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WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY

HUMAN FACTORS PSYCHOLOGY PH.D. PROGRAM

Human Factors psychologists conduct research to broaden the base of knowledge about human capabilities and limitations. They apply that knowledge to the design, operation and maintenance of machines, systems and environments so that optimum performance can be achieved. Among the goals of the human factors psychologist are to make it easier for people to use machines such as computers, airplanes, and automobiles and to improve work and leisure environments.

The Program at WSU: The program which is accredited by the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society is designed around the belief that the best way to train people to function in an applied environment is to provide training as an experimental psychologist with training in specific areas of human factors. Accordingly, our program provides a strong foundation in the basics of psychology, experimental design and analysis while at the same time promoting research and application in the technological environment of today. Students are expected to have interdisciplinary strengths in the sciences, mathematics, computer technology and other fields. Course work in the core areas of psychology will normally be completed in the first two years of study. The core requirements are PSY 902 and PSY 903 Advanced Research Methods I & II, PSY 904 Biological/Philosophical Foundations of Behavior and PSY 911 Teaching of Psychology: Principles, Practices & Ethics. Additional course requirements include, PSY 920 Psychological Principles of Human Factors, PSY 921 Seminar in Human Factors Psychology, PSY 922 Seminar in Software Psychology, and PSY 925 Seminar in Perception. All students must enroll in research hours each semester and complete an internship along with enough elective hours to total no fewer than 90 hours. All doctoral candidates must demonstrate professional competence in major areas of their specialty by earning satisfactory grades on a written comprehensive exam before beginning work on the doctoral dissertation.

Admission Information: Students should have an undergraduate major in psychology with course work in Statistics, Research Methods, and Systems and Theories of Psychology. Other courses may be required as well. Admission to the program requires a minimum GPA of 3.0; submission of scores on the GRE (Verbal and Quantitative); three letters of reference; and a career/goals statement. Application materials must be submitted by January 15.

Financial Assistance: A limited number of research and teaching assistantships are available. A separate application form is required for these awards.

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Ph.D. in Psychology, Human Factors Program

Summary of Course Requirements

Required Courses in Psychology	6
Teaching of Psychology: Principles, Practices & Ethics	3
Research Methods	8
Other Required Courses	12
Predoctoral Research Graduate Research	18
Internship	1
Dissertation	12
Electives (at least 12 hrs. outside HF)	30
Total	90

Required Courses Psychology¹

904	Biological/Philosophical Foundations of Behavior	3
905	Cognitive/Learning Foundations of Behavior	3
Total		6

Ethic (3 Hours)

911	Teaching of Psychology: Principles, Practices & Ethics (2/1)	3
Total		3

Methods¹

902	Advanced Research Methods I	4
903	Advanced Research Methods II	4
Total		8

Other Required Courses

921	Seminar in Human Factors Psychology	3
920	Psychological Principles of Human Factors	3
922	Seminar in Software Psychology	3
925	Seminar in Perception	3
Total		12

Research

901	Graduate Research	18
908	Dissertation	12
	Includes a Predoctoral research project of MA thesis	

Internships

926	Internship in Human Factors Psychology Students will be required to complete a Research Internship of one credit hour.	1
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Doctoral Dissertation

908	Doctoral Dissertation Doctoral Candidates will be required to complete an original research project that will be reviewed by oral examination as described in the Dissertation Oral Examination Policy.	12
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Electives

30

Ninety hours of course work are required for graduation. The student should take sufficient elective courses (901/909) may **not** be used for such electives) to attain this total. At least 12 elective hours, selected in consultation with the advisor, should be taken outside of the Human Factors program. The elective should lead to one or more specialties. PSY 906 and PSY 907 can be chosen as electives.

Qualifying Examinations

Students must demonstrate professional competence in major areas of specialty by earning satisfactory grades on a written comprehensive examination as described in the Department's Policies for Qualifying Examinations. Students are eligible for Doctoral Candidacy upon successful completion of their Qualifying Examinations.

¹ A grade of B (3.0 or better) must be earned in the Required and Methods courses before the student is eligible to TAKE Qualifying Examinations.