#) online through DocuSign prior to proposal meeting.
  - DocuSign routes the form to the required signers identified by the student
  - Students will be able to track the status of each signature
  - DocuSign ensures that all required attachments are included
  - Automatic email reminders for unsigned forms
- d. Complete [IRB application](#) online at: ORGS will email you IRB approval.
- e. Attach IRB approval to Prospectus DocuSign [form](#) and click submit. Details on requirements of technical synopsis can be found here: [https://www.cmich.edu/docs/default-source/academic-affairs-division/research-and-graduate-studies/graduate-studies/2024-2025prospectusguidelines.pdf?sfvrsn=26c75282\\_7](https://www.cmich.edu/docs/default-source/academic-affairs-division/research-and-graduate-studies/graduate-studies/2024-2025prospectusguidelines.pdf?sfvrsn=26c75282_7)

Timely submission of prospectus is important! Projects undertaken prior to final approval of prospectus may be denied, the project deemed invalid, and the student will have to begin the process anew.

- f. After approval has been received from the College of Graduate Studies, you will be able to register for your additional thesis credits.

Students may not enroll for more than three thesis credits until the project prospectus has been approved by the department and the College of Graduate Studies and the College of Graduate Studies has verified the composition of the student's committee. The *Graduate Bulletin* (<https://bulletins.cmich.edu/>) outlines all University policies relating to theses.

## **Thesis Requirements**

As a general concept, the master's thesis, required of all master's students, will be related to the student's interests and to some aspect of professional practice. The goal of the master's thesis is to further the integration of the student's graduate education in developing the ability to investigate a professional problem in a scholarly manner.

A brochure outlining University procedures for thesis preparation is available from the College of Graduate Studies and a handbook is available from the Psychology Department. The steps usually followed are:

1. Student discusses their idea with a faculty member.
2. Student obtains a chair and committee members.
3. Student writes a prospectus for committee approval. The prospectus includes the following topics:
  - a. Introduction to the problem (a case is made for the importance of the area of study)
  - b. Review of the literature
  - c. Statement of the problem
  - d. Method (as appropriate)
    - i. Participants or Sample
    - ii. Instrumentation/Materials
    - iii. Procedures
    - iv. Statistical Analysis
4. Student convenes with the committee to discuss, fine tune, and approve/disapprove the idea.
5. Thesis Prospectus will be completed through DocuSign on the College of Graduate Studies website. Approval from CMU's Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) must be obtained before research involving human subjects or animal subjects is started. Such approval is needed prior to completing the DocuSign form. Also, DocuSign requires that you provide a technical synopsis and a layperson summary.
6. Thesis is completed.
7. Oral defense of project.

# Thesis Format Requirements

## Journal Article and Book-style documents

- A. Requirements for submitting a Journal Article or Book-style thesis or dissertation
  - Each journal article/chapter needs to be content that has either been published, or you intend to submit the work for publication AND the student or faculty member is the lead author. See NOTE in B for co-authored articles.
  - You may use the (intended) journal's formatting requirements in a journal article/chapter. Graduate Studies tries to be flexible; students should let the Graduate Studies reviewer know if revisions are requested that are contrary to the requirements of their publisher or journal(s).
- B. How many 'journal articles' are needed?
  - One or more journal articles can replace a traditional thesis.
  - Two or more journal articles can replace a traditional dissertation.
  - NOTE: Articles co-authored but not written by the student may be included in an Appendix, but they do not count towards this requirement.
- C. An introduction and/or discussion section can be included in addition to the journal article(s), depending on your program requirements.

## Formats of Traditional Theses/Dissertations and ALL Preliminary Pages

- A. What is the format for Traditional Theses/Dissertations?
  - APA format: most current edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association.
  - Exceptions to APA style requirement may include references, footnotes and endnotes where students can use discipline-appropriate styles.
- B. What is the format of Preliminary Pages for ALL theses/dissertations/journal articles/books?
  - Use APA style for the Preliminary Pages, e.g. title page, abstract, table of contents.
- C. APA Formatting Resources
  - APA Style Website (<https://apastyle.apa.org/>)
  - Style and grammar guidelines: <https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines/>
  - Handouts and guides: <https://apastyle.apa.org/instructional-aids/handouts-guides>
  - Tutorials: <https://apastyle.apa.org/instructional-aids/tutorials-webinars>
  - Purdue OWL Website (<https://owl.purdue.edu/>)
    - APA Style Introduction:  
[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/apa\\_style/apa\\_style\\_introduction.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html)
    - APA Style Overview and Workshop:  
[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/apa\\_style/apa\\_overview\\_and\\_workshop.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_overview_and_workshop.html)
  - YouTube Videos- APA Style-Professional Paper Formatting: [https://youtu.be/jDd\\_tiDaY4E](https://youtu.be/jDd_tiDaY4E)

## Preliminary Pages Requirements

- A. Every thesis/dissertation/ book(s)/journal article(s) must include: title page, abstract, table of contents, list of tables/figures (if they appear within the chapters), and bibliography. Use APA format as described above.
- B. The title page must include the title, student name, document type, program, and month and year of oral defense.
- C. The following pages are optional and may be included: copyright, dedication, acknowledgements, list of tables/figures (if they appear after the chapters at the end of your document), and appendix.
- D. Please review the example/template paper available on the Graduate Studies website (<https://www.cmich.edu/offices-departments/office-research-graduate-studies/graduate-studies/student-services/thesis-dissertation>) for a visual on how these requirements should appear.

## Policy on the use of AI

### Review of iThenticate/Plagiarism and Copyright Permissions

- A. The CMU Academic Integrity policy states: “Written or other work which students submit must be the product of their own efforts and must be consistent with appropriate standards of professional ethics.” Therefore, all Theses and Dissertations are expected to be written by the graduate student without the use of any generative AI model (e.g. ChatGPT) assistance.
  - An additional consideration before using generative AI is the risk of uploading sensitive or confidential scholarly data that are subject to ethical or legal requirements.
- B. Ask your committee chair to run your document through iThenticate to check for plagiarism before your oral defense (or sooner).
  - If your committee chair needs an iThenticate account, they should contact Graduate Studies at [cgstheis@cmich.edu](mailto:cgstheis@cmich.edu) or 989-774-1318.
  - How to interpret iThenticate reports:
    - The overall Similarity percentage is not helpful or used by OGS to determine plagiarism. You need to click on the % in the gray box to see the detailed report and scroll through the entire report.
    - Of highest concern are two or more sentences in a row that are identical/nearly identical to a source or multiple sources (patchwork plagiarism). Multiple, scattered sentences that are identical/nearly identical to a source are also a problem. To avoid plagiarizing, significant changes in wording and sentence structure are required, i.e. sufficient paraphrasing is needed.
- C. Ask your committee chair to review your document for Copyright issues.
  - If you include any image(s) from any publications, including your own, you must reference the author AND include the copyright permission to use the image(s) from the publisher.
  - Include all permission emails or memos as an appendix in your document.

### Service of a Typist

- A. A typist is allowed to produce the final draft of a thesis/dissertation/book(s)/journal article(s) for formatting purposes only.
- B. All arrangements, including the financial aspect, are handled directly between the typist and the student.
- C. Revisions required by Graduate Studies are sent directly to the typist. The student and typist will receive confirmation when the thesis/dissertation/book(s)/journal article(s) is finalized. Any possibility of using an editor is a decision to be made by the program or department. A list of available typists is available on the Graduate Studies website: <https://www.cmich.edu/offices-departments/office-research-graduate-studies/graduate-studies/student-services/thesis-dissertation>

## Thesis Research Support

The College of Graduate Studies provides small grants for thesis related costs. Please see the application for specific details pertaining to the use of the funds. The information for these grants can be found at the following websites:

Graduate Student Research & Creative Endeavors Grant: [Grant application](#)

## Academic Advisors

Upon admission, each student is assigned a faculty advisor (mentor), who will serve as the student’s academic advisor for the rest of that student’s enrollment in the program. The advisor will also serve as a mentor for the

student's research. At the end of each school year, the advisor will report to the Program Director regarding the student's progress on coursework as well as research involvement. A student may change his/her advisor by submitting a request to the Program Director.

## **Registration for Classes**

Students are encouraged to register for classes during Phase I registration to ensure course requests can be honored. The Psychology Department has no obligation to honor course requests when students fail to pre-register and classes are full. In order to add a class after it has reached capacity enrollment, the department requires written permission from that instructor.

## **Policy on Degree Time Limits**

It is the program's policy that all course requirements for the M.S. degree be completed within seven years after matriculation. This program is a full time, campus degree program. See the *Graduate Bulletin* for details at <https://bulletins.cmich.edu/>.

## **Time Limit for Admission**

Admission is valid for one year (four semesters: fall, spring, summer I, summer II). If a student does not register for classes within one year after being admitted to the graduate college, the student is required to reapply before taking classes. The student's credentials are again reviewed by the department and the student may or may not be readmitted.

## **Deferred Admission**

Newly admitted students may petition the Admissions Committee for deferred admission. Granting deferred admission is at the discretion of the Admissions Committee. However, deferred admission is normally granted for no more than 12 months from the original matriculation date.

## **Conditional Admission**

Students who are deficient in certain subject areas may be granted a conditional admission to the program. Students are expected to make up identified deficiencies in addition to completing the normally prescribed graduate coursework for their degree. Upon completion of all deficiencies, students may apply for regular admission.

## **Continuous Registration**

A graduate student requiring continuous and ongoing access to student resources (e.g., remote access to library, data storage on servers, email access) associated with a CMICH global ID requires enrollment in at least one course per academic year. Reinstatement of access to these services commences upon reenrollment.

In addition, a program/department may require a graduate student to enroll in at least one CMU graduate credit hour each fall or spring semester for one or more of the following reasons:

- Continuous registration is part of the program curriculum (e.g., student has completed the required coursework, but does not have an approved prospectus);
- Significant university resources (e.g., faculty time) are necessary.

The Continuous Registration credit (course 619) within the student's home department can fulfill this one graduate credit hour requirement. Regardless of whether the student has registered for Continuous Registration credit(s), the student must still complete the degree within the time-to-degree limitations set forth under the degree requirements.

Students may also apply for Extended Access <https://www.cmich.edu/offices-departments/office-research-graduate-studies/graduate-studies/student-services/forms> for a period of exactly one semester in lieu of registering for the Continuous Registration credit (course 619). Extended Access may only be granted once during a student's course in the program.

*(Approved by Academic Senate, November 5, 2019)*

## **Leave of Absence**

Requests for a leave of absence from the program must be submitted in writing to the Director. The rationale for the leave and the length of time being requested should be specified. Permission for a leave of absence requires approval from the Director. Students should be aware that the year-limit for completing program requirements typically remains in effect even when a leave of absence is approved.

## **Period of Inactivity**

Once a graduate student enrolls and the semester starts, they are considered a matriculated student. A matriculated student who does not continuously enroll has up to three years from the last semester of enrollment to return and register for courses. A matriculated student who does not enroll for more than three years will be considered an inactive student. An inactive student will not be eligible to enroll in courses until they submit a new admission application and are approved for registration. An inactive student is not required to pay the application fee when they submit a new application. As of Fall 2017, the electronic files for inactive students are kept indefinitely.

*Approved by the Academic Senate, 11/19/19*

## **English Language Proficiency Requirements**

CMU welcomes students from a wide variety of backgrounds. All international students must demonstrate English language competency in one of the following ways: (1) Achieved a satisfactory score on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL); (2) Satisfactory completion of a course of study in which the language of instruction was English; (3) Successful completion (grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, or the equivalent) of at least twelve credit hours of work in a recognized graduate program instructed in English; (4) Employment at a professional level for at least four years, with written verification by the student's current or former employer of the student's competency in English; (5) Employment in the United States at a professional level for at least two years in a position that relies on the use of English, with written verification by the student's current or former employer of the student's competency in English. Further information can be found in the *Graduate Bulletin* at <https://bulletins.cmich.edu/>.

## Graduation Procedures

To graduate, a **MASTER'S** degree student must:

1. Have regular admission to the degree program.
2. File an Authorization of Graduate Degree Program form.
3. Complete a minimum of 36 semester hours of graduate work with a GPA of 3.0 or higher; of these 36 credits, no more than 15 can be transfer credits; no more than 1/3 can be unspecified content or variable credit courses; and no more than 10 can be independent study or thesis credits.
4. Earn at least a B average. Courses with grades below a B- do not count towards meeting program requirements.
5. Earn 15 or more hours for the degree in courses at or above the 600 level.
6. Fulfill all requirements of the chosen curriculum and all other university regulations pertaining to the program.
7. Complete all requirements pertinent to Plan A requirements of the department.
8. Send a completed Graduation Application form along with a check or money order for the \$50 fee, to the College of Graduate Studies, approximately eight weeks before the end of the semester. Deadline dates are listed on the College of Graduate Studies website at:  
<https://www.cmich.edu/colleges/cgs/current/Pages/Deadlines.aspx>

## Graduation Commencement Ceremony

Students must finish all requirements for their degrees before they can participate in graduation ceremonies. Diplomas are mailed to students about six weeks after commencement. If a student needs evidence of degree completion in less than six weeks, written verification is available through the College of Graduate Studies.

## Research and Training Facilities

The Department of Psychology has a variety of facilities, which are used for the education of students. The facilities range in focus from those designed primarily for research to those providing direct clinical services. Below is a partial list of the available campus and department facilities:

**Graduate Student Offices.** Graduate Assistants and Fellowship recipients have space available to them in faculty laboratories.

**Graduate Student Computer Laboratory.** The Department of Psychology maintains a computer laboratory with six workstations and a printer exclusively for graduate student use in Sloan Hall.

**Park Library.** The Park Library provides an adequate collection of books and journals in the areas of psychology. The book collection totals about 1,000,000 volumes and an online catalogue which allows students



to quickly peruse the holdings in a specific area. Desk and study carrels are also available for students. A wide variety of research databases are available, including *Medline*, *PsycInfo*, and *Social Sciences Abstracts*.

**Computer Laboratories.** The Department of Psychology maintains computer laboratories for research and teaching purposes in Sloan Hall. The labs include a total of 12 workstations. These machines are networked to a printer and various experiment generation and SPSS software applications are installed. The lab serves students and faculty interested in research in cognitive processes, sensation and perception, learning, and social psychology.

## Faculty Laboratories

**Behavior Analysis Laboratory: Dr. Mark P. Reilly.** The Behavior Analysis Laboratory is located on the second floor of Rowe Hall and consists of rodent and avian colony rooms, behavioral testing rooms with state-of-the-art controlling and recording equipment, computer workstations for data analysis, and a conference/meeting room. There is also a student laboratory fully equipped with behavioral testing chambers for the undergraduate course in behavior analysis.

**Behavioral Neurophysiology Laboratory: Dr. Michael Sandstrom.** This laboratory is located in Health Professions 2310 and contains facilities for working with two techniques that monitor ongoing neuronal actions within freely moving animals. The first technique is called *microdialysis*, and involves taking samples from brain regions of interest using specialized probes made in-house to measure released neurotransmitters. Microdialysis also provides a mechanism for infusing modulatory chemicals into the same region and monitoring their effects on either neurochemical release or behavior. And two state-of-the-art high performance liquid chromatography devices are available to provide precise measurements of collected neurotransmitters and current research has been focused on measuring dopamine from cells destined for transplantation research in the context of Parkinson's disease. Past research measured disruptions in brain glutamate release in animal models of Huntington's disease. Most recently, efforts to incorporate optogenetics into dopamine enhancement techniques within the context of Parkinson's disease has been the main concern. Using optogenetics (eliciting action potentials among neurons that have incorporated a gene borrowed from sea algae -- channelrhodopsin -- that creates sufficient electrical stimulation to induce impulses in response to intense blue light among neurons transfected with this gene) we've been able to witness light-responsive neurons transplanted into the rat brain and explore how these neurons incorporate into damaged brain tissue in models of deteriorative diseases. Current experiments aim to translate in-vitro demonstrations of dopamine production into in-vivo behavior restoration. Separate animal procedure and testing rooms provide sufficient facilities to perform experiments using these multiple techniques and measures.

**The Brain Research and Integrative Neuroscience (B.R.A.I.N.) Center: Dr. Gary Dunbar.** The B.R.A.I.N. Center is located in the Health Professions Building. The facilities are used for laboratory classes and individual research projects. The B.R.A.I.N. Center is adjacent to the animal vivarium, which is equipped for small animal surgery. In addition, there are rooms allowing for a full array of behavioral tests, microscopic and biochemical analyses, along with fully equipped cellular and molecular laboratories.

**Field Neurosciences Institute Laboratory for Restorative Neurology: Dr. Gary Dunbar.** The Field Neurosciences Institute (FNI) Laboratory is part of the Brain Research and Integrative Neuroscience (BRAIN) Center, located on the second floor of the research wing in the Health Professions Building. The research mission of the FNI laboratory is to better understand the mechanisms involved in recovery of function following damage to the central nervous system and to devise strategies to promote these mechanisms in clinically relevant ways. Current research focuses on devising potential treatments for neurodegenerative diseases, particularly Huntington's disease (HD), Parkinson's disease (PD), and Alzheimer's disease (AD). The lab is fully equipped with a wide variety of specialized equipment for testing the efficacy of pharmacological treatments, stem cell therapies, and genetic manipulations to counteract neuropathological and behavioral deficits in rodent models of HD, PD, and/or AD.

**Memory and Cognition Laboratory: Dr. Hajime Otani.** In this laboratory, we conduct basic and applied research on human memory and cognition. Phenomena that are currently under investigation include metacognition, emotion and memory, directed forgetting, and physical exercise effects on cognition.

**Neuroinflammation and Aging Laboratory (N.A.A.L.): Dr. Yannick Marchalant.** The Laboratory is located on the second floor of the Health Profession Building, at tenant to the HP Vivarium. It is fully equipped for histological, biochemical and molecular biology and has access to Core equipment allowing exploration of phenomena ranging from behavioral testing, fluorescent microscopy, electrophysiology, biochemistry, molecular biology to cell culture. Current projects involve 1) the role of neuroinflammatory processes in normal aging of the brain and in the development of neurodegenerative diseases, particularly Alzheimer's Disease, 2) the role of cannabinoids in the regulation of neuroinflammation in neurodegenerative diseases, and 3) the effects of concussions on cognition in football, soccer and rugby college players.

**Personality Assessment Laboratory: Dr. Kyunghee Han.** The Personality Assessment Laboratory, located in 119 Sloan, is led by Dr. Kyunghee Han and Dr. Nathan Weed (Clinical Psychology faculty). Current research focuses on two areas: issues in construction and validation of psychological assessments, and cross-cultural and diversity research on personality and psychopathology.

## Recent Student Theses

### Theses

**Dante, Mia** (May 2025). The Analysis of Neural Inflammation in Alzheimer's Mouse Models

**Galik, Stefani** (March 2025). Effects of Chemoluminescent-Induced Stimulation of Dopamine-Secreting Mesenchymal Stem Cell Transplants During Movement on Limb-Use Asymmetry in a 6-OHDA Rat Model of Parkinson's Disease

**Provost, Jacob** (September 2024). Relation Between Negative Attitudes Toward Remembering and Subjective as Well as Objective Aspects of Memory Performance

**Arredondo Cruz, Jessica** (June 2024). Examining Mock-Defendant Plea Understanding and Decision-Making Using a Between-Subjects Design

**Brown, Ryan** (May 2024). An Investigation of Stimulus Prevalence Effects in Rats

**Roupe, Gavin** (February 2024). The Retroactive Interference of Emotionally Negative Stimuli After Consolidation has Occurred

**Borchardt, Amanda** (March 2023). Hand Proximity Effect and Distance of Stimuli: An ERP Study

**Peters, Rebecca** (June 2021). Early Inflammation in Alzheimer's Disease Using the FxFAD Model

**Willman, Laura** (September 2020). Examining Aggression with a Multidimensional Measure of Gender/Sex

**Knudsen, Breanna** (February 2020). Susceptibility of Novelty-Seekers to Linguistic Manipulations

**Catlin, Mary** (January 2020). The Stifled Voice: An Experimental Look into Recantation In Advertisements: Evidence from Eye Movements

**Hamaker, Monica** (November 2019). Preventing the Formation of Negative Emotional Memories Using Proactive Interference

**Kolek, Stan** (October 2019). Effects of an Immersive Computer-Based Multi-Tasking Training Program on Simulated Driving and Hazard-Anticipation Skill in Novice Drivers: A Computer-Based Training Validation Study

**Anderson, Kevin** (November 2018). Luminopsin-Medicated Stimulation of Transplanted Dopaminergic Cells in Unilateral 6-OHDA Lesion Model of Parkinson's Disease

**Keene, Joshua** (March 2018). Role of early exposure to inflammatory stress on plaque deposition and microglia density in Alzheimer's disease using the 5xFAD mouse model

## **Financial Aid**

### **I. *Types of Financial Aid Available to Graduate Students in the Psychology Department***

#### **1. Professor Grants and Contracts**

Professors sometimes receive research grants or consulting contracts. Most of the time they budget for graduate student assistants. Thus, students can earn money and sometimes hours of tuition by being assigned to professors that have grants and/or contracts that have been allocated to do so.

#### **2. Outside Grants and Student Loans**

Foundations and government agencies often have grant programs for which students may compete. Some of these can be quite generous. You can check with the College of Graduate Studies, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, Office of Veterans' Benefits, or Student Personnel Services for further assistance.

Students may also get loans at favorable terms. You can check into student loans at your local bank or at the Scholarships & Financial Aid Office. Tuition and living expenses at CMU are low compared to many universities. Thus, a modest loan may get you through graduate school at CMU.

### **II. *Financial Aid Decision Processes***

#### **1. Purposes of Financial Aid:**

Financial aid to graduate students serves four purposes. It helps the Experimental Program recruit new students. It provides a means of financial support to students so that they can concentrate on their studies while they are in graduate school. It provides an incentive for students to make satisfactory progress in the program. And it provides the opportunity for students to apprentice themselves to professors to learn about teaching and research.

## Academic Standards

### LETTER GRADES & POINTS

|    |   |                              |    |   |     |
|----|---|------------------------------|----|---|-----|
| A  | = | 4.0 points per semester hour | C+ | = | 2.3 |
| A- | = | 3.7                          | C  | = | 2.0 |
| B+ | = | 3.3                          | C- | = | 1.7 |
| B  | = | 3.0                          | E  | = | 0.0 |
| B- | = | 2.7                          |    |   |     |

Grades below a C do not count toward meeting requirements for any graduate degree, nor are they accepted. Courses with grades below a B- do not count towards meeting program requirements.

A cumulative 3.0 grade point average (GPA) is required for all graduate degrees.

**CR** = Credit - **NC** = No Credit - **I** = Incomplete - **W** = Withdrawal - **X** = Audit - **Z** = Deferred

### Student Grade Grievance Policy

A student that has a complaint about a grade shall follow the following steps: (1) Contact the instructor (if the instructor is unavailable, they should contact the department chairperson). This may be done in person or in writing as soon as possible, but no later than sixty days after the beginning of the next semester. Exceptions will only be made in the most compelling situations. (2) If still dissatisfied, the student should request, in writing, a joint consultation with the instructor and the department chairperson. If the instructor is also the department chairperson, this request should be addressed to the dean of the college. (3) If the student still feels that the grade is the result of capricious grading, they may file an appeal within ninety days of the start of the next regular semester. This appeal is made to the dean of the college and will be forwarded to the School Committee on Review on Change of Grade.

### Probation

**Academic Probation.** If a student's GPA drops below 3.0 in any session, the student is placed on probation. Once placed on probation, a student must show satisfactory progress toward regaining a 3.0 cumulative GPA, by earning a grade point average ABOVE a 3.0 during the next semester. When the GPA reaches 3.0, the student will be taken off probation. If a student fails to obtain a GPA higher than 3.0 in the first session following notification of probation status, the department may recommend to the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies that the student be removed from the degree program. A department may ask to extend the probation for an additional session if circumstances warrant. If a student does not regain a 3.0 GPA by the end of the second session, he or she may be continued only if the department makes a specific request and the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies concurs. (A non-degree student who fails to obtain a GPA higher than a 3.0 the first session after being placed on probation may not continue taking classes.)

**General Probation.** When an advisor expresses serious concerns about a student's academic integrity, work ethic, communication skills, or other behaviors crucial to progress in the program, the student is placed on probation. The notice of probation will describe the requirements and duration of the probationary status. Once all the requirements of the probation have been satisfied, the student will return to regular graduate student status.

## Academic Integrity Policy

Because academic integrity and ethical behavior are vital to an academic environment and to the development of qualified psychologists, graduate students are responsible for learning and upholding professional standards of research, writing, assessment, and ethics in psychology. In the academic community the high value placed on truth implies a corresponding intolerance of scholastic dishonesty. Written or other work which a student submits must be the product of his/her own efforts and must be consistent with appropriate standards of professional ethics. Academic dishonesty, which includes plagiarism, cheating and other forms of dishonest behavior, is prohibited. Ethical standards, as articulated in the standards of the American Psychological Association and American Psychological Society, must be observed by all graduate students. Allegations of academic dishonesty or unethical behavior will be handled according to the policies given here. Appeals of decisions are processed according to the policies set forth in the "Academic Integrity Policy for Graduate Students," which is published in the *Graduate Bulletin*. Any appeal decision reached pursuant to this section shall be final and not subject to further review.

Although no specific timelines are included in this policy, it is understood that matters should be handled expeditiously.

1. In cases where an instructor, supervisor, or fellow student believes a student has demonstrated academic dishonesty or professionally unethical behavior, the instructor, supervisor, or fellow student should report the incident to the Program Director.
2. The Program Director will discuss the allegation(s) with the person(s) making them. If the Program Director believes that there is evidence to support the allegation(s), the Director will notify the student of the charges, in writing. In the letter to the student, (s)he will be told the allegation(s) and told that the Program Faculty will be asked to review the allegation(s), look at the evidence, and determine what, if any, sanctions should be issued. The student will be offered the opportunity to admit to the violations, remain silent, meet with the committee to share his/her perceptions of the incident, or submit a written rebuttal to the charges. The student will be given a response deadline, at least two weeks in the future.
3. The Program faculty will review allegation(s) of academic dishonesty or unethical behavior. In any case where a member of the Program faculty made the original allegation(s), the faculty member will be excluded from judging the particular case.
4. If the student elects to meet with the committee to present his/her version of the events under investigation, the student may bring another person (i.e., an advocate) to the meeting to provide support and advice.
5. The Faculty's decision on culpability and appropriate sanctions will be communicated in writing to the student. If the student is found not culpable or if sanctions, other than dismissal or suspension from the program, are issued, this will be communicated in writing to the department Chairperson.
6. If the sanction is dismissal or suspension from the program, the sanction will be communicated through the department Chairperson to the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies who will communicate the decision to the student. This decision shall be final and is not subject to further review.
7. If sanctions are issued, committee records will be retained for at least one year.

## Policy on Research Integrity

Integrity in research and creative endeavors is at the heart of many academic endeavors and a fundamental principle of the university community. Faculty, staff, students, and independent contractors all have a responsibility to assure that research and creative endeavors meet accepted standards of scholarly performance. The increasing complexity of the research and creative process, the requirements of federal and state agencies, and the accountability of university personnel to colleagues, students, the university, and the larger community necessitate that CMU specify an acceptable code of conduct, provide a mechanism for investigating alleged violations of accepted standards, delineate appropriate public record follow any discovery of misconduct.

Following is the policy for dealing with allegations of research misconduct at Central Michigan University:

### General Provisions

#### 1. Applicability

- a. This policy shall apply to all faculty, staff, students, and independent contractors involved in research or creative endeavors.
- b. Nothing in this policy is intended to diminish or waive an individual's rights under any applicable collective bargaining agreement to which CMU is a party, or other university policies and procedures.
- c. This policy shall apply to students involved in the following research and creative endeavors:
  - Those conducted jointly with a CMU faculty or staff member or with any person from another university.
  - Those externally funded under a grant or contract to CMU or one or more of its employees.
  - Those expected to be published, presented, or shared with the broader academic community outside the student's classroom.
  - Those done in conjunction with a thesis or dissertation, and
  - Those done in conjunction with a graduate Plan B paper.

Except as noted above, this policy does not apply to a student's class assignments, independent study projects, Plan B papers, or directed research work which is not expected to be submitted for publication, presentation, or sharing with a community of scholars other than the members of the class. (Further information can be found in the *Graduate Bulletin*.)

## Important Contact Information

**Career Services** is located in Ronan 240, Telephone (989) 774-3068 or email at: [careers@cmich.edu](mailto:careers@cmich.edu). Or visit their website at: <https://www.cmich.edu/offices-departments/career-development-center/students>

**Multicultural Academic Student Services** is located in Bovee University Center 108, Telephone (989) 774-3945 or email at: [mass@cmich.edu](mailto:mass@cmich.edu). Or visit their website at: <https://www.cmich.edu/ess/cid/MASS/Pages/Default.aspx>

**Student Disability Services** is located in Park Library 120, Telephone (989) 774-3018 or email at [sds@cmich.edu](mailto:sds@cmich.edu). Or visit their website at: <https://www.cmich.edu/ess/studentaffairs/SDS/Pages/default.aspx>

**Student Health Services** is located in Foust Hall 200, Telephone (989) 774-6599 or visit their website at: <https://www.cmuhealth.org/services/mount-pleasant-clinics/student-health-services>

**Counseling Center** is located in Foust Hall 102 Telephone (989) 774-3381 or visit their website at: <https://www.cmich.edu/ess/StudentAffairs/CounselingCenter/Pages/default.aspx>