

# COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES GRADUATE STUDY IN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Come study relationships, health, the self, stereotyping and prejudice, emotion or impression formation at the University of Delaware.

Qualified candidates for the UD Graduate Social Psychology Program are attracted to its excellence in social and personality psychology research, its rigorous yet supportive training and its track record placing araduates into academia and other research careers.

#### FOCUS

The Social Psychology Program at UD focuses on interpersonal, intergroup, motivation and social cognitive processes. All six core faculty members use social neuroscience or psychophysiology methods–making the area the largest social neuroscience program in the world. Our research explores a variety of topics, including psychoneuroendocrinology, social attachment, health, stereotyping, prejudice and stigma, identity development and maintenance, motivation, impression formation, emotion and social decision–making. We employ a variety of methodologies including social neuroscience (using EEG, fMRI and genetics), psychophysiological (e.g., EKG and hormones), experimental and big data techniques.

#### FACULTY

Our faculty have extensive publication records and international reputations. They have obtained research funding from the National Institute of Mental Health, the National Science Foundation and the National Institute on Aging. They serve on the editorial boards of leading journals in the fields of social psychology and social neuroscience. Faculty members have won national awards, including the Caryl Rusbult Close Relationships Early Career Award and numerous Rising Star awards by the Association for Psychological Science.

#### TRAINING

The Social Psychology Program is a research-based training program that invites graduate students to join us in the excitement of research on social phenomena. Students work closely with faculty mentors to develop research skills, analyze data and write scholarly papers. Their training prepares students for careers in academic institutions and other settings where strong skills in research methodology and statistical analysis are desirable.

# **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The Social Psychology Program is designed to provide coursework in social psychology (one per semester) until all degree requirements are completed and complemented with at least a two-year sequence of courses in statistics. While undertaking these courses, we require substantive research experience in the form of first-year and second-year projects. Once these requirements have been met, a qualifying exam in the form of one or more theoretical or literature review papers provides an entrée to candidacy for the doctoral degree. A description of each of these requirements is provided below.

#### FIRST-YEAR PROJECT

The first-year project must be empirical and completed by the end of the first year. A written proposal in the form of a memorandum summarizes the intended project/research idea to be submitted to the faculty advisor by the end of December of the first year. Each project requires two presentations. A final written paper is completed before the beginning of the second year.

#### SECOND-YEAR PROJECT

Before fall semester of the second year begins, students will obtain the agreement of a minimum of two social faculty to be sponsors of their second-year project. After committee review, a two- to five-page abstract of the proposal is prepared. Each project requires one presentation. A final written paper in APA style is written prior to the beginning of the third year.

#### SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY QUALIFYING EXAM

The Qualifying Exam is conceived as a scholarly exercise completed in the student's third year that accomplishes the primary goal of qualifying a student for independent research and scholarship required to conduct a doctoral dissertation. This exam is meant to further the student's work leading to a successful dissertation while allowing for a fair assessment of the student's knowledge in the broad area of research interest, as well as his or her scholarly, methodological, conceptual and writing abilities.



# TO APPLY

For more information about graduate admission and to apply online, visit the Graduate College website **www.grad.udel.edu**. An undergraduate degree in psychology is not required for admission, but all applications need to include a personal statement. Students are admitted in the fall only.

### FUNDING

Students in good standing in the program typically receive support for 5 years. This support may come in the form of a Department TA or RA position, a University fellowship, or an RA on an advisor's extramural grant. Students are strongly advised to consider applying for external funding (e.g., an NSF Predoctoral Fellowship or an NRSA Predoctoral Fellowship from NIH) and to discuss the application with their advisors well in advance of the due date.

## CONTACT

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#### Learn more at www.psych.udel.edu

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