

Neuropsychology Emphasis

Goals: The Houston Conference guidelines for training in clinical neuropsychology specify that doctoral education should include 1) general training in the clinical psychology and 2) the “foundations for the study of brain-behavior relations and the practice of clinical neuropsychology”.

The Neuropsychology Emphasis at LSU is organized to meet these goals and prepare students for a clinical internship involving significant training in clinical neuropsychology. In addition to completing the general requirements for a degree in clinical psychology, students interested in completing the Neuropsychology Emphasis must complete the following requirements:

Research: A major emphasis is placed on conducting research in neuropsychology to prepare students for careers in academic or research settings. Students must submit for publication at least one first authored publication on a topic related to neuropsychology. It is expected, but not required, that students will exceed this threshold.

Coursework: Psychological Assessment II, a course which provides an introduction to neuropsychological assessment, is a requirement for all clinical students in the program. Students must take Clinical Neuropsychology Seminar each semester they are enrolled on-campus (with a minimum of 3 semesters). This structure will allow for the accumulation of foundational knowledge in neuropsychology over time in a flexible manner that derives benefits from having graduate students at different levels of their training in the same class. The content of this course will vary each semester and provide graduate students with knowledge in the foundations for the study of brain-behavior relationships (e.g., neurological and related disorders including their etiology, pathology, course and treatment) and foundations for the practice of clinical neuropsychology (e.g., professional issues and ethics in neuropsychology). Students on the neuropsychology emphasis are also encouraged to take additional coursework in topics such as neuroanatomy or neuroimaging.

Practicum: A minimum of two practica in neuropsychological assessment is required. At least one practicum must include exposure to a breadth of different clinical conditions frequently encountered in neuropsychological assessment (e.g., stroke, Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, and TBI).

Dissertation: The dissertation topic must be related to neuropsychology.

Internship: An APA-accredited internship with significant neuropsychological training is required.

Upon completion of all the requirements above, a letter detailing the student's neuropsychology training and completion of these requirements will be written by the faculty head of the Neuropsychology Emphasis for the student's academic file. Of note, although this training is designed to provide a foundation in brain- behavior relationships and the practice of clinical neuropsychology, students who decide to pursue board certification in clinical neuropsychology may need to complete additional coursework (e.g., a neuroanatomy course) at the postdoctoral level in addition to the already required postdoctoral clinical training experiences and didactics.