

History and Features

The FAMU department of psychology initiated graduate training in 1974. The department offers Master of Science degrees in community and school psychology. A special feature of the programs is their emphasis on the application of psychology to the African American experience, or what is called "Black or African American Psychology." From time to time the programs have enjoyed external training and research grant support. Many students who have received Masters of Science degrees in Community Psychology from FAMU continue their education, pursuing their doctorates in fields such as clinical, community, health psychology, and neuropsychology, to name a few. Over the next four years, the department will have produced approximately 30 doctoral recipients who were primarily products of the graduate program.

The psychology department is located in the Gore Education Complex (GEC), occupying the entire third floor of Unit C. The facility comprises a total of 4,681 square feet of operational space. There are two classrooms, a main departmental office consisting of two adjoining offices, six faculty offices, a small library-reading room/study area, a multi-purpose activity room, and a mini-computer laboratory.

Philosophy

The psychology department's programs grew out of the university's recognition of the need for more psychologically trained Black para-professionals, professionals, and scientists to address the critical shortages in the areas of human services, education, and research. Additionally, in the wake of the 1960s there was a growing sensitivity in American society regarding the importance of culture in mental health and human behavior, especially, where racial and cultural minorities were concerned. Given that FAMU is predominantly African American, increased awareness of the significance of culture led to the incorporation of an emphasis on African American cultural and minority issues into the curriculum and overall programmatic thrust of the department.

Goals

Consistent with the philosophy of the department, the goals of the community psychology graduate program are:

- To increase the numbers of Masters level Black mental health and human service practitioners and researchers in psychology;
- To provide a multi-cultural/Black psychology content emphasis within the graduate psychology curriculum; and
- To prepare and enhance student eligibility for doctoral programs in psychology.

Community Psychology Course Offerings

Required Courses

CYP 6936	Seminar in Community Psychology
PPE 6055	Seminar in Theories of Personality
PSY 6064	Proseminar in Advanced General Psychology
PSY 6206	Advanced Psychological Statistics & Measurement
PSY 6317	Advanced Psychological Testing
CLP 6055	Psychopathology
CLP 6445	Individual Personality Testing
CYP 6938	Advanced Seminar in Black Psychology
PSY 6216	Research Methods
SPS 6206	Intervention Techniques
CYP 6948	Internship
PSY 6971	Thesis

Electives

DEP 6056	Developmental Psychology
EAB 6766	Advanced Behavior Modification

Entrance & Graduation Criteria

The community psychology graduate program serves both traditional and non-traditional students. Although students are on the average between 22-25 years of age at entry, nontraditional students are welcome and are relatively easily accommodated with some classes being offered in the evenings. FAMU has a child care facility on campus that can provide support to students with young and school-age children. Between 8-15 students are typically admitted into the community psychology program each year.

In general, students are expected to fulfill the following admission criteria:

- Major or minor in psychology
- GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.00 scale) or GRE of 1000
- 3 letters of recommendation

At least 10% of each class includes students who do not meet these criteria. These individuals are given support to assist them in completing the program.

Obtaining the Masters of Science degree in community psychology involves completion of all required courses and maintenance of a "B" average. Students must also complete a thesis and an approved community psychology internship. The program is structured so that students may complete it in two years.