



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS

Department of Psychology

Graduate Programs Orientation



August 19, 2026



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS®

Welcome!

We are so glad you are here!

1:00-2:00 pm

Welcome to the Department
Ethics & Standards
General Information

General Orientation for New Students

Dr. Randy Floyd, Department Chair

Dr. Melloni Cook, Associate Chair

Dr. Helen Sable, Graduate Coordinator & Associate Chair

Dr. Chelsea Liddell, Graduate Administrative Assistant



Greetings from the Chair

This is an amazing department! You have access to

- Nationally and internationally recognized faculty
- Two APA-accredited and a NASP-approved graduate programs
- Committed advisors, mentors, and staff providing individual attention
- Graduate student empowerment and engagement via the Psychology Graduate Student Association (PGSA) and the TIGER Psychology Engagement Program (Tiger PEP)
- Graduate assistantships for many
- Access to health insurance with a full-time graduate assistantship
- Money for professional travel and research
- Multi-level involvement with opportunities to teach, mentor, and supervise undergraduate majors and minors

Reassurance and Supports

- Take care of yourselves and each other.
- Build relationships with peers—especially in your cohort.
- Communicate your needs as well as fears and anxieties.
- Faculty and staff are prepared to listen and support
- Make your program director your first contact, but don't forget about us: the graduate administrative assistant (Liddell), graduate director (Sable), associate chairs (Cook and Sable), and chair (Floyd).
- Engage with the PGSA, Tiger PEP, and other department groups and activities that can support you.
- Take advantage of the resources designed to support you.

Disability Resources for Students



DISABILITY RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

[DRS](#) [Campus Access](#) [Accommodations](#) [Technology](#) [Career Programs](#) [Faculty](#) [Events](#)



REGISTER WITH DRS

Register with our office to receive accommodation and other services.

Counseling Center



COUNSELING CENTER

[About](#) [Counseling](#) [Wellness & Resources](#) [Relaxation Zone](#) [Training](#) [Outreach](#) [Suicide Prevention](#)



WELLNESS AND RESOURCES

Learn more about what wellness is and how to practice wellness in your life



Dean of Students

COMMUNITY/CAMPUS RESOURCES

↑ Up

Academic and Library

Clothing

Emergency Food

Emergency Homeless Shelters

Employment Resources

Financial Literacy

Health Care Services

Housing Search

Legal Services

Mental Health

New and Expectant Parents

Rental & Utility Assistance

Sexual Assault & Domestic
Violence

SNAP Assistance

Technology

Transportation

Victim Services

Rent & Utility Assistance

UofM Financial Aid

Financial strain can be addressed at the university with one of our financial aid employees who can complete an analysis of your financial aid package. Loans are available at any point in the semester and there is a listing of alternative loans on the website.

Phone: 901.678.4825

Email: financialaid@memphis.edu

Location: 103 Wilder Tower

Neighborhood Christian Center Memphis

Phone: 901.881.6013

Location: 785 Jackson Ave Memphis, TN 38107

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Works with up to a dozen local churches across the county to provide financial assistance for residents of Memphis.

Phone: 901.722.4703 or 901.274.2137

Email: svdpmemphis1306@gmail.com

Location: 3522 Carnes Ave, Memphis, TN 38111

Memphis, Light, Gas & Water (MLGW)

Offers payment and assistance programs, as well as extension policies.

Phone: 901-544-6549

Location: 220 South Main St, Memphis, TN 38103

Case Management Inc.

3171 Directors Row

Memphis, TN 38131

901.821.5600

info@cmiofmemphis.org

Recovery within Reach

800.560.5767

Covid-19 Mortgage and Utility Assistance Program

This program is designed to provide financial assistance to people residing in any municipal jurisdiction within Shelby County with the exception of the city of Memphis.

Living for Christ Restoration House

Provides low-cost dormitory room, three meals per day, and a locker. Clothing is also available.

Location: 3095 Thomas St, Memphis TN, 38127

Phone: 901.791.4022



Dean of Students

[Student Outreach and Support](#) | [Campus/Community Resources](#) | [Tiger Pantry](#) | [Behavioral Intervention Team](#) | [Free Speech](#)

[Home](#) > [Dean of Students](#) > [Community/Campus Resources](#) > [Rosie Phillips Davis Emergency Fund](#)

COMMUNITY/CAMPUS RESOURCES
↑ Up
Academic and Library
Clothing
Emergency Food

Dr. Rosie Phillips Davis Student Emergency Fund

The Dr. Rosie Phillips Davis Student Emergency Fund was established to assist UofM students facing financial hardship which would otherwise interfere with their success at UofM. The fund provides limited emergency awards to currently enrolled students who experience unexpected or temporary expenses.

Embodying Ideals as a Graduate Student: Professional and Research Ethics

Melloni Cook
Associate Chair
Department of Psychology

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APA Ethical Principles

The 5 General Principles of the American Psychological Association Ethical Principles of Psychologists Code of Conduct



ETHICAL PRINCIPLES OF PSYCHOLOGISTS AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Adopted August 21, 2002
Effective June 1, 2003
(With the 2010 Amendments
to Introduction and Applicability
and Standards 1.02 and 1.03,
Effective June 1, 2010)

With the 2016 Amendment
to Standard 3.04
Adopted August 3, 2016
Effective January 1, 2017



ETHICAL PRINCIPLES OF PSYCHOLOGISTS AND CODE OF CONDUCT

INTRODUCTION AND APPLICABILITY	
PREAMBLE	
GENERAL PRINCIPLES	
Principle A: Beneficence and Nonmaleficence	
Principle B: Fidelity and Responsibility	
Principle C: Integrity	
Principle D: Justice	
Principle E: Respect for People's Rights and Dignity	
ETHICAL STANDARDS	
1. Resolving Ethical Issues	
1.01 Misuse of Psychologists' Work	
1.02 Conflicts Between Ethics and Law, Regulations, or Other Governing Legal Authority	
1.03 Conflicts Between Ethics and Organizational Demands	
1.04 Informal Resolution of Ethical Violations	
1.05 Reporting Ethical Violations	
1.06 Cooperating With Ethics Committees	
1.07 Improper Complaints	
1.08 Unfair Discrimination Against Complainants and Respondents	
2. Competence	
2.01 Boundaries of Competence	
2.02 Providing Services in Emergencies	
2.03 Maintaining Competence	
2.04 Bases for Scientific and Professional Judgments	
2.05 Delegation of Work to Others	
2.06 Personal Problems and Conflicts	
3. Human Relations	
3.01 Unfair Discrimination	
3.02 Sexual Harassment	
3.03 Other Harassment	
3.04 Avoiding Harm	
3.05 Multiple Relationships	
3.06 Conflict of Interest	
3.07 Third-Party Requests for Services	
3.08 Exploitative Relationships	
3.09 Cooperation With Other Professionals	
3.10 Informed Consent	
3.11 Psychological Services Delivered to or Through Organizations	
3.12 Interruption of Psychological Services	
4. Privacy and Confidentiality	
4.01 Maintaining Confidentiality	
4.02 Discussing the Limits of Confidentiality	
4.03 Recording	
4.04 Minimizing Intrusions on Privacy	
4.05 Disclosures	
4.06 Consultations	
4.07 Use of Confidential Information for Didactic or Other Purposes	
5. Advertising and Other Public Statements	
5.01 Avoidance of False or Deceptive Statements	
5.02 Statements by Others	
5.03 Descriptions of Workshops and Non-Degree-Granting Educational Programs	
5.04 Media Presentations	
5.05 Testimonials	
5.06 In-Person Solicitation	
6. Record Keeping and Fees	
6.01 Documentation of Professional and Scientific Work and Maintenance of Records	
6.02 Maintenance, Dissemination, and Disposal of Confidential Records of Professional and Scientific Work	
6.03 Withholding Records for Nonpayment	
6.04 Fees and Financial Arrangements	
6.05 Barter With Clients/Patients	
6.06 Accuracy in Reports to Payors and Funding Sources	
6.07 Referrals and Fees	
7. Education and Training	
7.01 Design of Education and Training Programs	
7.02 Descriptions of Education and Training Programs	
7.03 Accuracy in Teaching	
7.04 Student Disclosure of Personal Information	
7.05 Mandatory Individual or Group Therapy	
7.06 Assessing Student and Supervisee Performance	
7.07 Sexual Relationships With Students and Supervisees	
8. Research and Publication	
8.01 Institutional Approval	
8.02 Informed Consent to Research	
8.03 Informed Consent for Recording Voices and Images in Research	
8.04 Client/Patient, Student, and Subordinate Research Participants	
8.05 Dispensing With Informed Consent for Research	
8.06 Offering Inducements for Research Participation	
8.07 Deception in Research	
8.08 Debriefing	
8.09 Humane Care and Use of Animals in Research	
8.10 Reporting Research Results	
8.11 Plagiarism	
8.12 Publication Credit	
8.13 Duplicate Publication of Data	
8.14 Sharing Research Data for Verification	
8.15 Reviewers	
9. Assessment	
9.01 Bases for Assessments	
9.02 Use of Assessments	
9.03 Informed Consent in Assessments	
9.04 Release of Test Data	
9.05 Test Construction	
9.06 Interpreting Assessment Results	
9.07 Assessment by Unqualified Persons	
9.08 Obsolete Tests and Outdated Test Results	
9.09 Test Scoring and Interpretation Services	
9.10 Explaining Assessment Results	
9.11 Maintaining Test Security	
10. Therapy	
10.01 Informed Consent to Therapy	
10.02 Therapy Involving Couples or Families	
10.03 Group Therapy	
10.04 Providing Therapy to Those Served by Others	
10.05 Sexual Intimacies With Current Therapy Clients/Patients	
10.06 Sexual Intimacies With Relatives or Significant Others of Current Therapy Clients/Patients	
10.07 Therapy With Former Sexual Partners	
10.08 Sexual Intimacies With Former Therapy Clients/Patients	
10.09 Interruption of Therapy	
10.10 Terminating Therapy	

Effective June 1, 2003 (as amended 2010, 2016). Effective January 1, 2017
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- **BENEFICENCE AND NONMALEFICENCE**
[bē-nef'ĭ-sens] and [non-mah-lef'ĭ-sens]
Provide a benefit and do no harm.
- **FIDELITY AND RESPONSIBILITY**
Uphold professional standards of conduct, take responsibility for behavior, and manage conflicts of interest.
- **INTEGRITY**
Promote accuracy, honesty, and truthfulness in the science, teaching, and practice of psychology.
- **JUSTICE**
See that all persons have equal access to and benefit from the processes, procedures, and services of psychologists.
- **RESPECT FOR PEOPLE'S RIGHTS AND DIGNITY**
Respect for the worth all people including privacy, confidentiality, and self-determination.



Guiding psychologists in science, teaching, and practice
to promote well-being, trust, and a just society.



<https://www.apa.org/ethics/code/ethics-code-2017.pdf>



Key Ethical Standards for Psychologists

Professional Responsibility in Research, Teaching, and Practice

1



BOUNDARIES OF COMPETENCE

Psychologists provide services, teach, and conduct research only within the boundaries of their competence.

2



UNFAIR DISCRIMINATION OR HARASSMENT

Psychologists do not engage in unfair discrimination or harassment based on any basis proscribed by law.

3



SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Psychologists do not engage in sexual harassment.

4



INFORMED CONSENT

Psychologists obtain informed consent of the individual. When consent is not possible, assent is ideal, and if that is not possible permission from a legally authorized person should be obtained.

5



INSTITUTIONAL APPROVAL

When institutional approval is required, psychologists provide accurate information about their research proposals and obtain approval prior to conducting the research.

6



HUMANE CARE AND USE OF ANIMALS

Psychologists acquire, care for, use, and dispose of animals in compliance with laws and professional standards and make reasonable efforts to minimize pain and distress at all times.

7



SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH STUDENTS AND SUPERVISEES

Psychologists do not engage in sexual relationships with students or supervisees over whom they have or are likely to have evaluative authority.

8



PLAGIARISM

Psychologists do not present portions of another's work or data as their own, even if the source is cited occasionally.

9



PUBLICATION CREDIT

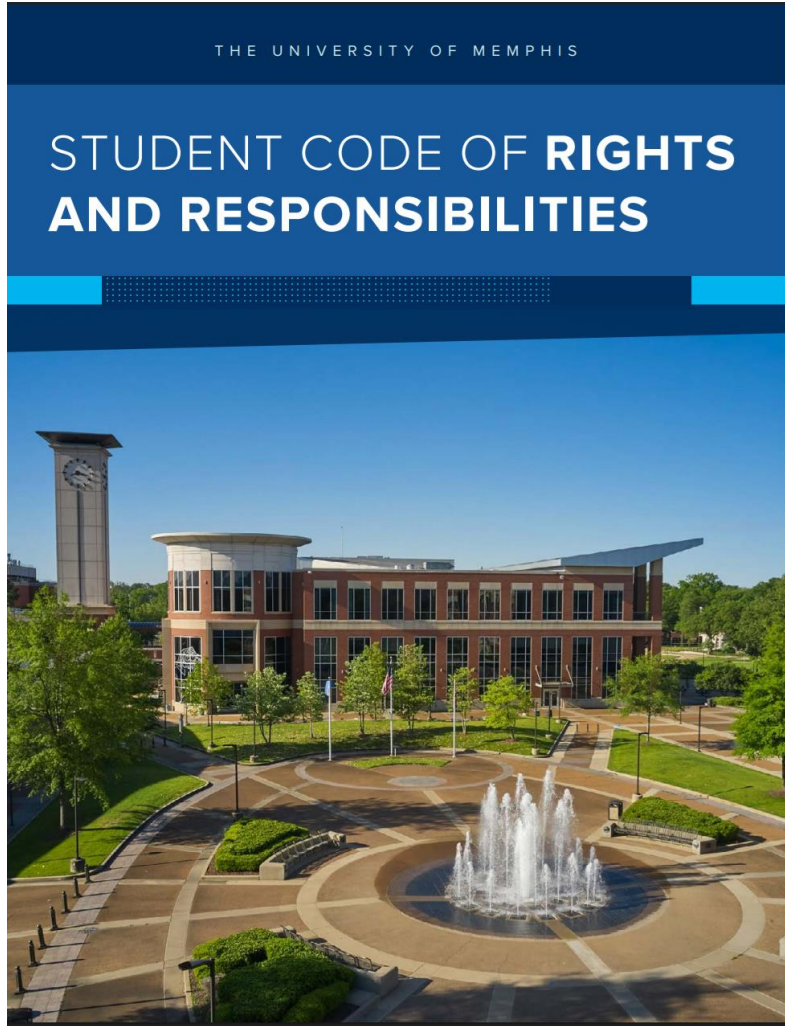
Psychologists take responsibility and credit, including authorship credit, only for work they have actually performed or to which they have substantially contributed.

Office of Student Accountability



The Office of **Student Accountability** (OSA) at the University of Memphis advocates for **student** rights and promotes academic and personal success.

All students are obligated to know *and follow* OSA's Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities (aka "The Student Code")

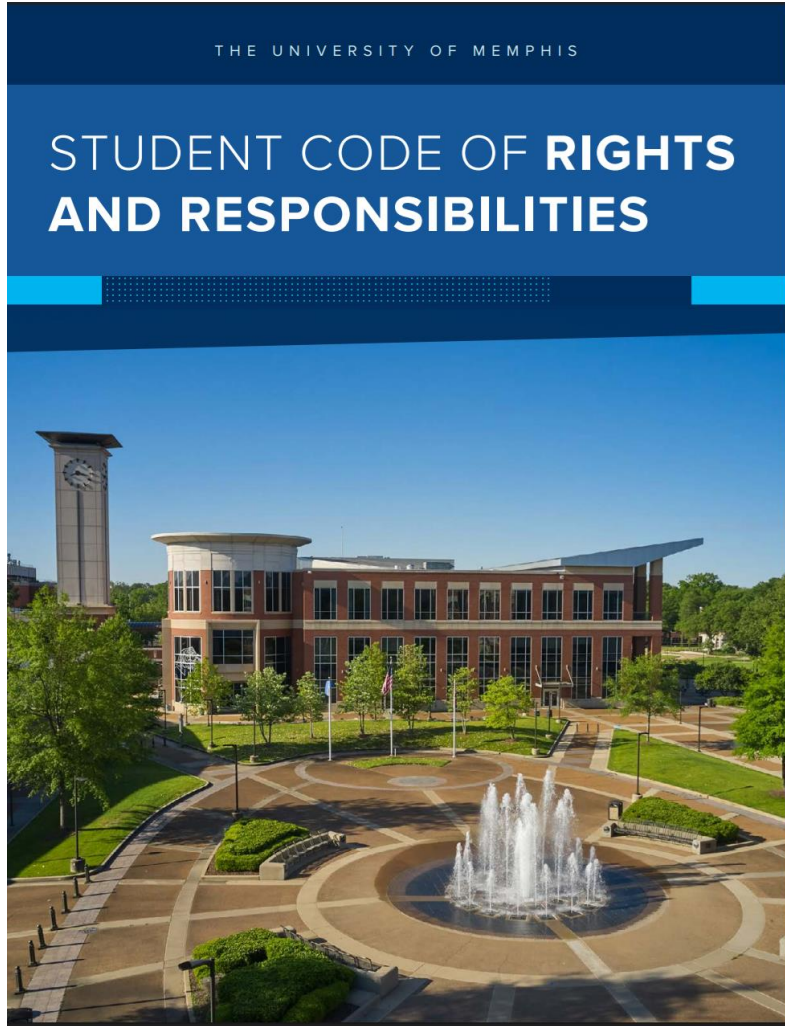


From the Student Code...

Graduate or professional programs within the University may initiate academic retention processes against students for alleged violations of professional standards or ethics (e.g. national accrediting or governing body and/or federal or state regulations) as a separate issue or as an extension of alleged acts of academic misconduct or other violations of the Code.

This includes APA's Ethical Principles!

All students are obligated to know *and follow* OSA's Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities (aka "The Student Code")



https://www.memphis.edu/osa/pdfs/student_code.pdf

From the Student Code...

Academic Misconduct

1. Plagiarism/cheating
2. Fabrication of information
3. Interfering and tampering with the work of others
4. Unauthorized sale, distribution, or solicitation of course materials
5. Disruptive classroom behavior

Note that this may include using generative AI tools!

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DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
**GRADUATE STUDENT
HANDBOOK**

UPDATED FALL 2026

NOTE: THESE ARE GUIDELINES COMMON TO ALL OF THE PSYCHOLOGY
DEPARTMENT'S FIVE GRADUATE PROGRAMS. MORE SPECIFIC
INFORMATION RELEVANT TO EACH GRADUATE PROGRAM MAY BE
FOUND IN A HANDBOOK RELEVANT TO THAT SPECIFIC GRADUATE
PROGRAM

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GENERAL INFORMATION:	
Ethical Behavior and Expectation of Mutual Respect	4
Structure of the Department	4
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- The Psychology Department Graduate Student Handbook also has important information on **ethical behavior**.
- Additional expectations for ethical behavior may also be found in the handbooks specific to each graduate program (i.e., Clinical PhD, Experimental PhD, School PhD, MSGP, or MA/EdS).



DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
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Department Statement of MUTUAL RESPECT

AS A GRADUATE STUDENT IN THIS DEPARTMENT, YOU WILL BE EXPOSED TO ISSUES THAT YOU MAY ENCOUNTER IN THE PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE OF PSYCHOLOGY, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, CULTURE, DISABILITY, ETHNICITY, GENDER, GENERATION, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, NATIONAL ORIGIN, PRIVILEGE, RACE, SIZE, AND DIFFERENT VIEWS ON RELIGION IN EDUCATION, POLICY, RESEARCH, PRACTICE, RECRUITMENT, AND RETENTION. THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY STRIVES TO OFFER RESOURCES TO STUDENTS THAT PROMOTE GOALS OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY, UNDERSTANDING, AND MUTUAL RESPECT.

THE UNIVERSITY OF
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DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
**GRADUATE STUDENT
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No form of sexual or racial harassment will be tolerated.

All faculty members, students and staff . . . are responsible for taking reasonable and necessary action to prevent and discourage sexual or racial harassment and are required to promptly report conduct that could be in violation of institutional policies and guidelines. Such reporting should occur when information concerning a complaint is received formally or informally.

What if I feel I have been treated unfairly?

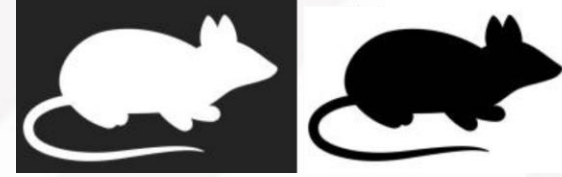
- This might relate to a grade dispute, harassment/discrimination from faculty or peers, or even perceived unfair treatment.
 - You can always file a complaint with The Office for Civil Rights Compliance and Title IX
 - You can solicit advice from the department chair, graduate director, or program director
 - You can request the formation of a grievance committee

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

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HANDBOOK	Harassment/Discrimination Grievance Procedures	18
	Other Grievances	19

UPDATED FALL 2026

Research Compliance



Human Subjects Research Needs IRB approval

CITI Training for Human
Subjects Research

- 17 modules
 - UofM courses
 - Social & Behavioral Research Basic/Refresher
- Must achieve 80% score on all modules



Animal Subjects Research Needs IACUC approval

CITI Training for Animal Subjects
Research

- 2-3 Modules
 - Working with the IACUC
 - Working with rats *or* mice
 - Working with genetically modified animals (if relevant)
- Virtual orientation with campus vet
- Complete Occupational Health Visit at UTHSC
- Additional on-site training with Donny Ray in animal facility

Teaching Compliance

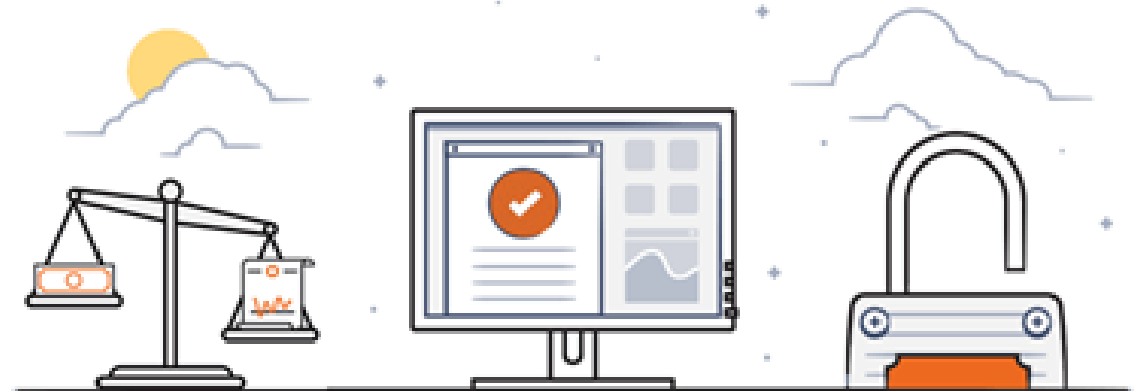
If you will be a TA

- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Compliance
- Training must be completed before accessing student data
- Ideally this is completed prior to the first day of class
- We ask all graduate students to complete it
- Does not need to be repeated each year

FERPA Compliance



The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act



FERPA is a federal law that protects the privacy of student records and applies to all schools that receive funds from the USDOE.

Types of Student Records:

- Financial information
- Disciplinary files
- Student transcripts
- Immunization & health records

To be compliant, schools can utilize a paperless system for storing student records. School's funding is based on compliance.

Structure of the Department and Your Roles Within It

Helen Sable
Associate Chair
Department of Psychology





Program

- Clinical PhD
- Experimental PhD
- School PhD
- School MA/EdS
- General MS (MSGP)

Director

Dr. Joah Williams

Dr. Helen Sable

Dr. Beth Meisinger

Dr. Ryan Farmer

Dr. Gina Caucci





Research involvement is required *every* semester for students in doctoral programs





DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

GRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK

UPDATED FALL 2026

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MA/EdS Milestones	13
PhD Milestones	13
Thesis/Dissertation Hours	13
Transferring a Thesis	14
Mid-point Project (i.e., second milestone)	14

- You should also plan to attend:
 - Research area meetings
 - Lab meetings
- See the graduate handbook for details on “milestones” required to earn your degree



- Doctoral Programs: Assigned
- MSGP Program: Assigned often with assistance from Director
- MA/EdS: Dr. Ryan Farmer



OCCAM'S PROFESSOR

"WHEN FACED WITH TWO POSSIBLE WAYS OF DOING SOMETHING, THE MORE COMPLICATED ONE IS THE ONE YOUR PROFESSOR WILL MOST LIKELY ASK YOU TO DO."

Coursework

- Refer to the graduate catalog for your specific program and confer with your program director and major professor
- You will need a pin and permits to register
- **All PhD and MSGP students must attend Research Practicum (PSYC 7621)**
 - **PhD Students (One semester – fall only)**
Attendance is required but registration is not
First session: **Friday, August 28th, 1:00 – 2:00 in Psychology Room 208**
 - **MSGP Students**
One semester – fall only
Attendance is required but registration is not
First session: **Friday, August 28th, 1:00 – 4:00 in Psychology Room 242**

****Sometimes these classes will meet together for the first hour****

Other Important Information and People We Think You Should Know

Chelsea Liddell
Graduate Administrative Associate
Department of Psychology



Health Insurance for Full-time GAs

Full-time Graduate Assistants are Eligible for Health Insurance

- Subsidized for full-time (i.e., 20-hr/week) graduate assistants
- Provided by [Wellfleet](#)
- You must [OPT IN](#) by **September 7th** (even if you are continuing)
- A one-time enrollment fee of \$230 dollars will be deducted from the graduate assistants first paycheck



Disability Resources for Students (DRS)

- DRS facilitates equal access to University classes, programs, and activities for students with disabilities.
- DRS takes a 3-pronged approach:
 - Accessible design of campus
 - Individual accommodations
 - Education and training
- To request accommodations access via your student portal
 - Go to MyMemphis, My Resources, Request Disability Accommodations, and click on the second link titled Request Disability Accommodations.

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday, 8 am - 5pm

110 Wilder Tower

Memphis, TN 38152-3520

Phone: 901-678-2880 V/TTY

FAX: 901-678-3070

Email: drs@memphis.edu

Graduate School Can Be Challenging

Resources for Support

Writing & Communication Services

Dissertation Writers Retreat

Libraries events, webinars & resources for all stages of your dissertation research and writing process.



- Hosts Research Skills for Graduate Students Webinar Series

The Counseling Center



Wellness Options

Relaxation Zone



Wellness Center



Student Health Center



Be Tiger Well

Stay Connected

Follow. Engage. Thrive.

[Instagram | @UofMSHCS](#)

[Facebook | UofMSHCS](#)

People Who Can Help You

- Administrative Associate: **Tinesse Harris**
- Office Assistant: **Rebecca Moore**
- ***Some*** of their duties:
 - Assist students, faculty, & staff
 - Assign offices
 - Distribute supplies
 - Organize student workers
 - Coordinate course scheduling
 - Handle room reservations & special functions
 - Organize mail & copy room
 - Address building issues



People Who Can Help You (continued)

- Business Officer: **Chaquieta Williamson**

- Some of her duties:

- Develop GA contracts
 - Created in Oracle three times a year
- Problem-solves fees
- Travel reimbursements



- Financial Services Associate: **Sheryl Hoffman**

- Some of her duties:

- Process purchase orders
- Create/approve travel purchase orders and claims for students
- Prepare and approve non-travel reimbursements for students funded by grants and Foundation accounts



People Who Can Help You (continued)

- Pre-award coordinator:
Crystal Hall
 - Assists with grant applications
- Local Computer Technical Support Provider: **TBD**
 - Hardware and software support



People Who Can Help You (continued)

- Graduate Secretary: **Chelsea Liddell**
- Some of her duties
 - Issues pins and permits for restricted courses
 - Manages student files
 - Relays updates from the graduate school
 - Communicates deadlines, etc.
 - Data collection for accreditation
 - Responds to student inquiries
 - Other duties as needed



People Who Can Help You (continued)

- Psychology Graduate Student Association (PGSA)
 - Represent you at faculty meetings and on the Graduate Coordinating Committee
 - Great source of information
 - Distribute travel and research fun

PGSA SUPPORT

We encourage you to seek our support. Your ideas, interests, and concerns are our priority. We are dedicated to providing an enriching and positive experience as you work towards your professional goals. Meetings will be held the 1st Friday of every month, from 3-4 p.m. in the Psychology Building: Room 232. You are welcome to attend and contribute during meetings. You may also submit your feedback anonymously by using this link:

https://memphis.col.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dg1VqUB4S61Feaq



Travel Awards

Travel funds can provide financial support for students who plan to attend and participate in conference proceedings. Students can apply for three travel awards each year. Reimbursement is contingent upon a review of receipts submitted within one month of the conference date.

Fall Term Deadline: August 27th

Research projects must be in the proposal stage at the time of submission. Proposals must include rationale, project objectives, methodological approach, and a budget. Awards will be determined based on need, scientific rigor, and impact. Submissions will be accepted from November 1st through November 15th.

Formatting guidelines will be provided via email.



Research Grants



PGSA Awards

The Student Service and Faculty Appreciation awards recognize those who provide service to the department and within the graduate student body. Recipients are chosen by their peers and recognized during the end of year department awards ceremony.

Remaining Schedule

2:15-3:00 pm

**Psychology Graduate Student Association
Overview of PGSA Activities**

Room 206

Adrianna Valencia, PGSA President
Travis Erickson, Treasurer and Past PGSA President

Break 15 Minutes

3:15-3:45 pm

Graduate Program Meetings (required of all grad students)

Clinical

Dr. Joah Williams

Room 208

Experimental

Dr. Helen Sable

Room 206

School

Dr. Beth Meisinger and Dr. Ryan Farmer

Room 230

MSGP

Dr. Gina Caucci

Room 204

Break 15 Minutes

4:00-4:45 pm

**Teaching Assistants and
Graduate Student Teachers Meeting**
Drs. Mollie Anderson and Gina Caucci

Room 206

6:00 pm

Faculty, Staff, and Graduate Student Gathering
Slider Inn Downtown
Note: This is NOT the Midtown location

363 Mulberry Street
Memphis, TN 38103



We are “SO GLAD” you are here!

UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS
MIGHTY SOUND OF THE SOUTH
— MARCHING BAND —



**GO
TIGERS
GO!**

♪ *I'm So Glad* ♪



Lyrics: I'm so glad, I go to the U of M!
I'm so glad, I go to the U of M!
I'm so glad, I go to the U of M!
Singin' Glory, Hallelujah! Woo! I'm so glad!