Advisors Requirements

Listed below are the research interests (in italics) and requirements psychology faculty have specified for students who wish to complete thesis research with professors. Also noted is whether professors will be accepting thesis students.

Accepting Thesis Students:

Professor Barbara Juhasz
*Reading in adults, general visual cognition*
- Research with Professor Juhasz prior to senior year.
- Statistics prior to senior year.
- Accepting thesis students

Professor Kyungmi Kim
*Memory; factors affecting memory processes; the role of “self” and “emotion” in cognition*
- PSYC220 Cognitive Psychology, or another course with Professor Kim, minimum grade of B+.
- Research experience with Professor Kim prior to the end of the junior year.
- Contact Professor Kim with request for thesis advising no later than February of junior year.
- Draft of a thesis prospectus (2-4 pages) due before mid-semester break spring semester of junior year for consideration
- Accepting thesis students.

Professor Matthew Kurtz
*Identification and treatment of neuropsychological deficits in schizophrenia*
- Statistics course in psychology or in another department.
- Research with Professor Kurtz by first semester of junior year.
- Accepting thesis students.

Professor Alexis May
*Etiology, trajectory, and prevention of suicidal thoughts and behaviors, nonsuicidal self-injury, intervention development*
- Statistics and quantitative research methods courses completed by end of the first semester of the junior year.
- Research with Professor May prior to the end of the junior year.
- PSYC251 Psychopathology completed by the end of the junior year.
- Draft of a thesis proposal (2-4 pages) due by mid-semester break of spring semester of junior year for consideration.
- Accepting thesis students.

Professor Jill Morawski
*History of psychology, social psychology, psychology of gender, science studies, feminist studies*
- Course with Professor Morawski.
- Contact Professor Morawski with request for thesis advising no later than March of junior year.
- Accepting thesis students.
Professor Mike Robinson

Motivation & reward; desire & addiction
- At least one semester of research experience working with Professor Robinson prior to senior year.
- Statistics and research methods courses pre-thesis (ideally).
- One course with Professor Robinson prior to senior year (ideally).
- Contact Professor Robinson to discuss your request for thesis advising early in the second semester of junior year, at the latest.
- Accepting thesis students.

Professor Patricia Rodriguez Mosquera

Culture, ethnicity, gender; emotions; insult and devaluation; honor; social-image
- Statistics and research methods courses in psychology.
- Prior research with Professor Rodriguez Mosquera (for work study, as a volunteer, or as an individual tutorial for credit).
- Accepting thesis students.

Professor Charles Sanislow

Psychopathology mechanisms, transdiagnostic constructs, and clinical and affective neuroscience
- Statistics and psychology intro research methods courses to be completed by first semester of the junior year.
- PSYC251 Psychopathology completed by the end of the junior year (earlier is better, but not required).
- Advanced Research Methods with Professor Sanislow prior by first semester of junior year.
- Draft of a thesis proposal (2-5 pages) due by mid-semester break of spring semester during junior year.
- Research design for thesis project completed by the end of spring semester of junior year (ideal) or by the end of summer before senior year.
- Accepting thesis students.

Professor Anna Shusterman

Language and conceptual development, language and thought, spatial and numerical reasoning
- Recommended: Research methods, statistics, & PSYC230 Development Psychology.
- Required: one course with Prof. Shusterman.
- Thesis projects are usually reserved for students who begin joint work with Prof. Shusterman before the fall of senior year.
- Accepting thesis students.

Professor Steven Stemler

Intelligence, psychometrics, educational psychology, conflict resolution
- PSYC245 Psychological Measurement, PSYC253 Educational Psychology or research with Professor Stemler for at least one semester.
- Accepting thesis students.
Professor Emeritus Karl Scheibe
“I taught in Wesleyan’s Psychology Department from 1963-2005, and since then directed the Wasch Center for Retired Faculty, until 2016. My interests are in the connections between psychology and theater, in addictive disorder, and in the Narrative Approach to Psychological Theory and Practice. I have special interests in William James, Erving Goffman, George Orwell, Jose’ Ortega y Gassett among others. I am a licensed clinical psychologist and maintain a modest private practice. “

Not Accepting Thesis Students:

Professor Hilary Barth
Cognition and development
• PSYC220 Cognitive Psychology, PSYC230 Developmental Psychology, or a different course with Professor Barth, minimum grade of B+.
• Research experience with Professor Barth prior to senior year.
• Contact Professor Barth to discuss your request for thesis advising at the beginning of the second semester of junior year, or earlier.
• Not Accepting thesis students.

Professor Sarah Carney
Law and psychology
• PSYC277 Psychology and the Law and/or PSYC213 Research Methods in Social Psychology or a different course with Professor Carney with a minimum grade of B.
• Please contact Professor Carney to discuss your thesis ideas and to request thesis advising no later than your second semester of your junior year.
• Thesis proposal (if applicable) must be completed prior to the start of the senior year.
• Not Accepting thesis students.

Professor Lisa Dierker
Development of substance abuse and dependence
• PSYC200 Statistics or PSYC211 Research Methods in Clinical Psychology with Professor Dierker or QAC201 Applied Data Analysis.
• Not Accepting thesis students.

Professor Royette Dubar
Sleep Developmental
• Statistics and research methods courses (prior to senior year).
• Writing sample (i.e., paper from a previous course).
• Previous research volunteer/course credit lab experience with any Psychology faculty (preferred).
• Not Accepting thesis students.

Professor Scott Plous
Prejudice and discrimination, ethical issues relating to animals and the environment, the development of mobile and web-based psychology
• Psychological Statistics.
• One course with Professor Plous.
• Not Accepting thesis students.
Professor Andrea Patalano

*Cognitive psychology of judgment, decision making, and reasoning*

- Coursework in cognitive psychology and/or decision making.
- Coursework in statistics and behavioral research methods.
- Prior research lab experience with Professor Patalano.
- Discussion of request with professor by mid junior year.
- Not Accepting thesis students.

Professor Shellae Versey

*Health, Developmental*

- At least one semester experience working with Professor Versey prior to senior year.
- One course with Professor Versey.
- Statistics and research methods courses pre-thesis.
- Contact Professor Versey to discuss your request for thesis advising early in the second semester of junior year.
- Draft of a thesis prospectus (2-5 pages) due before mid-semester break spring semester of junior year for consideration.
- Not Accepting thesis students.

Professor Clara Wilkins

*Prejudice and stereotyping; perceptions of bias against high-status groups (e.g. Whites, men); variation in minorities’ physical appearance.*

To be completed before senior year:
- PSYC260 Social Psychology, research methods & statistics courses (A- or better)
- At least one semester experience working in Wilkins' research lab
- Not Accepting thesis students.