

The M.A. in Psychology Metropolitan State University provides flexible options to specialize in various non-clinical areas of Psychology. Many students choose to focus on **Applied Social Psychology**. Apply now for admission to start the program in Fall, 2013.

Brief Description:

**Applied social psychology** can be defined as the systematic application of social psychological constructs, principles, theories, intervention techniques, research methods and research findings to understand, prevent, and ameliorate social problems (Oskamp & Schultz, 1998). The social problems and issues that can be addressed are numerous, some areas include:

- Health (e.g., diet, exercise, behavior change, substance abuse prevention);
- Interpersonal conflict (e.g., bullying, negotiations, mediation)
- The environment (e.g., conservation, space design, crowding, sustainability)
- Safety (e.g., violence prevention, workplace organization, seat belt use)
- Social cognition (e.g., judgment accuracy, eyewitness testimony, stereotyping)
- Group processes (e.g., social influence, communication)
- Politics (e.g., political participation, citizenship, partisanship)
- The workplace (e.g., mentoring, leadership, motivation, job satisfaction)
- Interpersonal relationships (emotions, coping, etc.)

Program Overview:

Those choosing an applied social psychology focus would complete three required courses, additional learning experiences, and a Thesis to round out a 36-credit program.

Program Requirements:

\*Psyc 603 Advanced Social Psychology and Applications (4 credits)

\*Psyc 610 Applied Research Methods (4 credits)

\*Psyc 601 Psychology in the Public and Community Interest (4 credits)

\*16 credits of approved concentration courses (e.g., Attitudes and Social Influence; Group Dynamics; Political Psychology; Cross-Cultural Psychology; Environmental Psychology; Peace Psychology; Program Evaluation; Health Psychology; Personnel/Industrial Psychology; Positive Psychology; Prevention Theories/Strategies, Positive Psychology, or other approved elective) – an internship is optional.

\*Thesis Research (4 credits).

## Career and Employment Opportunities

The Psychology M.A. can prepare students for careers in research, evaluation, prevention programming, jobs in government and non-profit sectors, consumer behavior, and Doctoral Study in Social Psychology and related areas. This program does not prepare students for licensure in mental health services.

Examples of employment opportunities might include:

- Research in government and corporations
- Training and development
- Consumer behavior and marketing
- Non-profit organizations (program design and evaluation)
- Performance and Personality testing
- Community College teaching (or part-time teaching at 4-year universities)
- Research or teaching assistant while pursuing Ph.D.

## Faculty and Facilities

Kerry Kleyman (Ph.D. in Social Psychology, University of Nevada)

Caitlin Mahoney (Ph.D. in Social, Evolutionary, and Cultural Psychology, Clark University)

Mark Stasson (Ph.D. in Social Psychology, University of Illinois)

Kelly Hazel (Ph.D. in Community Psychology, Michigan State University)

August Hoffman (Ph.D. in Educational Psychology, UCLA)

Susan Rydell (Ph.D. in Personality Research, University of Minnesota)

Many courses are offered at Metropolitan State's Midway Center, also home to faculty offices, the Center for Psychological Research, and the Institute for Peace and Political Studies. The Library and the Psychology Laboratory are located at the St. Paul (Mounds Park) Campus. Excellent online library resources are available, the Psychology Lab offers research equipment and part-time employment opportunities, and students may access computer labs at all Metropolitan State campus sites.

## Current Students

Student Research areas include attitude change, environmental attitudes, group influence, coping behavior, social identity, motivation, social networks, and many more. Students have presented results of their research at several conferences, including APS, MPA, SPSP, ISPP, and others.

## Application Information

Well-qualified students will have: earned a Bachelor's degree with a 3.0 GPA or higher (by August, 2013), an interest in applied social psychology, academic or work references that highlight relevant knowledge and skills, and previous courses in general psychology, statistics, research methods, and social psychology (or equivalent areas). Request application materials by calling 651-999-5820 (please ask for the M.A. application and provide your name and address).