

## Master of Science in Psychology

Program code: 135012

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Department of Psychology (College of Social Sciences) offers a Master degree program in Psychology. Language of instruction is Arabic. The graduates of this program are expected to be capable of conducting scientific research in a self-confident independent fashion, and able to pursue the acquisition of knowledge and refine their skills as professional psychologists. The program only offers thesis option.

*According to the University Council decision dated 4/2/2007, Thesis students admitted with effect from September 2007 are exempted from the comprehensive examination.*

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### **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

#### **39 TOTAL COURSE CREDITS**

#### **15 COMPULSORY COURSES (3 credits each)**

1350-507	Field Training	
1350-518	Methodology and Research Design	
1350-530	Statistics in Psychology	Equivalent to 1350-517
1350-531	Measurement in Psychology	Equivalent to 1350-519
1350-533	Scientific Writing and Communication Skills	

#### **15 ELECTIVE COURSES (3 credits each)**

#### **9 BASIC COURSES**

1350-520	Psychopathology
1350-522	Health Psychology
1350-524	Social Psychology
1350-532	Neurocognitive Sciences

#### **6 APPLIES COURSES**

1350-508	Industrial and Organizational Psychology
1350-509	Diagnostic Clinical Psychology
1350-525	Counseling

#### **9 COMPULSORY COURSES**

1350-597	Thesis	(0)
1350-598	Thesis	(0)
2000-599	Thesis	(9)

## ***COURSE DESCRIPTION***

### **1350-507: FIELD TRAINING CR: 3**

The field training course aims to improve students professional skills as psychologists in various applied fields that provide psychological services while under direct professional supervision. The course provides students with the opportunity to convert their theoretical knowledge into practical skills and refine them. In addition, the course introduces students to the psychological services required by the community, and trains them in various skills necessary to fill the role of a psychologist, ensuring their success when occupying their future professional role and increasing their motivation to excel in their professional careers.

### **1350-508: INDUSTRIAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY CR: 3**

The course aims to understand individual and group behavior within work organizations, so as to improve performance and enhance the work environment. The covered topics includes job analysis, selection and allocation, performance appraisal, work environment design, design and evaluation of training programs, work accidents and how to deal with them, productive and counter-productive behaviors, organizational justice, occupational health, as well as the role of individual personality, attitudes, values, and emotions in organizations. Additionally, the course helps student understand the interactions among the individual, group, and organization, and how to diagnose behavioral problems and manage them. The course aims to link theories with applications and students are expected to apply knowledge and skills to new organizational settings in an ethical and professional manner.

### **1350-509: DIAGNOSTIC CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY CR: 3**

Diagnostic clinical psychology is based on the application of the knowledge gained by the students in the following courses: psychopathology, psychology of personality, and special needs. The course aims to introduce students to the clinical psychology and its relationship with other branches of psychology. The course will address diagnosis and its types, means, importance and difficulties, and identify the

tools and tests that can be used to assist in diagnosis. Throughout the course, students will learn about therapeutic methods such as cognitive behavioral therapy and cognitive therapy, and how to prevent exposure to mental disorders in target groups.

### **1350-518: METHODOLOGY AND RESEARCH DESIGN CR: 3**

This course outlines the characteristics of the scientific method and introduces various designs used in psychological research (correlations; quasi-experimental, experimental, observational, case study, etc.) and decide on the appropriate methods for a given research design. The course helps student formulate the research problem and its relevant hypotheses, use electronic databases, scan literature and approach it critically, and make use of relevant findings. In addition, students study several types of sampling techniques, and data collections methods and how to analyze data. The course emphasizes the importance of adhering to the ethical standards for research and to APA style referencing.

### **1350-520: PSYCHOPATHOLOGY CR: 3**

The Psychopathology course focuses on abnormal and mental/emotional disorders etc. Students will be expected to know the criteria used to define abnormal behavior. In addition, students will learn the differences between the DSM-4 and DSM-5 and the new developments in the field of psychopathology. Throughout the course students will learn about the main mental disorders such as schizophrenia; emotional disorders such as depression, mania and bipolar disorder, anxiety, post-traumatic disorder; and disorder as a result of addiction.

### **1350-522: HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY CR: 3**

Introducing health psychology and research methods, ways to promote health and disease prevention, the use of health services and methods of communication with health care providers, adherence to health behaviors, theories explaining health behavior, and how to treat health-damaging behaviors (such as smoking, alcohol, drugs), stress and its impact on health, coping strategies, psychological and social factors that contribute to chronic diseases (such as heart disease, high blood

pressure, diabetes) and terminal illness (such as cancer), how to manage chronic diseases, psychosocial effects on the patient and her/his family resulting from coexistence with Life-threatening or disability-causing diseases, understanding and management of pain.

**1350-524: SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY**  
**CR: 3**

This course aims to explore how thoughts, feelings, and behavior are affected by the real, imagined, or implied presence of others. A brief history of the field will be presented followed by a discussion of some central methodological issues, such as the role and function of qualitative/quantitative methods, the connection of theory to research, and the importance of external validity. Core concepts/theories and their foundational studies will be related based on three central themes. The first concerns self and identity, and includes the ideas of the self-concept, self-esteem, attitudes, and cognitive dissonance. The second theme concerns the relation of the individual to others, presenting some of the main cognitive processes involved in social life, and the concepts of social influence and social identity. The third theme concerns social groups/communities, and explores intra- and inter-group dynamics, and the relation between culture, religion, and psychological phenomena. The course aims to cultivate critical and creative thinking to enable critical assessment of scientific studies and topics, and discussion of central issues in the field by adopting novel positions based on logical and scientific argument.

**1350-525: COUNSELING**  
**CR: 3**

Counseling psychology centers on the theoretical and the applied aspects of psychological theory using scientific methods. The course considers the differences among theories regarding the importance of diagnosis, skill acquisition, and insight into the individual's emotional life. Counseling is the process that aims at helping the individual to conceptualize her/himself and acquire new behaviors and skills. It assists the individual in gaining insight into uncomfortable thoughts & feelings such as depression, anxiety and helplessness and other disorders that may limit feelings of happiness and optimism. These activities are applied scientifically using cognitive, behavioral, and dynamic approaches among others. The course presents an objectively comprehensive and an integrative view of the field. This will

enable the students to compare these approaches and understand the principles, assumptions and concepts within each approach. The course presents prominent approaches in the field such as Person-Centered Therapy, Cognitive Therapy, Rational Emotive Behavioral Therapy, Gestalt Therapy Reality Therapy, and psychoanalysis.

**1350-530: PSYCHOLOGICAL STATISTICS**  
**CR: 3**

This course presents the statistical techniques that a postgraduate student at the master's level needs to test her/his research hypotheses when analyzing her/his own dataset. The course includes a basic description of the statistical models in terms of their conditions, assumptions, and limitations and the types of the data that they can be employed to analyze. In order to understand the mechanics of statistical methods, students will be required to do some analyses manually without the use of statistical software. However, the course also covers how to run statistical analyses softwares that are commonly used by psychologists, such as SPSS, Mplus, and R. Students who successfully complete this course will be able to choose and implement statistical methods that are appropriate to the nature of a given set of data and to their research hypotheses. They will also be able to test required assumptions in the data, plan the appropriate sample size for the study, and display the results of statistical analyses in research reports in a correct and concise way according to the requirements of the American Psychological Association (APA).

**1350-531: MEASUREMENT IN PSYCHOLOGY**  
**CR: 3**

The course aims at presenting the fundamentals and applications of assessment of human properties and constructs and the development of assessment tools and measures in psychology. The term "human constructs" includes a range of mental and cognitive abilities, personality dimensions, motivational and emotional characteristics, and more. During the preparation of her/his thesis, a master's student meets situations where information is required to facilitate identifying the appropriate research tools for the study. To do this students must have background knowledge of theories of psychological measurement, and how to develop data collection research tools in the field of psychology. Students also need to learn strategies for adapting and translating tools from Western cultures to Arab culture. The course focuses on the

foundations and theories of psychological measurement and its applications in research. This may qualify the student to think critically about the available research tools that he/ she might use in his/ her research.

**1350-597: THESIS  
CR: 0**

**1350- 598: THESIS  
CR: 0**

**1350-532: NEUROCOGNITIVE SCIENCES  
CR: 3**

**2000- 599: THESIS  
CR: 9**

The neurocognitive sciences course explores cognitive and neural processes that support higher-level cognitive abilities that include: attention, vision, language, motor control, navigation, and memory. The course introduces basic neuroanatomy, structure and functional brain imaging, brain stimulation techniques, and behavioral measures of cognitive abilities. It also provides knowledge about the mechanisms of the brain using evidence from studies on normal and abnormal people who are classified as neurocognitive impaired patients according to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM).

**1350-533: SCIENTIFIC WRITING AND  
COMMUNICATION SKILLS  
CR: 3**

The course aims to develop graduate students' skills in academic writing according to APA style, as well as developing their abilities to read and write critically and sharpening their oral presentation skills. To achieve these goals, the course covers the following contents: academic writing style, paragraph structure, the organization and formality of the theses, using numbers, punctuation, designing tables and figures, in text citation and reference list (using Endnote), and ethical, legal, and professional standards of writing and publishing. The course explains the publication process and how to deal with scientific journals and conferences.