



Experimental Psychology Ph.D. Program Handbook

Welcome

The Experimental Psychology Ph.D. Program faculty is dedicated to students' successful progression and completion of the program. This handbook is an important reference for all new and current students as they navigate through the program.

Mission Statement

The UNLV Experimental Psychology doctoral program trains students to become psychological scientists capable of conducting independent research that meets international standards of scientific excellence. Upon completing the degree, students will be qualified to seek careers conducting research in academia and other institutional and applied settings. Areas of research in which faculty supervise students are: cognitive psychology, developmental psychology, neuroscience, and quantitative/experimental. The program operates on a mentor model in which students work under the supervision of an identified faculty mentor. We welcome students from diverse backgrounds and encourage research in topics related to multiculturalism and diversity.

Purpose

The purpose of this handbook is to provide program specific information that is not found in the UNLV Graduate Catalog. Students are responsible for understanding and following the policies and procedures delineated in this document and the UNLV Graduate Catalog, as well as the NSHE Code, UNLV Bylaws, and the UNLV Student Conduct Code. Questions about policies should be directed to the Graduate College: valarie.burke@unlv.edu or emily.lin@unlv.edu.

Department Graduate Faculty

A current listing of the graduate faculty can be found in the UNLV Graduate Catalog. Faculty must hold graduate faculty status to be involved in graduate education at UNLV. For up to date information regarding graduate faculty status in your department, visit the [Graduate Faculty status web page](#).

Program Information

Experimental Psychology Ph.D. Program

Areas of Study

Cognitive

Developmental

Neuroscience

Quantitative/Experimental

Contact Information

<http://www.unlv.edu/psychology/graduateprograms/phd-experimental>

Department Chair

Christopher Kearney, CBC-B437, chris.kearney@unlv.edu

Graduate Coordinator

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Department Main Office

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Program Requirements

Program requirements regarding [admission, coursework and culminating experience](#) are found in the graduate catalog.

For students in the Quantitative/Experimental emphasis track, students should use their elective credits to specialize in some area of quantitative/experimental psychology. Students will construct their course structures in collaboration with their mentors. Potential areas of specialization include, but are not limited to, Psychometrics, Applied Data Analyst, Quantitative Programmer, and Evolutionary Psychology. Potential course plans for these areas of specialization are shown below.

Psychometrics

Complete 18 credits in courses such as:

PSY 712: Psychometrics
 PSY 710: Multivariate Statistics or EPY 733: Multivariate Statistics or STA 715: Multivariate Statistical Models
 PSY 683: Theories of Personality
 EPY 723: Theory and Practice of Human Measurement I
 EPY 724: Theory and Practice of Human Measurement II
 EPY 725: Item Response Theory and Applications
 EPY 732: Multiple Regression and Path Analysis
 EPY 734: Latent Variable Models: Factor Analysis and SEM
 EPY 718: Qualitative Research Methodology or NURS 781: Qualitative Research Methods in Nursing or SOC 705: Qualitative Research

Applied Data Analyst

Complete 18 credits in courses such as:

PSY 710: Multivariate Statistics or EPY 733: Multivariate Statistics or STA 715: Multivariate Statistical Models
 EPY 732: Multiple Regression and Path Analysis
 EPY 734: Latent Variable Models: Factor Analysis and SEM
 EPY 718: Qualitative Research Methodology or NURS 781: Qualitative Research Methods in Nursing or SOC 705: Qualitative Research
 STA 761: Regression Analysis I
 STA 762: Regression Analysis II
 EAB 753: Nonparametric Methods for the Health Sciences or EPY 745: Categorical/Nonparametric Data Analysis or STA 695: Nonparametric Methods
 STA 753: Bayesian Data Analysis
 STA 793: Techniques of Statistical Consulting

Quantitative Programmer

Complete 18 credits in courses such as:

CS 617: Introduction to Computer Simulation
 CS 717: Advanced Computer Simulation
 MAT 663: Advanced Matrix Theory and Applications
 PSY 710: Multivariate Statistics or EPY 733: Multivariate Statistics or STA 715: Multivariate Statistical Models
 EPY 734: Latent Variable Models: Factor Analysis and SEM
 EPY 732: Multiple Regression and Path Analysis
 EAB 753: Nonparametric Methods for the Health Sciences or EPY 745: Categorical/Nonparametric Data Analysis or STA 695: Nonparametric Methods
 STA 753: Bayesian Data Analysis
 STA 761: Regression Analysis I
 STA 762: Regression Analysis II

Evolutionary Psychology

Complete 18 credits in courses such as:

PSY 743: Human Sexuality
 PSY 741: Psychology and Health

ANTH 671: Evolution of Human Sexuality
ANTH 669: Evolution and Biology of Human Behavior
ANTH 660: Primate Evolution
ANTH 675: Evolutionary Medicine
PSY 766: Independent Study
PSY 768: Independent Research

The Experimental Psychology Doctoral Program is designed as a four to six year program. See Program Timeline. It is important to note that in accordance with the Graduate College policy, students must complete all the requirements for the master's degree in six years and the doctoral degree within eight years or face separation from the program.

Mentor Model

The Experimental Psychology Program operates on a mentor model. The mentor serves as a guide and academic advisor to the student's graduate study, as a research supervisor, as a supervisor of the student's professional development, and as a professional role model. Students are expected to participate in their mentor's research group and may participate in other faculty research groups when they have overlapping interests. The mentor should be the first person contacted to answer questions about the program and professional issues. Students may switch mentors with the consent of the new mentor and the Experimental Psychology Program Director. If another faculty member agrees to mentor the student, the student must submit a [Change of Advisor form](#) to the Experimental Psychology Program Director.

Advisory Committee Guidelines

Selection of Thesis and Dissertation Committees

The student selects a four-person committee in consultation with the mentor. The committee consists of the mentor and three additional graduate faculty members, one who is not from the Department of Psychology and serves as the Graduate College Representative. Completion of the Advisory Committee Approval form through the Grad Rebel Gateway occurs when all committee members are selected.

Selection of Qualifying Activity Committee

The student selects a three-person committee in consultation with the mentor. The committee consists of the mentor and two additional graduate faculty members.

Degree Program Benchmarks

Master's Thesis

The purpose of the master's project is to involve first and second year students in all phases of the design, execution, analysis, interpretation, and communication of research.

Proposal Development

Proposal development typically occurs throughout the first year. The topic is developed with the mentor and in consultation with committee members (as needed), proposal drafts are written and revised (and revised again), and pilot data are collected (as necessary). The introduction and method sections should be written at a length and format appropriate for submission to a journal in the student's area of study. It should also include proposed data analyses and potential implications of the study findings. The final proposal draft should be submitted to committee members at least two weeks prior to the scheduled master's proposal meeting.

Master's Thesis Proposal Meeting

During the master's thesis proposal meeting, committee members ask questions and give feedback regarding the design of the master's project. Normally, the student provides a brief overview of the introduction section and more detailed presentations of the hypothesis and research design. The student should be able to answer questions and clarify design issues. Following questions, the student is asked to leave the room and the committee decides whether the student passes or fails the proposal

meeting. Following committee deliberations, the student is then invited back to the meeting and is informed of the committee's decisions. In the case of failure, the student is required to schedule a second proposal meeting after addressing the issues that resulted in failure.

When the student passes, use Grad Rebel Gateway to fill out the approval forms and electronically send to committee members and the graduate program coordinator for signature.. The minimum number of thesis credits required for a master's degree program is six. Upon approval of the thesis proposal, students must register for a minimum of three thesis credits each semester (summer excluded) until the thesis is completed (unless approved for a leave of absence). Students intending to complete, defend, and submit a thesis to the Graduate College and/or graduate during the summer term must be registered for a minimum of three credits.

Master's Thesis Defense Meeting

A student's advisor is expected to have approved the draft of the thesis prior to it being distributed to other committee members. All sections of the paper should be written at a length and format appropriate for submission to a journal in the student's area of study. Students are expected to give the approved draft of the thesis to committee members at least two weeks prior to the scheduled defense. The scheduled defense could be postponed if one or more committee members judge the draft to be subpar. Committee members are encouraged to notify the committee chair in this regard. Additionally, two weeks prior to the defense meeting, the student provides a copy of the final draft of the thesis along with the date and time of the defense meeting to the Psychology Department front office.

The defense meeting is a formal presentation of the major research questions, results, and interpretations of the thesis. The oral presentation is open to UNLV Graduate Faculty, graduate students, relevant administrators, and invited guests. The advisory committee chair must approve any invited guests prior to the defense. The oral presentation may be followed by general questions of clarification from attendees [other than the advisory committee members]. The advisory committee and chair may choose to include a session of more in-depth questioning open only to the advisory committee and the UNLV Graduate Faculty. The final phase of closed deliberation, and the vote to pass or fail the student, will only be open to the student's appointed advisory committee.

During the oral defense, the student must be able to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of a broad field of study and a detailed understanding of a more limited field. The advisory committee must unanimously pass the student. If the student passes, use Grad Rebel Gateway to fill out the approval forms and electronically send to committee members and the graduate program coordinator for signature. If the committee does not unanimously pass the defense, the student may request the committee to administer a second examination. See the Graduate Catalog for more information.

Qualifying Activities

After completing the master's thesis, graduate students must complete a qualifying activity before advancing to doctoral candidacy and prior to proposing the dissertation. The purpose of the activity is for the student to acquire not only the expertise in a given area, but also the ability to explain, discuss, and debate questions within that and related areas. Students should begin to develop their reading list and determine which option they want to pursue immediately after the master's thesis defense. Students should propose their qualifying activity and reading list within 3 months after defending the master's thesis. Failure to propose the qualifying activity within 6 months after the master's thesis defense will result in the student being placed on probation and may result in separation from the program. Students must enroll in PSY 772: Experimental Psychology Qualifying Paper Research for a minimum of 3 credits. It is recommended that the student enroll in these credits during the semester the student plans to defend the Qualifying Activity.

Option 1. Qualifying Paper(s)

In option one, the student will write a) one long paper; or b) three shorter papers that review and integrate relevant knowledge and research related to the student's area of specialization. Although there are no page requirements for the paper, successful papers typically range between 30 and 50 pages for option a or between 10 and 20 pages each for option b.

The student will identify the topic and specific material to be covered in the paper(s). Prior to beginning the paper(s), the student will circulate a proposed format for the paper(s), a mission statement, and a reading list to committee members and obtain their approval using the [Qualifying Activity Topic Approval form](#). A typical reading list contains approximately 100 references for the one long paper or across the three shorter papers. An initial meeting with the committee is not required. When the committee approves the qualifying paper topic and reading list, students have six months to complete and defend the paper(s). Failure to complete the qualifying paper within nine months after the proposal approval date will result in the student being placed on probation and may result in separation from the program.

Once the final draft of the qualifying paper is completed, the student will schedule a meeting with the committee, and circulate a copy of the final draft to the committee members at least two weeks before the meeting. The committee and student will agree upon the format of the defense prior to the meeting. Typically the student gives a brief presentation that is followed by a question and answer period. The defense of the qualifying paper will serve as an opportunity for the student to demonstrate his or her expertise. Committee deliberations will follow the presentation, for which the student is not present, and committee members will complete the [Qualifying Activity Defense form](#).

Option 2. Comprehensive Exam

In option two, the student will complete a qualifying examination that requires the student to integrate relevant knowledge and research related to the area of specialization. The exam can be written or oral. Typically, the written exam will consist of three consecutive days of in-class testing. On each day of the exam period, students will be given four questions from one committee member; students will be required to answer three of those questions within a five-hour period. For the oral exam, students should schedule a meeting for a five-hour time slot. Committee members will ask questions assessing the student's breadth and depth of knowledge in their topic area.

Prior to beginning the activity, the student will circulate a proposed mission statement and a reading list to committee members and obtain their approval for the topics using the [Qualifying Activity Topic Approval form](#). A typical reading list contains approximately 100 references. When the committee approves the procedures for the qualifying exam, students have six months to prepare for and complete the exam. Failure to complete the qualifying exam within nine months after the proposal approval date will result in the student being placed on probation and may result in separation from the program.

For the written exam, committee members may read and comment on all responses. Each committee member, however, will evaluate responses to the questions he or she submitted. Committee members are expected to evaluate responses within a week of the exam. For the oral exam, committee deliberations will follow the question and answer portion of the meeting. Following either exam, committee members will complete the [Qualifying Activity Defense form](#).

Failure to pass qualifying activities

If a student fails to pass the qualifying activity, the committee will determine the specific remedial requirements (e.g., further exam questions, paper revisions, etc.). Students are expected to pass the qualifying activity on their first attempt, but may be given up to three attempts to pass before dismissal from the program. The student is expected to work independently on these remedial requirements.

Doctoral Dissertation

The dissertation procedures are similar to the thesis procedures. Compared to preparing a master's thesis, however, the student preparing a dissertation should have a much more active and leading role in conceptualizing the research problem and developing and applying the methods to study the problem.

Proposal Development

The topic is developed with the mentor and in consultation with committee members (as needed), proposal drafts are written and revised (and revised again), and pilot data are collected (as necessary).

The final proposal draft should be submitted to committee members at least two weeks prior to the scheduled dissertation proposal meeting.

An alternative to fulfilling the dissertation requirement is the [multiple article dissertation](#). If proposing this option, the student should have a minimum of three under-review, in-press, or published articles reporting empirical research or meta-analyses undertaken as a doctoral student at UNLV; literature review articles are not acceptable for this option. Articles reporting master's thesis data are not acceptable for this option unless the article includes additional data (e.g., data collected after the original thesis, such as a second study) or an analysis of the data different from the thesis that answers a different research question. The articles to be included for the multiple article dissertation should be submitted to committee members at least two weeks prior to the scheduled dissertation proposal meeting along with documentation of the student's contribution to the research. Please see the Graduate Catalog for a full list of requirements if considering this option.

Dissertation Proposal Meeting

During the dissertation proposal meeting, committee members ask questions and give feedback regarding the design of the dissertation project. Normally, the student provides a brief overview of the introduction section and more detailed presentations of the hypothesis and research design. The student should be able to answer questions and clarify design issues. For the multiple article dissertation option, the student should also present how the research is related across the publications and her/his contribution to the empirical research, so the committee can determine whether it was substantial enough to include it in the dissertation.

Following questions, the student is asked to leave the room and the committee decides whether the student passes or fails the proposal meeting. Following committee deliberations, the student is then invited back to the meeting and informed of the committee's decisions. Note that the committee can request additional data or changes to the proposal for the traditional dissertation or multiple article dissertation. In the case of failure, the student is required to schedule a second proposal meeting after addressing the issues that resulted in failure.

When the student passes, use Grad Rebel Gateway to fill out the approval forms and electronically send to committee members and the graduate program coordinator for signature.. The minimum number of dissertation credits required for a doctoral degree program is twelve. Upon approval of the dissertation proposal, students must register for a minimum of three dissertation credits each semester (summer excluded) until the dissertation is completed (unless approved for a leave of absence). Students intending to complete, defend, and submit a dissertation to the Graduate College and/or graduate during the summer term must be registered for a minimum of three credits.

Dissertation Defense Meeting

A student's advisor is expected to have approved the draft of the dissertation prior to it being distributed to other committee members. For the [multiple article dissertation](#), the student should include an introductory chapter, a concluding chapter, and bridge sections introducing and linking each of the articles to form a cohesive document. Students are expected to give the approved draft of the dissertation to committee members at least two weeks prior to the scheduled defense. The scheduled defense could be postponed if one or more committee members judge the draft to be subpar. Committee members are encouraged to notify the committee chair in this regard. Additionally, two weeks prior to the defense meeting, the student notifies the Psychology Department front office of the date and time of the defense and provides a copy of the final draft of the dissertation that is available for review.

The defense meeting is a formal presentation of the major research questions, results, and interpretations of the dissertation. The oral presentation is open to UNLV Graduate Faculty, graduate students, relevant administrators, and invited guests. The advisory committee chair must approve invited guests prior to the defense. The oral presentation may be followed by general questions of clarification from attendees [other than the advisory committee members]. The advisory committee and chair may choose to include a session of more in-depth questioning open only to the advisory committee and the UNLV Graduate Faculty. An additional phase of questioning with only the

advisory committee and candidate may also be included. The final phase of closed deliberation, and the vote to pass or fail the student, will only be open to the student’s appointed advisory committee.

During the oral defense, the student must be able to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of a broad field of study and a detailed understanding of a more limited field. The advisory committee must unanimously pass the student. If the student passes, use the Grad Rebel Gateway to fill out the approval forms and electronically send to committee members and the graduate program coordinator for signature. If the committee does not unanimously pass the student, the student may request the committee to administer a second examination. If the committee agrees to another examination, the student must wait at least three months before taking the second examination. The program may require additional course work, substantial reworking of the dissertation or project or whatever is believed necessary to prepare the student for the second examination. The Graduate College will not approve third examination requests.

Sample Program Timeline

Entering with B.A. or B.S.

Milestone	Recommended Deadlines	Probation Dates
Propose Thesis	End of Summer Year 1	End of Spring Year 2
Defend Thesis	End of Spring Year 2	End of Spring Year 3
Propose Qualifying Activity	Within 3 mos of thesis defense	6 mos after thesis defense
Complete Qualifying Activity	End of Spring Year 3	End of Spring Year 4
Propose Dissertation	End of Fall Year 4	End of Spring Year 5
Defend Dissertation	End of Spring Year 5	End of Spring Year 6

Entering with M.A. or M.S.

Milestone	Recommended Deadlines	Probation Dates
Propose Qualifying Activity	Within 3 mos of thesis approval	6 mos after thesis approval
Complete Qualifying Activity	End of Spring Year 1	End of Spring Year 2
Propose Dissertation	End of Fall Year 2	End of Spring Year 3
Defend Dissertation	End of Spring Year 3	End of Spring Year 4

Note that the recommended deadlines are when students should ideally complete the milestone. If a student fails to complete a milestone by the probation date, the Experimental Program Coordinator will recommend to the Graduate College that the student be placed on probation. Terms to end probation will be determined in consultation with the mentor and Experimental Program faculty. If the student fails to meet those terms, the Experimental Program Coordinator will recommend to the Graduate College that the student be separated from the program.

Students can petition the Experimental Psychology Ph.D. Program for an extension of the deadlines in the event of extenuating circumstances (e.g., illness, disability, or publication productivity).

The Experimental Psychology Ph.D. Program faculty conducts an annual evaluation of students and provides feedback on their progress through the milestones via a letter from the Experimental Program Coordinator, which will include reminders of upcoming deadlines.

Professional Code of Ethics/Discipline Guidelines

UNLV Graduate College policy regarding academic integrity can be found in the graduate catalog. The Experimental Psychology Doctoral Program endorses the American Psychological Association Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct. It is expected that all students adhere to these ethical standards in their roles as graduate students and graduate assistants.

Annual Review Procedures

Students are required to make adequate yearly progress towards degree completion. Each spring term, graduate students are required to complete the Graduate Student Annual Review survey. This survey

will be sent by the Graduate College to the student's Rebelmail account. The review covers the prior calendar year and assesses student progress while setting goals for the year ahead.

The Experimental Psychology faculty conducts annual reviews of all Experimental Psychology students. During each year that the student is part of the program, the Program Coordinator will write a formal letter of evaluation for each student conveying the recommendations of the program faculty. The mentor and student will review and sign the letter, which will subsequently be placed in the student's personnel file. Prior to the review, Experimental Psychology students are required to complete an Annual Evaluation each year they are in the program.

Students will be evaluated at least yearly in the following three areas: (1) academic performance; (2) scholarly research activity; and (3) ethical behavior and professional conduct. If the program determines that a student is not making satisfactory progress toward the degree, it may request the Graduate College dean to place the student on probation. Failure to meet the conditions of the probation will result in separation from the program.

Academic Performance

Students must obtain a grade of B- or better in each course taken for that course to count toward the degree. All students must maintain an overall GPA of at least 3.0. One grade below a B- (i.e., C+ or lower) will result in academic probation. Once on probation for receiving a grade below a B-, a second grade below a B- (in the same or a different class) will result in immediate separation from the program. If a student re-takes a course in which s/he received a grade lower than a B- (i.e., C+ or lower) and earns a B- or better, s/he will be removed from probation. A student may be on academic probation only twice during their graduate career in Psychology; a third probation will result in separation from the program. No student shall be allowed more than two simultaneous grades of incomplete, except in the case of a documented and approved medical leave.

Scholarly and Research Performance

Scholarly and research activities include participation in faculty research projects, as well as the master's project, the doctoral dissertation, and other individual research projects. Both master's level and doctoral research are monitored and evaluated by the appropriate committee. Failure to make adequate progress on any of these projects will result in separation from the program.

Additional Program Information

Psychology Graduate Research Conference

Each third-year graduate student is expected to participate in the research conference that normally occurs each year during the Spring semester. The research conference allows the student an opportunity to present their master's thesis or other research project in a psychology conference format. First- and second-year graduate students are also expected to attend. When the student has fulfilled this requirement, please complete the [Graduate Research Conference Participation form](#).

Teaching of Psychology Course

Individuals who are part-time graduate assistant instructors (PTI-GAs; third-year graduate students and/or those who have completed their master's thesis) are required to complete the Teaching of Psychology course. PTI-GAs normally teach two sections of General Psychology (PSY 101) each semester for two semesters. The Teaching of Psychology course must either be taken concurrently or completed prior to serving as an instructor in any course. After completing the Teaching of Psychology course and teaching General Psychology for one year, PTI-GAs may petition the department to teach other undergraduate Psychology courses (e.g., Research Methods, Social Psychology, etc.) if their PTI GA positions are renewed for a second year.

Transfer/waiver of Credits

Note that as per the Graduate Catalog, no credits used to earn any other degree at UNLV or elsewhere can be applied toward fulfilling the required credit requirements for UNLV's Experimental Psychology Ph.D. Program. Required courses for the Ph.D. can be waived, if approved, but the

student must complete those credits via a different course.

All transfer of credits or waivers of course requirements are contingent upon approval of the Experimental Psychology Program Steering Committee after consulting with relevant faculty, if applicable. To request transfer credits, the student must complete the [Transfer Credits/Waiver of Course Requirements form](#) and submit it along with relevant supporting materials (e.g., syllabi) to the Program Director. Students who received a Master's degree at another institution and completed a Master's thesis pursuant to the completion of that degree may petition to have their thesis accepted to fulfill the master's thesis requirement of the Experimental Psychology Doctoral Program. Requests for transfer credits and waiver of program requirements must be made in the first two years of graduate study.

The process for requesting transfer credit or waiver of program requirements is outlined in the following four scenarios. Note that a master's degree in the following scenarios equals a minimum of 33 credits.

Scenario 1 applies to students who have a master's degree with a thesis, and the Experimental Program Steering Committee has accepted the thesis. For experimental incoming students, if the M.A. is accepted, the student should follow the subplan requirements for post-master's students as noted in the graduate catalog for the emphasis track. In this scenario, a master's degree from UNLV will not be awarded.

Scenario 2 applies when a student has a master's degree with no completed thesis, or a master's degree with a completed thesis that the Experimental Program Steering Committee has not accepted. For these incoming students, a maximum of 13 credits may be waived. Experimental students, however, must meet the residency requirement of 14 graduate credits plus 6 thesis credits (20 total) taken at UNLV for the master's degree. These students must also complete the thesis. Upon successful completion of these requirements, students will receive a master's degree from UNLV.

Scenario 3 applies when students have former graduate status, such as graduate classes previously taken at another institution, but have not received a graduate degree from that institution. For these incoming students, a maximum of 9 credits may be transferred toward the master's degree from UNLV.

Scenario 4 applies when a student has taken graduate level coursework at UNLV, but has not matriculated into the Experimental Psychology Doctoral Program. Up to 15 credits can be transferred toward fulfillment of the master's degree requirement.

Graduate Assistantships

Some students accepted into the Experimental Doctoral Program will be offered graduate assistantships, which are intended to help support students in their graduate work and provide relevant work experiences. Graduate assistantships are provided to the department and approved by the Graduate College. These positions are available on a competitive basis and typically include a nine-month stipend plus tuition, fee waivers, and optional student health insurance. Graduate assistants must enroll in and maintain a minimum of 6 semester hours of graduate credit and are expected to spend 20 hours per week on departmental duties such as instruction and/or research.

Outside Employment

Individuals who are not graduate assistants may establish and maintain outside employment as long as they are still making adequate progress in the program. Those students who are receiving graduate assistant support from the university in any fashion (e.g., assistantship, grant) will be able to obtain outside employment only with the permission of the Department of Psychology and Graduate College. In any case, for those students with graduate assistantships, employment must not exceed 10 hours per week. Prior to beginning any outside employment, the student must have approval from the student's advisor, the Experimental Psychology Program Director, and the Graduate College dean.

Conflict Resolution Policy

Examples of conflicts include, but are not limited to, the following: having a department policy applied inappropriately, being required to complete inappropriate tasks as part of an assistantship, being improperly terminated from a program, and being required to meet unreasonable requirements for a degree. Conflicts are usually most effectively resolved at the lowest level; students are therefore encouraged to work out conflicts directly with the persons involved. If a student is unable to resolve a conflict in this manner, or feels that he or she is being treated unfairly, he or she is encouraged to discuss the concerns with any member of the faculty, Experimental Psychology program coordinator, or the department chair. (If the director of Experimental Psychology program coordinator and/or the department chair are involved in the conflict, the student can discuss his or her concerns directly with the associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts.) If the conflict is not resolved in this manner, the student may file a formal appeal with the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and then the Graduate College dean.

Discipline Resources

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Sixth Edition
American Psychological Association
Association for Psychological Science

University Resources

Professional Development Academy

The goal of the Professional Development Academy is to serve as a virtual resource providing support and many professional opportunities to UNLV graduate students. The Academy offers information about events and services such as graduate certificate programs, workshops, training sessions and career services. You can follow Academy activities via social media or look for regular updates on the website.

Academic Success Center

The goal of the Academic Success Center is to help students do well academically and complete their studies on time. They offer or will refer you to such programs and resources as tutoring, advising, skills testing, career exploration and more. They guide students every step of the way to the many established resources created to ensure they complete their educational goals. Learn more about the programs and services the center currently offers.

Alumni Association

With an alumni base 120,000 strong, the UNLV Alumni Association offers a variety of services and opportunities in support of alumni and their families. UNLV alumni are encouraged to support the values of higher learning through advocacy, involvement, and giving.

Commencement Office

Located in the UNLV Office of the Registrar, the commencement office is the last step in the graduation process. Please check with the commencement office for information on the commencement ceremony and your diploma; for all other information about graduate student degree completion and graduation, including thesis/dissertation requirements and doctoral hooding, please contact the Graduate College.

Office of Diversity Initiatives

The vision of the Office of Diversity Initiatives is to advocate, promote, and support the advancement of equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment of a continuously changing collegiate and global community. The mission of the Office of Diversity Initiatives is to provide leadership and support for UNLV's diversity mission: *to nurture equity, diversity, and inclusiveness that promotes respect, support, and empowerment*. This Office also handles UNLV Title IX questions, inquiries, and reporting.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The DRC is committed to supporting students with disabilities at UNLV through the appropriate use of advocacy, accommodations, and supportive services to ensure access to campus courses, services, and activities. The DRC is the university-designated office that determines and facilitates reasonable

accommodations in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Graduate students with disabilities must disclose to the DRC in order to receive appropriate accommodations.

Office of International Student and Scholars

International Students and Scholars (ISS) ensures compliance with both SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) and federal law, so that the university can continue to be authorized by the U.S. federal government to enroll international students; host and hire international scholars; assist and advise employment eligibility and authorization relating to international students and scholars, and visa, travel, and immigration issues; provide critical and specialized services to the international students and scholars of the UNLV community; and facilitate their transition to the campus and the U.S.

Jean Nidetch Women's Center

The Jean Nidetch Women's Center is committed to creating a supportive and inclusive environment for all genders through programming, services, and advocacy for the UNLV community. The Women's Center has informational resources, brochures, and flyers for a variety of on and off campus organizations to help empower and protect yourself, and learn about your options. They also provide free tampons, pads, and condoms.

The Intersection

The Intersection is a one-stop resource for UNLV's highly diverse student body — a comprehensive multicultural center grounded in the academic life of our students. As an intersecting campus resource, the Intersection helps ensure students, particularly first-generation and students of color, successfully navigate their academic careers. Here, all members of campus can discuss their differences, discover their similarities, and build a shared sense of belonging.

UNLV Libraries

UNLV Libraries has always been more than books; they are about encouraging students and creating quality programs that elevate growth and learning. Please visit their website for important information about the services they offer to graduate students.

Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA)

The Graduate & Professional Student Association serves all currently enrolled University of Nevada, Las Vegas graduate and professional students. The GPSA maintains the Graduate Student Commons located in the Lied Library room 2141. The facility is a working office equipped with a copier, fax, flatbed scanners, color laser printer, office supplies, and computers with printers and a small kitchen area. The GPSA is the graduate student governance body at UNLV; the GPSA Council consists of one graduate student representative from each graduate department, and they meet monthly. The GPSA also provides volunteer opportunities, sponsors social events, and supports graduate student research through the graduate research and travel grants program.

Office of Student Conduct

The Office of Student Conduct is a student-centered, service-oriented office located within the Division of Student Affairs. The Office of Student Conduct collaborates with the UNLV community to provide an inclusive system through enforcement of the *UNLV Student Code of Conduct* by:

- Promoting awareness of student rights and responsibilities;
- Establishing accountability for student choices;
- Creating opportunities for involvement in the process; and
- Striving to uphold the values and ethics that advance the common good.

Military and Veterans Services Center

The Military and Veterans Services Center is staffed with veterans and GI Bill-experienced staff to assist more than 1,000 veterans, dependents, active duty service members, National Guard members, and reservists. Their mission is to develop a welcoming, veteran-friendly campus environment that fosters academic and personal success.

The Financial Aid & Scholarships Office

The Financial Aid & Scholarships Office supports higher-education access and persistence by providing financial aid to eligible students. The office partners with student organizations, the UNLV Foundation, the Graduate College, and other external constituents to provide financial aid learning opportunities and scholarship support for graduate students.

Writing Center

This is a free service to UNLV students to help you with any writing project, from papers to creative writing, to resumes, and we can work with you at any stage of the writing process. The center can help you brainstorm, make an outline, work on your drafts, or just be a soundboard for your ideas. The center staff can assist you in person, or via the Online Writing Lab (OWL) page.

University Policies and Procedures

Graduate students are responsible for knowing and acting in accordance with UNLV Policies and Procedures. To view the most commonly referenced campus policies and procedures, you can refer to the following websites:

- [Academic Integrity](#)
- [Activation for Military Service](#)
- [FERPA/Privacy Rights](#)
- [Health Insurance - Mandatory](#)
- [Jeanne Clery Campus Safety and Security Report](#)
- [Proof of Immunization](#)
- [Policies and Procedures on the Protection of Research Subjects](#)
- [Rebelmail Policy](#)
- [Student Conduct Code](#)
- [Student Computer Use Policy](#)
- [Title IX](#)

To ensure compliance with Graduate College policies and procedures, please review the relevant sections of the [Graduate Catalog](#):

- [Academic Calendar](#)
- [Academic Policies](#)
- [Admission and Registration Information](#)
- [Degree Progression Policies & Procedures](#)

In addition, the [Graduate College website](#) contains additional information regarding policies and procedures.

Nothing in this handbook supersedes any NSHE, UNLV, or Graduate College policy.

Handbook Information

Last revised	Revised by	Changes summary
March 13, 2015	Jennifer Rennels	Reformatted to fit Graduate College template, updated defense meeting information as per department faculty decision regarding oral defense guidelines on 12/3/14, updated program timeline as per experimental program faculty meeting on 3/11/15, and made minor edits as needed.
July 7, 2015	Jennifer Rennels	Made minor edits based on feedback from Kim Barchard.
May17, 2016	Jennifer Rennels	Made minor edits and updated transfer/waiver of credits section as per experimental program faculty meeting on 10/28/15, and added multiple article dissertation option as per experimental program faculty meeting on 4/25/16.

April 5, 2017	Jennifer Rennels	Added potential areas of specialization and course plans for students in the quantitative/experimental emphasis. Fixed some typos.
June 30, 2017	Jennifer Rennels	Updated hyperlinks that were no longer accurate.
Spring 2018	Jennifer Rennels	Made changes regarding the qualifying activity information: 1) noted when to enroll in PSY 772; 2) revised and added options available for fulfilling this milestone; and 3) added a timeframe for when the qualifying activity should be proposed as per experimental program faculty meetings on 2/21/18 and 2/28/18. Updated the information regarding the multiple article dissertation as per experimental program faculty meetings on 2/21/18 and 2/28/18 and an email to the Graduate College Dean on 5/11/18. Made changes regarding which forms to have signed for the various milestones as per the 4/25/18 experimental program faculty meeting.
Spring 2019	Jennifer Rennels	Made changes regarding thesis guidelines as per 3/6/19 Experimental Ph.D. program faculty meeting. Added course number information for areas of specialization in the Quantitative/Experimental area of study. Updated the process for getting committee approval for proposals and defenses by removing reference to paper forms and referring to the Grad Rebel Gateway for form completion.