Path to Degree

Students with BA or BSc only

Academic Year I

- Form advisory committee consisting of primary advisor and at least two other faculty mentors
- Take required core Cognition course (73800)
- Take required Statistics I (70500) and II (70600)
- Take core Language (83800 or 72800) or Development course (73700, 79500, or 80220), or other advanced seminar
- Take two semesters of Independent Research (80200); this forms the basis of the 1st doctoral examination
- Take one or two semesters of Research Skills and Professional Development (72400)
- Submit abstract for poster presentation at annual GC Psychology Research Day
- Advisable: Apply for NSF pre-doctoral fellowship

Academic Year II

- Pass the 1st doctoral examination before the completion of 45 credits, typically before the second semester of the second year (paper and oral defense)
- Prepare and submit paper for publication based on research
- Take Ethics (77100) and Teaching of Psychology (79900)
- Take two semesters of Independent Research (80200)
- Take one or two semesters of Research Skills and Professional Development (72400)
- Submit abstract for poster presentation at a non-CUNY conference
- Complete second doctoral exam (literature review, grant proposal, oral defense)

Academic Year III

- Move to Level II tuition status (completion of 45 credits and 1st doctoral examination)
- Develop independent research project in consultation with 2nd doc committee (which can differ from the 1st doc committee)
- Complete remaining course requirements (4 electives, 2 Independent Research, 2 Research Skills and Professional Development)
- Submit abstract for poster presentation at a non-CUNY conference
- Complete second doctoral exam (literature review, grant proposal, oral defense)

Academic Year IV

- Establish CUNY-internal dissertation committee (which can differ from the 1st and 2nd exam committees)
- Submit dissertation topic proposal within 6 months of completing 2nd doctoral exam
- Begin research project stemming from dissertation proposal
- Submit abstract for talk at a non-CUNY conference
- Submit an additional manuscript for publication in a peer-reviewed journal
- Assemble letters, CVs, website, and other material for job search
- Apply for dissertation-year fellowship
- Move to Level III status (completion of 1st and 2nd doctoral examinations, coursework, and dissertation topic proposal)

Academic Year V

- Complete research based on dissertation proposal
- Submit chapter(s) from dissertation to a journal
- Submit abstract for talk at a non-CUNY conference
- Begin search for faculty, post-doctoral, or industry positions
- Complete doctoral dissertation committee (including external readers)
- Complete, submit, and defend dissertation
- Deposit dissertation and attend commencement before September

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Cognition, Language, and Development

Mission and Training Philosophy
CLD provides students with:

- Knowledge of core concepts and theories in the field
- Competence in a variety of research skills and methods (including quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods designs, computational modeling, computer-assisted experiments)
- Extensive laboratory experience
- Professional development skills for a variety of careers.

Advising Structure
Students have a primary advisor and a committee of 2-4 other faculty. In their first year, students will begin research with their primary advisor. They will meet with their committee at least once each semester. The committee’s functions are to provide constructive intellectual advice and support, to monitor progress, to identify the student’s strengths and weaknesses, to suggest cognate courses and skills, and to approve the student’s course of study. Students have the option of restructuring their committee after the first year.

Curriculum
All students enroll in Statistics I (3 cr) and Statistics II (3 cr); Ethics (3 cr); and Teaching of Psychology (3 cr) for a total of 12 credits. All students enroll in 6 semesters of Research and 6 semesters of Research Skills and Professional Development.

There are three core courses: Cognition; Language; and Development. Students fulfill the core requirement by taking Cognition (3 cr) and either Language (3 cr) or Development (3 cr) for a total of 6 credits. Students may opt to take a third core course as an elective.

Elective courses (see below for a sample curriculum) may in principle be taken from any training area and from other CUNY PhD Programs. Electives must include at least three content courses (i.e., not methods or research courses); four content courses are strongly recommended. Elective courses are normally 3 credits each. Elective courses are chosen through consultation between the student and the student’s advisory committee. Course selection must be approved by the student’s advisory committee.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Training Sequence</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall, Year 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Core 1: Cognition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring, Year 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Core 2: Language or Develop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall, Year 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Core 3 or Elective</td>
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<td>Spring, Year 2</td>
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<td>Elective</td>
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<td>Fall, Year 3</td>
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<td>Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring, Year 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
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Required coursework completed by end of third year