

CATALOG YEAR 2015-2016

COLLEGE/SCHOOL/SECTION: _____ PSYC 5388, PSYC 5389

CATALOG YEAR 2015-2016COLLEGE/SCHOOL/SECTION: **COAS** _____

Program: Delete: Add: XX Change: Attach new/changed Program of Study description and 4-year plan. If in current online catalog, provide change and attach text with changes in **red**.

Justification: We are requesting the creation of a non-thesis track for the MS in Psychology Program, where the classes PSYC 5398 and 5399 (Thesis) will be replaced by PSYC 5388 (Psychology Internship I) and PSYC 5389 (Psychology Internship II). These classes are described below. This change is motivated by student needs and our efforts to increase enrollment and graduation rate. Specifically, creating a non-thesis track would not only appeal to a wider range of candidates, and so would boost our enrollment, but also would help in having better graduation rates, as students would not be pending with their theses. The Internship classes will be planned in cooperation with TAMIU Service Learning Center and involve service-learning (community-based projects). This will make our Program more community-oriented and offer students a hands-on experience with a community-based institution where their psychological theoretical knowledge could be usefully implemented. The inclusion of these new courses would provide graduate students with the opportunity to connect the experience in the service with class content to develop meaningful connections, as well as allow them to gain knowledge and experience in the field and hence help us develop civic-minded graduates. Students taking the Internship class would follow the principles of service-learning building connections with issues at large (e.g., social justice, health awareness, or communication at workplace issues); develop reciprocal relationships with the community partners, and incorporate reflection throughout the experience. Creating the Internship courses ties in with the Mission of the Program, under which critical thinking skills and a broad knowledge of psychology are particularly emphasized. In addition, the class adds to this part of our Mission which states that MS in psychology graduates will be familiar with best professional practices in a global context and will be sensitive to multicultural differences.

PSYC 5388 – Psychology Internship I

This is the first in a two-semester sequence in Psychology Internship. This course provides the first supervised service learning experience in a departmentally approved internship training facility. Prerequisite: PSYC 5302, 5304, and 5320 or permission of instructor. Enrollment in this course is restricted to students who are currently matriculated through the MS in the Psychology Program. May be repeated with permission of instructor. Evaluation of performance in this course is on CR/NC basis. If successfully completed, course is followed by PSYC 5389, Psychology Internship II.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon completion of this course the Graduate Students will:

1. Apply psychological theories to practices in community based institutions.
2. Integrate critical thinking skills to develop meaningful connections between psychological theory and practice.
3. Compose a report summarizing their internship experience.

PSYC 5389 – Psychology Internship II

This is the second in a two-semester sequence in Psychology Internship. This course provides the first supervised service learning experience in a departmentally approved internship training facility. Prerequisite: PSYC 5302, 5304, 5320, and 5388, or permission of instructor. Enrollment in this course is restricted to students who are currently matriculated through the MS in Psychology program. May be repeated with permission of instructor. Evaluation of performance in this course is on CR/NC basis.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon completion of this course the Graduate Students will:

1. Explain concepts of experiential education and critically analyze the connections between community service and learning about human relations.
2. Develop the ability to draw meaning from their service and share their experience in small-group reflective dialog sessions and through journal writing
3. Formulate goals for improvement to address the needs of the community based institutions and the populations they serve, based on their practice and the research available in the literature.

Approvals:

Chair

Department Curriculum Committee

Chair

Department

Chair

College Curriculum Committee

Dean

Provost

10/2015

Signature:



Date

10-27-15



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