

# APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY, MSC

**Department Website:** <https://www.smu.ca/psychology/msc-in-applied-psychology.html>

## Master of Science in Applied Psychology

The Department of Psychology offers a Master of Science in Applied Psychology in two streams:

1. Industrial/Organizational Psychology (In Person) or Industrial/Organizational Psychology (Online); and
2. Forensic Psychology.

Students are normally admitted with full-time status. Students may request consideration for part-time status in writing to the GPC. For definitions of full-time and part-time status, and minimum and maximum times-for-completion of the MSc in Applied Psychology, see FGSR Academic Regulations 8 (<https://smu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/graduate/academic-regulations/registration/>) and 19 (<https://smu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/graduate/academic-regulations/program-study-research/>), respectively, in the Academic Calendar. Typically, part-time students are concurrently employed in an occupation related to Applied Psychology. Students may continue their graduate education in a Ph.D. or other graduate program. Further information can be obtained from the Graduate Program Coordinator. Students in the Industrial/Organizational Psychology stream of this program may also be permitted access to courses and supervisors in the Sobey School of Business.

## 1. Industrial/Organizational Psychology

The Master of Science in Applied Psychology (Industrial/Organizational Psychology Stream) prepares students to: (1) help organizations select and retain the best employees; (2) help train and support workers' functioning; and (3) help make workplaces healthy, positive, and productive environments. Graduates will have a solid understanding of research, practice, and research methods in the:

- Psychological measurement of jobs and workers;
- Organizational leadership and intervention, such as around culture, safety and wellness
- Job-related behaviour and performance.

Graduates will develop strong scientist and practitioner skills to study and improve work life and organizational performance to develop their own successful careers in academia, organizational consulting, government, and industry.

## 2. Forensic Psychology

The Master of Science in Applied Psychology (Forensic Psychology Stream) prepares students to examine and understand human behaviour directly related to legal processes. Note that this is not a clinical degree. Graduates will have a solid understanding of quantitative research methods that can be applied in:

- basic forensic psychology research,
- program evaluation,

- the theory and psychometric properties of commonly used forensic measures, and
- the development of forensic instruments.

Graduates will have evidence-based knowledge of the relationship between psychology and the law in the Canadian justice system, including understanding criminal behaviour and managing offenders. Graduates with this education and training in forensic psychology can contribute to the work of the justice system, public service, and to teaching and research in the academy.

## Admission Requirements

The MSc in Applied Psychology follows the general admission requirements (<https://smu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/graduate/academic-regulations/admissions/>) and procedures of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research as outlined in the Graduate Studies Academic Calendar. In addition, admission to the program requires an honours degree in Psychology or its equivalent (the equivalent of sixty (60) credit hours in Psychology including an independent research project). Applicants must submit a completed online application form, official transcripts, and 3 recommendation forms to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research by December 15th.

Consideration will be given to scholarly record as well as relevant work, research, and volunteer experience. The admission materials are available from the Faculty of Graduate Studies & Research at <http://www.smu.ca/academics/apply-to-grad-studies.html>. Any application for change in status (i.e., full-time or part-time) must be made in writing directly to the Graduate Program Coordinator. Change in status is not guaranteed and must be approved by the Department.

## Financial Support

Full-time students admitted to the program may be eligible for funding administered by Saint Mary's University. Funding recommendations are made by the program. All successful applicants are automatically considered for graduate funding. Students are encouraged to apply for external scholarships.

The competition for graduate fellowships is adjudicated by the Psychology Department on the basis of GPA, research experience, and recommendation forms. Graduate teaching assistantships are also provided by the Department as remuneration for assisting professors in course and lab instruction.

## Program Requirements

**Note: Students not registered in any course work but working on their Program/Thesis must register in Program Continuation (Prog Registration/Continuation (FGSR 9000)) for every semester (including summer) in which they are in their graduate program.**

Students are required to take the equivalent of twenty-four (24) credit hours, in addition to completing a supervised 500-hour practicum (Practicum and Directed Readings (PSYC 6690 (<https://smu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/search/?P=PSYC%206690>)) and preparing a thesis (Thesis (PSYC 6695 (<https://smu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/search/?P=PSYC%206695>))), for a total of thirty-six (36) credit hours.

Students in the **Industrial/Organizational Psychology (In Person)** stream are further required to complete the following first year courses:

Code	Title	Credit Hours
PSYC 6603	Advanced Assessment	3
PSYC 6605	Personnel Psychology	3
PSYC 6625	Organizational Psychology	3

Students in the **Forensic Psychology** stream are required to complete the following first year courses:

Code	Title	Credit Hours
PSYC 6650	Correctional Psychology	3
PSYC 6655	Justice Field Experience	3
PSYC 6660	Forensic Tests and Measurement	3

All students are required to complete Advanced Psychological Statistics and Research Design (PSYC 6601 (<https://smu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/search/?P=PSYC%206601>)).

The Industrial/Organizational Psychology stream is also offered online. There is a residency requirement such that students are required to be on campus for the first three (3) weeks of their program (typically start of term in September). There is an option residency at some point in the last half of their second year while completing their thesis.

Students in the **Industrial/Organizational Psychology (Online)** stream are required to complete the following:

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<i>Students are required to complete the following 5 courses:</i>		
PSYC 6606	Advanced Psychological Statistics and Research Design I	3
PSYC 6607	Advanced Psychological Statistics and Research Design II	3
PSYC 6603	Advanced Assessment	3
PSYC 6605	Personnel Psychology	3
PSYC 6625	Organizational Psychology	3

*Students are required to complete a practicum and thesis:*

PSYC 6690	Practicum and Directed Readings	6
PSYC 6695	Thesis	6

*Students may choose 3 of the following courses*

PSYC 6610	Applied Multivariate Analysis	3
PSYC 6615	Training and Development	3
PSYC 6620	Topics in Engineering Psychology	3
PSYC 6635	Occupational Health Psychology	3
PSYC 6641	Organizational Conflict and Negotiation	3
PSYC 6645	Ethics and Professional Practice	3

Special Topics from PSYC 6671- PSYC 6679; subject to department approval

**Total Credit Hours** **36**

Each student must submit a thesis on a topic chosen in consultation with a Thesis Committee, which shall consist of the student's advisor, one other member of the Department, and a third person (either internal or external to the Department). All external members must be approved by the Department, on the advice of the supervisor. The Thesis Committee is normally formed towards the end of the first year of study for a full-time student or after completion of nine (9) credit hours by a part-time student. Each thesis must be orally defended in front of a Thesis Examining Committee, which consists of the Thesis Advisory Committee, plus an external examiner (who is not a member of the Saint Mary's University Psychology Department and who has not been involved with the thesis).

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Courses</b>		
PSYC 6601	Advanced Psychological Statistics and Research Design	6
PSYC 6603	Advanced Assessment	3
PSYC 6605	Personnel Psychology	3
PSYC 6610	Applied Multivariate Analysis	3
PSYC 6615	Training and Development	3
PSYC 6620	Topics in Engineering Psychology	3
PSYC 6625	Organizational Psychology	3
PSYC 6635	Occupational Health Psychology	3
PSYC 6641	Organizational Conflict and Negotiation	3
PSYC 6645	Ethics and Professional Practice	3
PSYC 6650	Correctional Psychology	3
PSYC 6655	Justice Field Experience	3
PSYC 6660	Forensic Tests and Measurement	3
PSYC 6665	Psychology and Law	3
PSYC 6670	Special Seminar: Topics	3
PSYC 6680	Program Evaluation	3
PSYC 6690	Practicum and Directed Readings	6
PSYC 6695	Thesis	6

Students must achieve an average of at least B (3.00). A review of students' progress will be undertaken by the Department at the end of the first year of study [eighteen (18) credit hours]. Notwithstanding students' grade point averages, the Department reserves the right to recommend to the Dean that students be dismissed from the program.