

**GRADUATE COUNCIL  
PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN EXISTING COURSE/PROGRAM**

**ORIGINATING UNIT:** Psychology

**TYPE OF ACTION:**

	Change in existing course
X	Change in existing program

**TYPE OF CHANGE REQUESTED:**

	Number
	Title
X	Description
	Pre-requisite(s)
	Drop course/program
	Program requirements
	Other (specify):

**Current CIP Code (programs only):**

**Does the change require a new or change in CIP Code:** No

**If yes, what is the proposed new CIP code?** \_\_\_\_\_

\*for reference please visit: <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/resources.aspx?y=56>

**Semester and year change(s) takes effect:** Fall 2020

**Is the program already considered TCU STEM?** Yes

**Does the change include a request to be a TCU STEM program?** No

**Appropriate Computer Abbreviation (30 spaces or less):** Psychology PhD requirements

**Description of Change** (i.e., **highlight**, bold, *italics*, or otherwise identify parts that are changed in proposed copy (omit if dropping a course or program)):

**Present catalog copy:**

The program leading to the Ph.D. in experimental psychology has a research emphasis reflecting the study of psychology as a science rather than the therapeutic aspects of psychology. The term "research" should be interpreted broadly. The program is not limited to traditional experimental psychology, nor is it committed solely to laboratory-based methods. The department believes that a measure of specialized knowledge is built upon a firm but broad base of psychological principles and methods that constitute the best plan for most of its students. Although the graduate program leads to a Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology, the student is expected to pursue a specialized area of research. For information about areas of

research interests of the faculty, contact the Department of Psychology or visit [www.psychology.tcu.edu](http://www.psychology.tcu.edu). Students who enter the Ph.D. program having completed a thesis-based master's degree at an accredited institution can request, on first entering the program that the graduate faculty design a course sequence tailored to their individual needs, which might include different courses than those listed below.

All other entering students must pass (grade of "B-" or higher in each) six core courses from the following options

- 1) Neuroscience/Learning  
PSYC 60553 Conditioning and Learning 3  
PSYC 50403 Advanced Neuroscience 3
  - 2) Social/Evolutionary  
PSYC 60663 Advanced Social Psychology 3  
PSYC 60913 Evolutionary Social Psychology 3
  - 3) Cognitive/Development  
PSYC 50563 Developmental Psychology 3  
PSYC 60583 Cognition 3
  - 4) Quantitative  
PSYC 50523 Experimental Design 3  
PSYC 60623 Regression Analysis 3
- AND
- PSYC 90980 Dissertation 6  
PSYC 90990 Dissertation 6
- Electives

**Minimum Requirements:**

- \*Students must take at least one course from each of 1, 2, and 3.
- \*Students must take at least one additional course from 1, 2, or 3.
- \*Students must take both courses in 4.
- \*A grade of less than B- in one course from 1, 2, or 3 may be replaced by at least a B- from either the same course or the alternative course in the corresponding area.
- \*A grade of less than B- in a course from 4 must be replaced by at least a B.

Beyond those required courses, each student takes all courses required by his/her area committee. Successful completion of the Ph.D. requires completing the course requirements, successfully defending a master's thesis if required by the faculty, passing the preliminary evaluation vote by the full faculty, passing a qualifying examination that has both written and oral components in order to advance to doctoral candidacy, and defending a Ph.D. dissertation. The usual timeline involves completing the six core courses as described above by the end of the second year; completing the master's thesis, when required, by the end of the second year; continuing to take any additional courses required by the area committee; passing the preliminary evaluation vote by the end of the third year; passing the qualifying examination to

advance to doctoral candidacy by the end of the third year, and successfully defending the Ph.D. dissertation within six years after advancing to doctoral candidacy.

### **Proposed catalog copy:**

~~The program leading to the Ph.D. in experimental psychology has a research emphasis reflecting the study of psychology as a science rather than the therapeutic aspects of psychology. The term "research" should be interpreted broadly. The program is not limited to traditional experimental psychology, nor is it committed solely to laboratory based methods. The department believes that a measure of specialized knowledge is built upon a firm but broad base of psychological principles and methods that constitute the best plan for most of its students. Although the graduate program leads to a Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology, the student is expected to pursue a specialized area of research. For information about areas of research interests of the faculty, contact the Department of Psychology or visit [www.psychology.tcu.edu](http://www.psychology.tcu.edu).~~

The program leading to the Ph.D. in experimental psychology has a research emphasis, along with training students to be effective science communicators and teachers. Students should have met all of the pre-requisites for the program, including successfully defending a master's thesis under the direction of a psychology faculty member at TCU. Students who enter the Ph.D. program having completed a thesis-based master's degree at an accredited institution can request, on first entering the program that the graduate faculty design a course sequence tailored to their individual needs, which might include different courses than those listed below.

All other entering Students must pass (i.e., a grade of "B-" or higher in each) six core courses from the following options:

- 1) Neuroscience/Learning  
PSYC 60553 Conditioning and Learning 3  
PSYC 50403 Advanced Neuroscience 3
- 2) Social/Evolutionary  
PSYC 60663 Advanced Social Psychology 3  
PSYC 60913 Evolutionary Social Psychology 3
- 3) Cognitive/Development  
PSYC 50563 Developmental Psychology 3  
PSYC 60583 Cognition 3
- 4) Quantitative  
PSYC 50523 Analysis of Variance Experimental Design 3  
PSYC 60623 Regression Analysis 3  
AND  
PSYC 90980 Dissertation 6  
PSYC 90990 Dissertation 6  
Electives

Minimum Requirements:

\*Students must take at least one course from each of 1, 2, and 3.

\*Students must take at least one additional course from 1, 2, or 3.

\*Students must take both courses in 4.

~~\*A grade of less than B in one course from 1, 2, or 3 may be replaced by at least a B from either the same course or the alternative course in the corresponding area.~~

~~\*A grade of less than B in a course from 4 must be replaced by at least a B.~~ A grade less than B- is considered failing within the department and can result in two consequences. First, the course will not count toward the Ph.D. requirements and may be required to be repeated. Second, the failing grade may result in dismissal from the program. If a student makes two grades of less than B-, in either the same or two different classes, the student may automatically be dismissed from the Ph.D. program. The department will also recommend that financial support be withdrawn.

~~Beyond those required courses, each student takes all courses required by his/her area committee.~~ Successful completion of the Ph.D. requires completing the course requirements, successfully defending a master's thesis if required by the faculty, passing the preliminary evaluation vote by the full faculty, passing a qualifying examination that has both written and oral components in order to advance to doctoral candidacy, and defending a Ph.D. dissertation. The usual timeline involves completing the six core courses as described above by the end of the second year; completing the master's thesis, when required, by the end of the second year; ~~continuing to take any additional courses required by the area committee;~~ passing the preliminary evaluation vote by the end of the third year; passing the qualifying examination to advance to doctoral candidacy by ~~the start of the fourth year~~ end of the third year, and successfully defending the Ph.D. dissertation within six years after advancing to doctoral candidacy.

**Supporting Evidence of Justification:** We are hoping to streamline some repetitive language, along with clarifying department policies regarding failing grades. The change in course title (i.e., Analysis of Variance) corresponds with a separate change request.

**Explain how the change(s) will affect the current outcomes and assessment mechanisms?**

Not applicable (N/A)

**Additional Resources Required:**

**Faculty:** N/A

**Space:** N/A

**Equipment:** N/A

**Library:** N/A

**Other:** N/A

**Change in teaching load:**

**Does this change affect any other units of the University?** No

If yes, submit supporting statement signed by chair of affected unit.

**If cross-listed, provide evidence of approval by all curriculum committees appropriate to both the originating and the cross-listed units.**

**Chair of Originating Unit:**

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:**\_\_Anna Petursdottir\_\_\_\_\_

**Unit:**\_\_Psychology\_\_\_\_\_

**Revised 12/2019**