VIRTUAL INFO SESSION!

PSYCHOLOGY AMDP
ACCELERATED MASTER’S DEGREE PROGRAM

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WHAT IS IT?

- AMDP will add an additional year to the undergraduate degree program
- It is a terminal Master's in Psychology
- Will work on a focused research project for four semesters (senior year and fifth year) and write a Master's thesis during the 5th year/Master's program
WHY DO AMDP?

- AMDP trains you to do independent research at the Master’s level
- You will take doctoral level courses in psychology
- You will have a strong quantitative training
- Will be a strong applicant for graduate school/research jobs
WHY NOT TO DO AMDP?

- If you do not like research or not thinking of pursuing a research career
- If you want clinical training at the Master’s level
  - AMDP does NOT lead to licensure as a therapist and is not a pathway to a career in counseling!
- If you would like to have a focused applied Master's (e.g., Applied Behavioral Analysis, Organizational Psychology, Counseling Psychology)
- If your mom or significant other tells you to do it
Figure out research interests & which area of psychology excites you the most

Identify potential mentors in your area (next slide)

- Can work with mentors outside Psych dept. (social work, psychiatry, med school, Ross, etc.) but must have at least ONE mentor/co-mentor who is a Psychology faculty member

- See “What if my mentor is not in the Psych dept.?“ section of Psych website

Join lab(s) and gain research experience as an undergraduate

Completing an undergraduate thesis is not required, but recommended

Can take grad-level courses during senior year (see “Rackham Approved Psych Courses for Graduate Credit” on Psych website)
FINDING A MENTOR

- Find researchers doing work in areas you are interested in – visit the Psych dept. website
- Before you contact them, do your homework!
  - Find their most current articles
  - Do you want to read more?
  - Are you excited by the methods?
- Make initial contact
  - Show you are familiar with their work
  - Ask if there is a role for you on their next project
  - No mass e-mails!
APPLICATION PROCESS

- Begin research by jr. year and discuss possibility of AMDP with faculty mentor by end of jr./early sr. year
  - Must have mentor’s approval/support before applying
- Application deadline: Feb 1. of sr. year to begin in Fall or Winter of upcoming academic year
- Submit application through Rackham:
  - Letter of support from mentor; Academic Statement of Purpose; Personal Statement; Resume or CV
You are applying to a sub-area in psychology (e.g., Developmental, Social, Clinical, Personality and Social Contexts)
- Your sub-area is the area in which you are doing research (also, the area your faculty mentor’s research is in)
- Your application will be reviewed by the area admission committee
- Admission is contingent upon a number of factors, such as research fit, academic preparation and feasibility of your project
REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY

- Need 3.2 GPA in major and 3.0 overall LSA GPA
- No GRE required
- Must be enrolled in LSA only (can’t be joint/dual degree), but can be double major
- Research experience and faculty mentor support – must be part of a lab
24 credits total:

- 2 semesters of research (Psych 519, 3 cr/term)
- Stats 613 (4 cr)
- Area core courses (1 each term, 5 cr total min.)
- Cognate (a course outside of your area of Psychology w/in Psych, or a non-Psych course)
- Additional electives as needed to reach 24 credits

Must enroll in at least 9 cr/term
FIRST TERM

- Design project, IRB, data collection, data workshops, meetings with mentor and with AMDP Program Director
- Time commitment ~ 15-20 hours per week
- Aim for data collection to be completed this term
SECOND TERM

- Data analysis and write the thesis!
- Complete rough draft by March 1; final thesis due April 15 after addressing the feedback from the mentor and second reader
- Late April/early May: Graduation Ceremony
WHAT’S INVOLVED IN A THESIS?

- A two semester research project with a faculty mentor
- Hands-on research: laboratory, survey, qualitative, secondary analysis, etc.
- APA format
- Length: about as long as your mentor’s typical manuscripts
  - Can depend on research area norms
  - Anywhere from 25-50+ pages
- Goal: publishable manuscript
- Learning what it takes to be a researcher - a lot of work!
Generally, AMDP is funded by the student 100%

Dept. can nominate students for Rackham Master’s Awards, which fully funds the first semester, and covers the 2\textsuperscript{nd} semester by offering a GSI position (which provides tuition, stipend & healthcare). This is a very competitive award!

- Students cannot nominate themselves for the RMA; they must be nominated by the dept. View [the RMA/RMF criteria on Rackham’s website](#) and incorporate how you meet them in your application answers & essays

- AMDP students are not guaranteed GSI positions, but may apply. However, the dept.’s preference is for AMDP students to focus on coursework and research over teaching

- Rackham Research Grant – eligible for up to $1,500 in research funding

- Other funding opportunities through Rackham and external sources
Some projects are already funded by faculty’s grants, but apply for awards anyway!

Support system: Weekly office hours w/ Faculty Director; writing workshops; stats consulting; Psych AMDP Advisor; other AMDP students
QUESTIONS?

ABOUT: FINDING A MENTOR/CREATING YOUR PROPOSAL:
CONTACT DR. PRITI SHAH
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ABOUT: APPLICATION/LOGISTICS/CURRICULUM/REQUIREMENTS:
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