

# PSYCHOLOGY AMDP

ACCELERATED MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM

VIRTUAL  
INFO SESSION!

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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 5<sup>th</sup> 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

# STEPS TOWARDS APPLYING

- 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**

# APPLICATION PROCESS

- 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

# REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY

- **Social area applicants must be required to have a primary mentor and a secondary mentor; it is strongly recommended for applicants to other areas.**
- **In the event that a primary mentor is unexpectedly unable to serve, we require students list a potential secondary mentor in Psychology who has already agreed to fill this role.**
- **To identify a secondary mentor, please discuss this with your primary mentor. Students do not need a letter of recommendation from the secondary mentor, but will be required to list them on the Rackham application.**

# STRUCTURE/CURRICULUM

**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!

# FUNDING

- 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<sup>nd</sup> 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

# OTHER MISC. DETAILS

- 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. NATALIE TRONSON  
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**ABOUT: APPLICATION/LOGISTICS/CURRICULUM/REQUIREMENTS:  
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