Master of Arts in Research and Experimental Psychology
(The REx MA Program)
San José State University

Application Instructions

REx MA Psychology Program Eligibility

To be eligible for the MA in Research and Experimental Psychology program, you must:

- Meet the University Graduate Studies admissions requirements.

- Have the equivalent of a U.S. baccalaureate degree and a minimum of 30 semester units in psychology.

- Have a minimum GPA of 3.0 in the last 60 semester units (90 quarter units) of all college and/or university coursework.

- Have a minimum GPA of 3.0 in all college and/or university psychology courses.

Application Process

You will be submitting all of your application materials through Cal State Apply.

Applications for the REx MA program are accepted between October 1 and February 1 of each year for fall admissions only.

All application materials must be completed and submitted by the **February 1** deadline to be considered for our program.

Questions or concerns should be directed to Dr. Evan Palmer, evan.palmer@sjsu.edu.

There are two basic parts to the application process:

Applying to SJSU graduate studies. First, you will provide information that will be evaluated by the Graduate Admissions and Program Evaluation (GAPE) for general graduate studies eligibility at SJSU. Information for this part of the process can be found at the Graduate Admissions website and in their Steps to Graduate Admission guide (pdf).

Applying to the REx MA Psychology program. Second, you will provide information that will be evaluated by the REx MA faculty for admissions into the program. These materials will also be submitted through your Cal State Apply application.

MA Research and Experimental Psychology Program Instructions

To apply to the REx MA Psychology program, you will need to submit the information and documents listed below. Some of this information may be similar to what you submitted earlier in Cal State Apply, but it is important to input again as information in this section of the application goes directly to the REx MA program for evaluation.

It may be useful to type up some of this information in a separate document, than copy and paste it into the online application form.

Academic History and Experiences

Highest Degree Obtained and Major

What is the highest degree you have obtained (e.g., Baccalaureate - in progress [BA/BS in progress] Baccalaureate [BA/BS], Master's [MA/MS])?

What is your major?

All College GPA

What is you All College GPA? Your All College GPA is the cumulative GPA for all college and university work attempted. This information can be found on your transcripts.

Psychology GPA

What is your Psychology GPA? Your Psychology GPA can be calculated using the online Psychology GPA worksheet.

Complete the worksheet, submit the calculated GPA in the application form. Also create a pdf copy of the worksheet, save it as *Psychology_GPA - [your last name]*, and upload it to the application.

Statistics and Research Methods GPA

What is your GPA for statistics and research methods courses in psychology? This GPA can be calculated using the Statistics and Research Methods GPA worksheet.

Complete the worksheet, submit the calculated GPA in the application form. Also create a pdf copy of the worksheet, save it as *Methods_GPA - [your last name]*, and upload it to the application.

GRE Scores

NOTE: The GRE is no longer required for this program and we do not consider GRE scores when evaluating applicants.

Resume/CV

Please upload a pdf of your resume/CV.

Research Experiences

Listed below are different types of experiences conducting psychological research. These experience are ones which involve hypothesis generation, data collection, data analysis, and written or verbal presentation of the findings (i.e., APA style research report, class presentation, conference presentation).

For each type of research experience in which you have participate, provide a brief description of the project, including a description of your contributions (max 500 words each). In describing your contributions, be as specific as possible. Include reference information if relevant (see below). If you have not had a listed research experience, write N/A in the space provided in the application form.

- **Studies conducted as part of a research methods class.** When listing this type of project, be sure to indicate your specific contributions (especially if it was a group project) and final grade for the project.

- **Studies conducted as part of an honors thesis or similar independent project (e.g., MARC, McNair Scholars program).** When listing this type of project, in addition to providing an abstract of the study, indicate whether the study was presented at a conference or similar venue (include conference name, date of presentation, and link to conference program if available).

- **Research assistant experience**. When listing this type of project, in addition to providing an abstract of the study, be sure to indicate your specific contributions (e.g., data collection, contributing to lab meeting discussions).

- **Research assistant experience that culminated in a professional presentation and/or co-authored manuscript.** When listing this type of project, in addition to providing an abstract of the study, be sure to indicate your specific contributions (e.g., data collection, contributing to lab meeting discussions), and information about the conference in which it was presented (i.e., conference name, date of presentation, link to conference program if available). If the project has culminated in co-authored manuscript, provide information about the stage of review (e.g., under review, revise and resubmit, year and journal published).

Interests

Research Interests

Please tell us about your research interests. Describe your top research interest in detail and then list any other research interests at the end of the essay. When writing about your top research interest, please tell us what factors you would like to examine and why. How might you go about examining those factors? What methods would you use? What data would you collect? We would like to learn how you think about research questions. (700 words max)

Faculty of Interest

After reviewing the research interests and recent papers of our faculty on the Department of Psychology website and in our MA Student Handbook, identify up to three faculty members with whom you would like to work with if you are accepted into the program. List these in order of preference (1 = most preferred).

Personal Statement

To help us evaluate your application, please prepare a personal statement (700 words max) in which you describe:

1. Your educational and professional goals.

2. The areas of psychology that interest you and why (e.g., cognitive, developmental, physiological, social).

3. Any other relevant experience (e.g., teaching, working, volunteer) that shaped your interest in pursuing a graduate degree in psychology.

4. How your goals and interests align with the MA in Research and Experimental Psychology program and its faculty.

5. Any other information you would like the faculty to know when considering your application (e.g., contextual information that might explain a low grade or gaps in your educational record).

Provide this statement as a pdf to be uploaded to the online application.

References

List the contact information for the three persons that you have asked to write letters of recommendation. Letter writers should be professors and/or professionals who are in a position to write about your academic performance, knowledge of psychological theory, ability to conduct psychological research, and/or professionalism.