



MASTER OF ARTS IN
Psychological Science
MAPS

**GRADUATE STUDENT
HANDBOOK**

2026–2027

✦ *Charting Your Path as a Scientist* ✦



DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN BERNARDINO



MASTER OF ARTS IN

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Department of Psychology

California State University, San Bernardino





Welcome to MAPS



MAPS Orientation 2025

Faculty and incoming first-year students gathered at the beginning of the Fall 2025 semester. The MAPS program values close collaboration, mentorship, and a supportive learning community that extends from the first day of graduate school through graduation.

The Master of Arts in Psychological Science (MAPS) program is a research-intensive, mentorship-driven graduate program designed to prepare students for doctoral study and careers requiring advanced research training. From the first semester, students become active members of a collaborative scholarly community, working closely with faculty mentors while developing the scientific, analytical, and professional skills expected of psychological scientists.

This Program Guide is intended to serve as your companion throughout graduate school. Rather than simply listing policies and requirements, it explains the culture of MAPS, provides a roadmap through the program, and introduces the people, resources, and opportunities that will shape your graduate experience.

Welcome to MAPS.

Your journey begins here.

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WELCOME

A Message from the Department Chair

“Welcome to a community of scholars, researchers, and future leaders in psychology.”

Dear Psychology Graduate Student,

Congratulations on your admission to one of our graduate programs! Welcome to the Department of Psychology at California State University, San Bernardino. We are excited to have you join our academic community.

Your admission reflects the hard work, perseverance, and academic potential you have demonstrated throughout your educational journey. Our graduate programs attract exceptional applicants each year, and your selection reflects the confidence our faculty have in your ability to succeed. We are excited to partner with you and to support your development as a scholar, practitioner, and professional.

Graduate school is both rewarding and demanding. Over the coming years, you will deepen your expertise, refine your analytical thinking, and develop new professional skills through challenging academic and professional experiences. I encourage you to ask questions, engage deeply in your coursework and research, seek out new opportunities, and build meaningful relationships with your peers and mentors.

As a member of the Psychology Department, you join a professional community built on inclusion, mutual respect, and academic integrity. I look forward to celebrating your accomplishments during your time at CSUSB and wish you every success in the years ahead.

Once again, welcome to the Department of Psychology. Please know that I am always happy to help as you begin your graduate journey.

Sincerely,

Donna M. Garcia, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair
Department of Psychology



WELCOME

A Message from the MAPS Director

"Your graduate journey begins with curiosity, collaboration, and discovery."

Dear New M.A. Psychological Science Students,

Welcome to the Master of Arts in Psychological Science (MAPS) program at California State University, San Bernardino. On behalf of our faculty, I would like to congratulate you on your admission and warmly welcome you to our academic community.

Graduate school is both an exciting and demanding experience. Over the next two years, you will deepen your understanding of psychological science while developing the research, analytical, and professional skills that will prepare you for doctoral study, research careers, teaching, and applied professional work.

One of the greatest strengths of our program is the close collaboration between students and faculty. I encourage you to become actively involved in research early in your graduate career, attend colloquia and conferences, engage with your peers, and take advantage of the many opportunities available within and beyond the department. Some of the most rewarding aspects of graduate education emerge through these collaborations and professional experiences.

Although graduate school can occasionally feel overwhelming, please remember that you are not expected to navigate the process alone. Our faculty are invested in your success and are here to support your academic and professional development throughout your time in the program.

This handbook is intended to guide you through the MAPS program and familiarize you with important policies, procedures, and expectations. I look forward to getting to know each of you and working with you during the coming years. Congratulations again, and welcome to the MAPS family.

Sincerely,

Nicolas Brunet, Ph.D.

Director, Master of Arts in Psychological Science Program

Meet the MAPS Faculty

One of the defining strengths of the Master of Arts in Psychological Science (MAPS) program is the opportunity to work closely with faculty mentors who are active scholars across a broad range of first semester and are encouraged to engage with faculty through coursework, laboratory meetings, thesis committees, conference presentations, and interdisciplinary research. The faculty below are organized according to the program's two concentrations to help students identify potential mentors whose research interests best align with their academic and professional goals.

Behavioral & Cognitive Neuroscience Concentration

Faculty investigating the biological basis of behavior, cognition, perception, learning, memory, and brain function.

Faculty investigating the biological basis of behavior, cognition, perception, learning, memory, and brain function.

 Leslie Amodeo Adolescent neurodevelopment • Drugs of abuse • Decision making • Neural circuitry	 Dionisio Amodeo Autism spectrum disorder • Repetitive behavior • Cognitive inflexibility • Serotonergic systems
 Nicolas Brunet Perception & attention • Face processing • EEG/ERP • Eye tracking • fNIRS	 John Clapper Categories & concepts • Learning • Attention & memory • Computational modeling
 Jacob Jones Neuropsychology • Parkinson's disease • Neuroimaging • Cognitive impairment	 Hideya Koshino Visual attention • Working memory • Cognitive neuroscience • Experimental cognition
 Jason Reimer Executive function • Cognitive control • Eye tracking • Attention & working memory	

General Concentration

Faculty representing the broad spectrum of psychological science.

 Brittany Bloodhart Social & environmental justice • Prejudice • Moral values • Gender equity	 Donna Garcia Social inequality • Motivation & achievement • Self-regulation • Well-being
 Cari Goetz Evolutionary psychology • Human mating • Social cognition • Social behavior	 Christina Hassija Trauma exposure • PTSD • Risk & resilience • Cognitive appraisals
 Miranda McIntyre Social psychology • Social cognition • Individual differences • STEM participation	 Anahid Modrek Child & adolescent development • Reasoning • Learning • Academic achievement
 Stephen Ramos Health psychology • Health inequities • Marginalized populations • Behavioral medicine	 Maria Santos Depression • Evidence-based psychotherapy • Latino mental health • Early psychosis

Current First-Year MAPS Students

The MAPS program is built around a close-knit community of scholars. Students work closely with faculty mentors while collaborating with one another through coursework, laboratory meetings, conference presentations, and research projects. The following students comprise the current first-year cohort.

First-Year Cohort (Fall 2026)

The following students entered the MAPS program during the Fall 2026 semester.

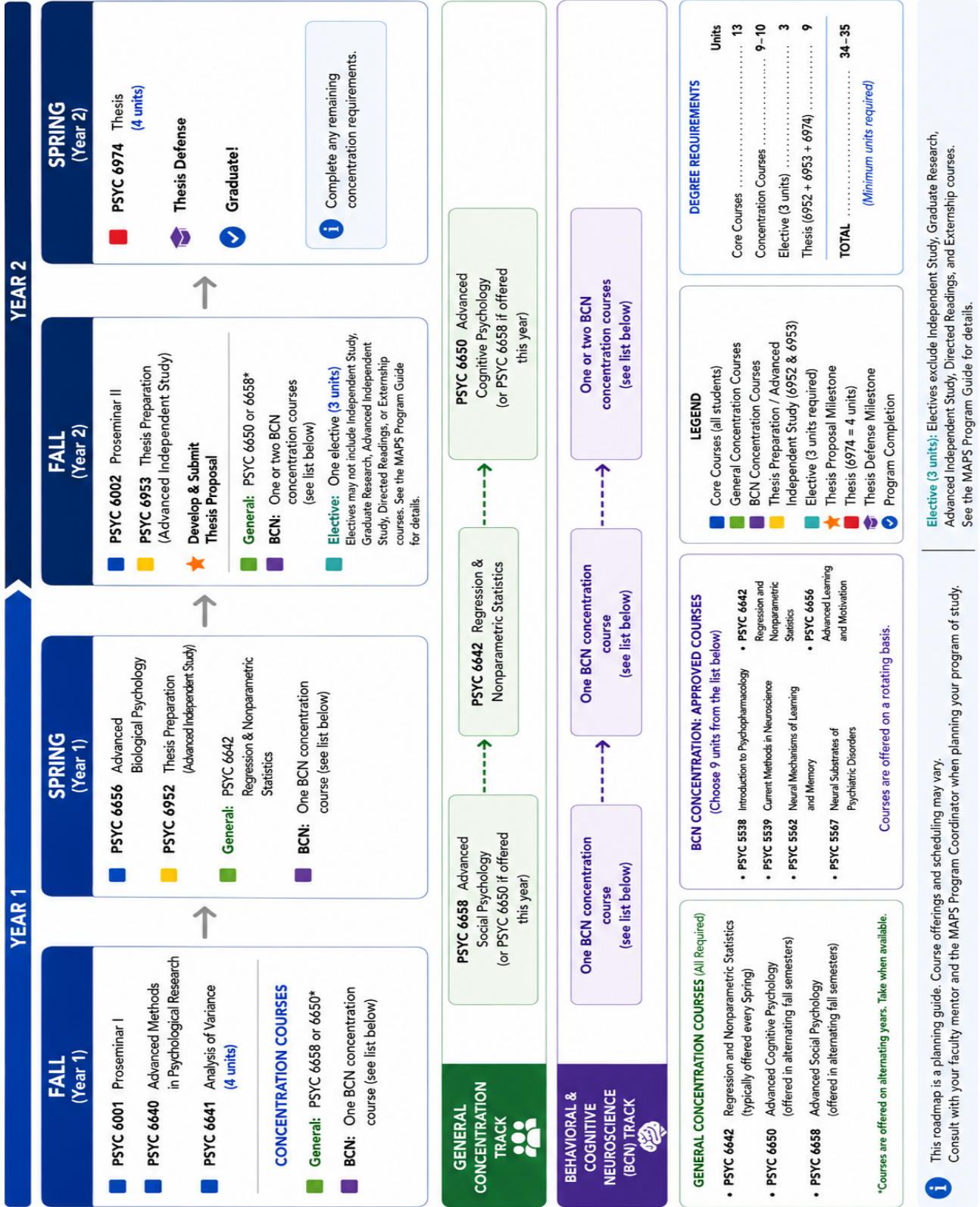
Student	Faculty Mentor
Adrian Tamez	Brittany Bloodhart
Alex Espinosa	Nicolas Brunet
Alhia Isbael	Leslie Amodeo
Arlene Ortiz Pulido	Dionisio Amodeo
Briana Pino	Anahid Modrek
Christy Liu	Dionisio Amodeo
Daanish Malik	Stephen Ramos
Emily Mosqueda	Leslie Amodeo
Gary Shover	Dionisio Amodeo
Isaiah Crawford	Nicolas Brunet
Julian Hall	Anahid Modrek
Kaylia Grant	Cari Goetz
Penelope Bom	Anahid Modrek
Rachel Ibrahim	Christina Hassija
Stephanie Porras	Stephen Ramos
Valeria Sotelo	John Clapper

Spring 2026 Cohort

The following students entered the MAPS program during the Spring 2026 semester and joined the current first-year cohort.

Student	Faculty Mentor
Andrea Felix	Nicolas Brunet
Charlotte Hall	Jason Reimer

Recommended MAPS two-year Course Roadmap



Degree Requirements

The MAPS degree requires 34–35 units of core, thesis, elective, and concentration coursework.

CORE 13 units	THESIS 9 units	ELECTIVE 3 units	CONCENTRATION 9–10 units	TOTAL 34–35 units
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Core Courses (13 units)

Course	Title	Units
PSYC 6001	Proseminar in Psychological Science I	2
PSYC 6002	Proseminar in Psychological Science II	1
PSYC 6640	Advanced Methods in Psychological Research	3
PSYC 6641	Analysis of Variance	4
PSYC 6656	Advanced Biological Psychology	3

Thesis & Elective Requirements

Course	Title	Units
PSYC 6952	Thesis Preparation (Advanced Independent Study)	2
PSYC 6953	Thesis Preparation (Advanced Independent Study)	3
PSYC 6974	Thesis	4
Elective	PSYC elective*	3

Choose One Concentration

General Concentration (10 units)

Course	Title	Units
PSYC 6642	Regression and Nonparametric Statistics	4
PSYC 6650	Advanced Cognitive Psychology	3
PSYC 6658	Advanced Social Psychology	3

Behavioral & Cognitive Neuroscience (9–10 units)

Choose three approved courses:

Course	Title	Units
PSYC 5538	Introduction to Psychopharmacology	3
PSYC 5539	Current Methods in Neuroscience	3
PSYC 5562	Neural Mechanisms of Learning and Memory	3
PSYC 5567	Neural Substrates of Psychiatric Disorders	3
PSYC 6642	Regression and Nonparametric Statistics	4

PLANNING NOTES

Course availability. Although concentration courses are generally offered regularly, the program can guarantee only that they will be offered twice within a three-year period. Students should therefore take a required concentration course when it becomes available. If the first-year spring schedule is unusually demanding, PSYC 6650 or PSYC 6658 may be deferred until the second year.

Elective requirement. Three elective units are required. PSYC 5951–5953, 6091–6095, 6121–6125, 6891–6893, and 6951–6955 may not be used to satisfy this requirement.

Academic Policies & Student Success

This chapter summarizes the academic policies, milestones, and professional expectations that will help you remain in good standing and make the most of your graduate experience. It reorganizes the original handbook into a concise, student-centered reference.

Academic Standing

Requirement	Standard
Overall GPA	3.0 or higher
Core Courses	Minimum grade of B-
Electives	Minimum grade of C
Course Repeats	One repeat permitted by petition

Important: Students whose cumulative GPA falls below 3.0 are placed on academic probation. Failure to return to good standing during the following semester may result in declassification from the program.

Annual Progress

- Submit the Student Activities Report each Spring.
- Document research, presentations, publications, teaching, and professional activities.
- Demonstrate satisfactory progress toward the degree.

Program Milestones

- Admission
- Classified Status
- Writing Requirement
- Advancement to Candidacy
- Thesis Proposal
- Thesis
- Graduation

Classified Status

Students admitted with Conditional Classification must complete all admission conditions and submit the required paperwork before they are eligible to advance to candidacy.

Writing Requirement for Graduate Candidacy

- Option 1: Complete PSYC 6640 with a grade of B– or higher.
- Option 2: Demonstrate professional writing through a Graduate Studies petition.

Staying on Track

- Maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- Meet regularly with your faculty advisor.
- Submit the annual Student Activities Report.
- Remain continuously enrolled when required.
- Complete program milestones on schedule.

Program Policies

Policy	Summary
Seven-Year Limit	Complete all degree requirements within seven years.
Continuous Enrollment	Required after coursework until thesis completion.
Leave of Absence	Required for planned interruptions in enrollment.
Change in Study Plan	Required after approved changes to coursework or committee.
Transfer Credit	Subject to University and program limits.

Professional Development

Research

- Participate in faculty research.
- Present at conferences.
- Publish when possible.

Teaching

- Apply for Teaching Associate positions.
- Develop instructional experience.

Professional Organizations

- Join APA, APS, WPA, Society for Neuroscience, and related organizations.

Doctoral Preparation

- Build research experience.
- Develop strong letters of recommendation.
- Prepare for graduate applications.

Research Integrity

- Academic Integrity
- APA Ethical Principles
- Human Subjects (IRB/HSRB/CITI)
- Responsible Conduct of Research

Funding Opportunities

Opportunity	Purpose
Graduate Assistantships	Employment and professional experience
Financial Aid	Tuition support
ASI Grants	Research and conference travel
OSR Grants	Student research
Fellowships	Merit and financial need

Chapter Summary

- Maintain good academic standing.
- Meet program milestones on time.
- Become involved in research early.
- Present your work professionally.
- Seek teaching opportunities.
- Engage with the psychological community.

Professional Development, Research Ethics & Student Resources

This chapter highlights opportunities and expectations that extend beyond coursework. It encourages students to become active members of the scientific community while summarizing key research, ethics, teaching, funding, and professional development resources.

Professional Development

Research & Scholarship

- Become involved in faculty research early.
- Present research at regional and national conferences.
- Seek opportunities for publication.
- Build a professional CV throughout the program.

Teaching Opportunities

- Apply for Teaching Associate positions when eligible.
- Develop classroom and mentoring experience.
- Consult faculty regarding recommended preparation.

Professional Organizations

- American Psychological Association (APA)
- Association for Psychological Science (APS)
- Western Psychological Association (WPA)
- Society for Neuroscience (SfN)
- Other specialty organizations aligned with your interests

Preparing for Doctoral Study

- Meet regularly with your advisor.
- Develop a strong research portfolio.
- Present your work at conferences.
- Request letters of recommendation well in advance.
- Identify doctoral programs that match your research interests.

Research Ethics & Academic Integrity

Responsible Conduct of Research

- Complete required CITI training before conducting human-subjects research.
- Obtain IRB/HSRB approval before data collection.
- Protect participant confidentiality.
- Maintain research records responsibly.

Academic Integrity

- Follow APA Ethical Principles and Code of Conduct.
- Avoid plagiarism and properly cite all sources.
- Use informed consent and appropriate debriefing procedures.

Funding & Student Support

Resource	Purpose
Graduate Assistantships	Teaching and research employment
Financial Aid	Tuition and educational support
ASI Research & Travel Grants	Conference travel and research expenses
OSR Student Grants	Student research funding
Graduate Fellowships	Merit- and need-based support

Keys to Professional Success

- Become involved in research early.
- Attend departmental colloquia.
- Develop relationships with faculty mentors.
- Present your work whenever possible.
- Seek leadership and teaching experiences.
- Maintain the highest ethical standards.

Appendices

Appendix A – MAPS Forms

The following forms are specific to the MAPS program or are routinely used by MAPS students. Students should consult their faculty advisor or the MAPS Director before submitting any form.

Form	Purpose	Typical Timing	Signatures
Application for Classified Status	Request classified standing after completing admission conditions.	First year	Student, MAPS Director
Advancement to Candidacy	Advance formally to candidacy after program milestones are met.	End of first year	Student, Advisor, Director
Change in Study Plan	Document approved changes in coursework, advisor, or committee.	As needed	Student, Advisor
Thesis Proposal Acceptance	Record committee approval of thesis proposal.	Before PSYC 6974	Committee
Oral Defense Information	Schedule and document the thesis defense.	Final semester	Committee
Student Activities Report	Document annual research and professional accomplishments.	Each Spring	Student

Recommendation: Always retain an electronic copy of every submitted form for your records.

Appendix B – University Forms & Administrative Resources

The following University forms are maintained by Graduate Studies. Because they are updated periodically, students should obtain the most recent version from the official CSUSB website.

- Leave of Absence
- Petition for Acceptance of Graduate Work
- Petition for Waiver of University Regulations
- Graduate Requirement Check
- Continuous Enrollment (PSYC 6990) information

Appendix C – Quick Reference Checklists

First-Year Checklist

- Meet with your faculty advisor.
- Develop a tentative two-year plan.
- Become involved in a research laboratory.
- Complete PSYC 6640 and other core courses.
- Begin PSYC 6952 and prepare for advancement to candidacy.
- Submit the Student Activities Report in Spring.

Second-Year Checklist

- Advance to Candidacy.
- Complete PSYC 6953 and defend your thesis proposal.
- Enroll in PSYC 6974.
- Complete your oral defense.
- Submit your thesis to Graduate Studies and ScholarWorks.
- Apply for graduation.

Graduation Checklist

- Complete all degree requirements.
- Maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- Complete committee revisions.
- Submit all required Graduate Studies documents.
- Verify graduation clearance.

Appendix D – Important Contacts & Resources

Resource	Purpose
MAPS Director	Academic advising and program guidance
Psychology Department Office	Program forms and administrative support
Office of Graduate Studies	University policies, thesis review, graduation
CSUSB ScholarWorks	Electronic thesis submission
Institutional Review Board (IRB)	Human subjects research approval
Writing Center	Writing assistance
University Library	Research support
Financial Aid	Funding and scholarships
Office of Student Research	Research grants
Professional Organizations	APA, APS, WPA, Society for Neuroscience

Note: Contact information, forms, and deadlines change periodically. Students should consult the Psychology Department and the Office of Graduate Studies websites for the most current information.