

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

S.311

To SENATE

From Senate Committee on Graduate Studies
H.M.Evans - Secretary

Subject Revised Psychology Program - M.A. and
Ph.D.

Date December 17, 1969.

At its meeting on December 9, 1969, the Senate
Committee on Graduate Studies approved the revised
Psychology program, as attached, and recommends
Senate's approval.

Henry H. Evans

Enc:
HME:jb

cc Dr. A. Kelsey

MEMORANDUM

EGS 48
GS 8/48

To: Mr. H. Evans, Registrar
Executive Committee
Senate Committee on Graduate Studies
Subject: New Course and revised programs
in graduate studies

From: D.H. Sullivan, Dean
Faculty of Arts
Date: September 12, 1969

The Faculty of Arts by referendum ballot approved recommendations by the Faculty Graduate Studies Committee. They are:

New course in Geography. Geography 800-3 : (attached)

Revised Geography program. M.A. and Ph.D. "

Revised Psychology program. M.A. and Ph.D. "

DHS:els
encl.

D.H. Sullivan
(per CH)

CALENDAR ENTRY

GRADUATE PROGRAM

Department of Psychology

The Psychology Department offers graduate work leading to an M.A. degree in general experimental psychology, and to a Ph.D. degree with specialization in most areas, with emphasis on experimental-theoretical formulations and on quantification. Research in applied settings is encouraged when the emphasis is on establishing generality of theory and method and not on training in specialized techniques.

Applications

Students interested in applying for graduate work in psychology should submit a completed application form and transcripts, and should have the results of the Graduate Record Examination Aptitude Test and Advanced Test in Psychology forwarded to the Psychology Department. Students seeking admission for the Fall Semester should submit all supporting documentation by the preceding March 1. Students seeking admission for the Spring Semester or for the Summer Semester should submit all supporting documentation by October 1 or February 1, respectively. Only under exceptional circumstances will applications submitted after these deadlines be considered.

Supervisor

For each incoming student the department appoints a faculty member in the student's area of interest to act as initial supervisor until the student chooses his M.A. or Ph.D. Committee. The final choice of committee members will be the student's. The department reserves the right to admit only those students for whom research space and an appropriate faculty supervisor are available.

Satisfactory Performance

The progress of each candidate will be assessed periodically by the department. A course grade of less than B. is not considered satisfactory at the graduate level. Any student who performs unsatisfactorily in 2 or more courses may be dropped from the program.

M.A. PROGRAM

Admission

The minimum requirement for clear admission to graduate work is a bachelor's degree or its equivalent. The applicant should have at least a high second class (B+) standing with second class (B) work in 24 semester hours of psychology, which must include 6 hours of experimental psychology with laboratory work and a course in statistics. Up to 6 hours of related courses deemed acceptable by the department may be counted toward the 24 hour psychology requirement.

Students who have demonstrated ability in psychology or in other fields

but who do not meet the requirements for regular admission may be granted admission as "unclassified" students and must take appropriate undergraduate courses, performing at a level specified as acceptable by the department.

M.A. Committee

Ordinarily, by the end of his first semester in residence the student will choose his M.A. Committee. This committee will consist of at least two faculty members from the Psychology Department, one of whom will be the committee chairman, and any other faculty outside of the department who are considered necessary by the student and his chairman. The function of the M.A. Committee is to advise the student in planning his course program and to supervise his M.A. thesis.

Degree Requirements

Residence: The minimum requirement is 3 semesters in residence. Students who have teaching or research assistantships typically will be in residence for 4 semesters.

Required Courses: The minimum requirement is satisfactory performance in 21 credit hours of graduate courses, which must include 3 Proseminars, 2 Research Design Courses, and 2 electives. All course requirements must be completed within 5 semesters of entrance into the graduate program.

Proseminars

Proseminars are advanced and intensive surveys of areas in psychology. Emphasis is placed on important basic issues in the area, rather than on a specialized topic. Of the 3 required Proseminars, one must be chosen from Group A, and another from Group B. The third required Proseminar may be selected from any group.

<u>Group A.</u>	<u>Group B.</u>	<u>Group C.</u>
720-3 Learning	750-3 Developmental Psychology	705-3 History and Systems
730-3 Perception	760-3 Social Psychology	715-3 Measurement
740-4 Motivation	770-3 Personality	780-3 Physiological Psychology

Other Proseminars may be offered, depending on specific interests of graduate students and faculty.

Electives

Electives may be chosen in consultation with the M.A. Committee from the following: Proseminars, Seminars and Directed Studies.

M.A. Thesis

The M.A. Thesis accounts for 9 of the 30 credit hours required for an M.A. degree. Before the student starts his thesis research, he must present a thesis proposal to his committee for approval.

The oral defense of the thesis will focus upon the problems, methods, and results of the research and the relation of its findings to major trends and current theoretical problems in psychology. If failed, the oral may be retaken once. It will normally be completed satisfactorily within 3 calendar years after admission to full graduate status. The thesis examining committee will consist of the student's M.A. Committee, with an additional faculty member to be added from outside the department.

Ph.D. Program

Admission Requirements

The minimum requirement for admission to the Ph.D. Program is the successful completion of a Simon Fraser University M.A. degree in psychology, or its equivalent.

Ph.D. Committee

By the end of the first semester of residence, the student will choose a faculty member in the Psychology Department as the chairman of his Ph.D. Committee. Not later than one semester after having completed his course requirements, the candidate, in consultation with his chairman, will select 2 or more additional committee members, at least 2 of whom must be members of the Psychology Department. At least one member of the committee must be able to act as advisor with respect to the measurement and design aspects of the thesis research. The proposed committee will be subject to approval by the department on recommendation of the Graduate Studies Committee.

Degree Requirements

Residence: A candidate must be in residence at least 6 semesters after admission to the Ph.D. program, but with the department's approval part of the time may be spent off campus.

Required Courses: The student will participate in a program of study decided upon in consultation with his initial advisor and subsequently with his Ph.D. Committee. This program must include at least 2 Proseminars, which are to be taken before the end of his first 3 semesters in residence as a Ph.D. candidate in the department. These 2 Proseminars may be chosen from any of those offered by the department.

A Ph.D. candidate obtaining his M.A. degree in the Psychology Department of Simon Fraser University may have satisfied part or all of this Proseminar requirement by having completed 1 or 2 Proseminars in addition to the 3 required for the M.A. degree.

In this case, the Ph.D. course requirement may be met by substituting a Seminar for each additional Proseminar.

Ph.D. Qualifying Examination

A committee consisting of the candidate's Ph.D. Committee and faculty members in areas related to the candidate's major interests will set a written Ph.D. Qualifying Examination appropriate to the candidate's particular program. This examination should be taken as soon as possible after completion of course requirements. It may be retaken once, and must be passed no less than 2 semesters before the submission of the Ph.D. thesis.

Ph.D. Thesis

Before starting his thesis research, the candidate will present for comment a formal thesis proposal. This presentation will be at a meeting open to all members of the Psychology Faculty.

The completed thesis will be judged by the candidate's Ph.D. Committee and by one examiner from outside the university. The thesis will be defended in oral examination. Candidates who fail the thesis defense will be permitted to retake the examination once only.

Graduate Courses

705-3	Proseminar in History and Systems
715-3	Proseminar in Measurement
720-3	Proseminar in Learning
730-3	Proseminar in Perception
740-3	Proseminar in Motivation
750-3	Proseminar in Developmental Psychology
760-3	Proseminar in Social Psychology
770-3	Proseminar in Personality
780-3	Proseminar in Physiological Psychology

810-3 Research Design I: Experiments

Reviews the basic logic of controlled experimentation, and focuses an analysis of variance designs commonly used in psychological research. Particular emphasis is given to the relative merits of the several designs when there are multiple research questions to be answered.

811-3 Research Design II: Research Studies

Focuses on multivariate regression and correlation models. Deals with ways of answering questions when direct experimental manipulation is not feasible, and demonstrates the utility of the principles involved for solving problems other than those for which they were first proposed.

805-3	Seminar* in History
815-3	Seminar in Measurement
820-3	Seminar in Learning
825-3	Seminar in Cognitive Processes
830-3	Seminar in Perception
835-3	Seminar in Sensation
840-3	Seminar in Motivation-Emotion
850-3	Seminar in Developmental Psychology
860-3	Seminar in Social Psychology
865-3	Seminar in Psycholinguistics
870-3	Seminar in Personality
880-3	Seminar in Physiological Psychology
885-3	Seminar in Comparative Psychology
897-3	Directed Studies*
898	M.A. Thesis
899	Ph.D. Dissertation

* Since both Seminars and Directed Studies will cover specific topics within a general area, the student may register for each more than once. For example, 830-3 may appear twice on a transcript: once as 830-3 Perception: Depth and Distance; and again as 830-3 Perception: Form Discrimination.

Justification of Calendar Revisions for Psychology Department

A copy of a proposed revision of the calendar entry for Psychology is attached. The revisions represent minor changes in terms of distribution of faculty and student time and effort, but there are several such minor changes. For this reason, the justification deals with the new entry section by section, pointing out and explaining all deviations from the present (1969) calendar entry. Headings refer to the revised entry.

Introductory statement - This section is essentially unchanged.

"Applications" - Deadlines for the submission of applications have been added, in order to facilitate long-range planning of graduate enrollment.

"Advisor" - This is a new section, giving an explicit statement of the procedures that the department has been using to ensure that no student will be accepted and then find himself without appropriate advisors, space or equipment to pursue the lines of research he wishes to undertake.

"Satisfactory performance" - This new section presents to the student the department's interpretation that a "Pass" grade in graduate courses is not considered a satisfactory performance.

"M.A. Program - Admission" - The first paragraph under "Admission" has been revised to specify a limit on the number of courses outside psychology that may be counted toward the 24 hour psychology requirement. The names of the exact laboratory courses that must be included in undergraduate work are no longer specified, because different universities use different course titles - e.g. "Experimental Psychology" instead of separate courses in the areas of learning, motivation, and perception.

The second paragraph under "Admission" is broader than that of the 1969 calendar entry. As each exceptional case must be handled individually, the attempt to specify rules covering in advance various possible exceptions has been abandoned. The revised paragraph simply indicates to the applicant the possibility of Contingent Admission.

"M.A. Committee" - This is a new section, making explicit the procedure by which the student chooses his Committee. The 1969 calendar entry refers to the student's "advisors" but does not point out his own role in choosing them.

"Degree Requirements"

The first subsection ("Residence") is unchanged.

The remainder of this section ("Required Courses") is a revision of the sections on "Degree Requirements" and "Examinations" in the 1969 calendar entry. The revision is a rearrangement of the work required in the present Contemporary Problems courses (Psychology 800 and 801) and Preliminary Examinations. Instead of taking two 5-credit Contemporary Problems courses and Preliminary Examinations in 5 areas of psychology, the M.A. student operating under the proposed revision selects 3 areas to be covered intensively by 3-credit proseminars and by course examinations in the proseminars. If he remains at Simon Fraser University for his Ph.D., he will later take 2 more proseminars, and thereby demonstrate competence in a total of 5 areas of psychology.

There are several purposes accomplished by this arrangement:

- a) Lengthening the period of time within which the student can study his 5 areas produces the possibility of his attaining a greater depth of knowledge within each area. With the great expansion of information within psychology, it has proved impossible to provide more than a very sketchy presentation of each of the 3 to 6 areas covered in one Contemporary Problems course.
- b) The correspondence between the content of the Contemporary Problems courses and the knowledge required by the Preliminary Examinations has been small. It had been assumed that the undergraduates entering the M.A. program would be capable of studying independently for the Examinations. In fact, however, most students have had to take examination sections several times in order to pass them, and the only way the system of Preliminary Examinations can work well is through the faculty's spending an unjustifiably large amount of time in individual tutoring. The revision proposes that students be examined in the proseminars on material covered during the course of the proseminars.
- c) At the same time, provision has been made for the inclusion of as much independent work as the student shows himself able to handle. In addition to 3 proseminars, the M.A. student will take more proseminars, seminars or individual Directed Studies. Thus, while a minimum number of structured courses is required, the remainder of a student's program can be suited individually to his own developing ability to undertake independent work.
- d) The student is given increased choice of content areas. The 1969 calendar entry requires 3 areas in common of all students (learning, perception and motivation). Deletion of this requirement allows the student a freer choice of areas of concentration, while continuing to ensure, through Group requirements, that sufficient breadth is obtained.

All of these purposes can be accomplished without necessitating any increase in the teaching budget. As each of the Contemporary Problems courses has covered several areas, the department has been forced in the past to assign two professors to one 5-credit course. In contrast, each 3-credit proseminar requires only one instructor, as it deals intensively with a single content area. The schedule of presenting Seminars and Research Design courses is not changed, and it is the opinion of the faculty that time devoted to supervising students in individual Directed Studies actually will be less than the time demanded by the informal instruction involved in helping students to prepare for 5 sections of the Preliminary Examinations.

"M.A. Thesis" - This section contains the following minor changes and additions:

- a) change of credit hours for the M.A. thesis from 10 credits to 9
- b) addition of a thesis proposal presentation, a custom already followed in the department
- c) addition of a statement allowing a student to retake a failed thesis oral examination
- d) specific inclusion of the university regulation that the M.A. examining committee must include one faculty member from outside the department.

"Ph.D. Program - Admission Requirements" - This section has been changed to require successful completion of the equivalent of "a Simon Fraser University M.A. degree in Psychology" rather than simply "an M.A. degree in Psychology". The revision is intended to indicate the right and the obligation of the department at the time of admission to state any deficiencies noted in a student's background, and to specify how they must be removed. This statement subsumes the 1969 statement requiring a Master's level course in Research Design.

"Ph.D. Committee" - This section is a revision of the 1969 paragraph subtitled "Major and minor subjects", which instructs the student to select his Ph.D. Committee members to represent one major and two minor areas of interest. The revised entry rejects the concept of the student's choice being tied necessarily to traditional "areas of psychology", and implicitly acknowledges that some of the advances in psychology in the future will be made on the borderlines of the present traditional areas or in areas that are now not considered major areas in their own right. In the revision, the student and his committee, subject to approval by the department, delimit those subareas that will constitute the student's particular field of competence. Some students may still choose "one major and two minors", but others may choose subareas of the traditional areas and combine them in

in a particular way that would not be possible under the 1969 calendar requirement.

"Degree Requirements - Residence" - This section has been changed to a statement of the university regulation.

"Required Courses" - The 1969 calendar entry does not set any formal course requirements for the Ph.D., although it suggests that Ph.D. candidates participate in seminars, directed studies, and colloquia. The revised entry requires Ph.D. students to take 2 courses, usually proseminars. In the case of students who have obtained their M.A.'s from Simon Fraser University, requiring 2 proseminars in addition to the 3 required for the M.A. ensures that students will have reached a certain level of competence in 5 areas, as is assured in the 1969 entry by requiring 5 sections of Preliminary Examinations. In the case of students with M.A.'s from other universities, requiring 2 proseminars within the first 3 semesters of residence is intended to provide a rapid initial evaluation of the student's ability, and to create interchange of ideas among students from diverse backgrounds.

"Ph.D. Qualifying Examination" - All revisions of this section reflect the change from the requirement of "one major and two minors" to a more individualized domain of competence for each student, as discussed above under "Ph.D. Committee".

"Ph.D. Thesis" - This section is a combination and revision of the 1969 entry sections "Dissertation" and "Dissertation defense". The provision for an open meeting at which the Ph.D. candidate presents a formal thesis proposal is included to give the student practice in discussing his proposed research, and to encourage faculty members who are not on his committee to discuss the student's research problem and design with him. Other additions in this section are a statement of the university's requirement of an external examiner, and a statement that the thesis defense examination may be retaken once.

"Graduate Courses" - Psychology 800 (Contemporary Problems I) and Psychology 801 (Contemporary Problems II) have been deleted, as their contents have been reorganized into proseminars. The Registrar's office has approved the use of the 700 series of course numbers for proseminars. Psychology 897-3 (Directed Studies) has been added.

Deletions from the 1969 program - In addition to deletions noted above, the revised entry does not include Placement Examinations for entering M.A. candidates or Assessment Examinations for entering Ph.D. candidates. These examinations were intended only to be diagnostic. Revision of course requirements to include proseminars with examinations provides a more satisfactory way of assessing the student early in his program and removes the annoyance or anxiety occasioned by the requirement that entering students take diagnostic examinations during their first week on campus.