

The Psychology Department at Metropolitan State University is pleased to announce that its M.A. Degree Program now includes a focus in **applied social psychology** (in addition to its focus community psychology). Interested students can apply now for admission to start the program in Fall, 2011.

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 (violence prevention, workplace organization, seat belt use)
- Social cognition (judgment accuracy, eyewitness testimony, stereotyping)
- Group processes (social influence, communication)
- Politics (political participation, citizenship, partisanship)
- The workplace (mentoring, leadership, motivation, job satisfaction)

Program Overview:

For students interested in applied social psychology, the curriculum would consist of four requirements and additional learning experiences to round out a 36-credit program.

Program Requirements:

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

*Applied Research Methods (4 credits)

*Attitudes and Social Influence (4 credits)

*Thesis Project (4 credits)

*12 credits of approved concentration courses (e.g., Environmental Psychology; Political Psychology; Data Analysis; Program Evaluation; Health Psychology; Cross-Cultural Psychology; Group Dynamics; Peace Psychology)

* 8 Elective Credits which could include a practicum, additional Psychology courses, courses in other Departments, and/or other approved learning experiences (including graduate transfer credits).

Career and Employment Opportunities

The Psychology M.A., with a focus in applied social psychology, can prepare students for careers in research, evaluation, prevention programming, jobs in government and non-profit sectors, consumer behavior, and doctoral student 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

College-level teaching (usually part-time, many full-time positions require doctorate)

Research or teaching assistant while pursuing Ph.D.

Faculty and Facilities

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

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

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

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

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

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

Many courses are offered at Metropolitan State's Midway Site, also home to faculty offices and the Center for Psychological Research. The Psychology Laboratory and Metropolitan State Library are located at the St. Paul (Mounds Park) Campus. Excellent online library resources are available and students may access computer labs at all Metropolitan State campus sites.

Application Information

Well-qualified students will have earned a Bachelor's degree with a 3.0 GPA or higher (by August, 2011), 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).