

**REGULATIONS FOR THE  
POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PSYCHOLOGY  
(PCPsych)**

*(See also General Regulations)*

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**Admissions requirements**

**PS 1.** To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the Postgraduate Certificate in Psychology, a candidate shall

- (a) comply with the General Regulations;
  - (b) be a holder of a Bachelor's degree with honours of this University, or of another qualification of equivalent standard from another university or comparable institution accepted for this purpose; and
  - (c) satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if shortlisted.
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**Award of certificate**

**PS 2.** To be eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Certificate in Psychology, a candidate shall

- (a) comply with the General Regulations; and
  - (b) complete the curriculum and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.
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**Length of curriculum**

**PS 3.** The curriculum shall extend over one academic year full-time or two academic years part-time, and shall include an examination held at the end of each semester.

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**Completion of curriculum**

**PS 4.** To complete the curriculum, a candidate shall

- (a) follow instruction in the syllabuses prescribed for core and elective courses with the approval of the Programme Director;
  - (b) complete satisfactorily all written assignments, and participate in such practical exercises in the laboratory and in the field as may be organized as part of the curriculum;
  - (c) satisfy the examiners in all courses in any prescribed form of examination; and
  - (d) submit a thesis or an independent research project of a standard acceptable to the examiners on a topic chosen in consultation with the Head of the Department, the thesis or the independent research project to be submitted by June 30 following the candidate's last examination. The thesis or the independent research project shall be treated for all purposes as the equivalent of one examination paper.
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**Examinations**

**PS 5.**

- (a) An assessment of the candidate's coursework during the year, including completion of written assignments and participation in field-work or laboratory work, as the case may be, shall be taken into account in determining the candidate's result in each course.
- (b) The examiners may at their discretion prescribe one or more oral examinations for any candidate.

**PS 6.** A candidate who is unable because of illness to be present for any paper or papers in any written examination may apply for permission to present himself for examination in the paper or papers at a subsequent examination.

**PS 7.**

- (a) A candidate who has failed to satisfy the examiners in one or more papers at his first attempt may be required either to repeat the curriculum in whole or in part and to present himself for re-examination in the paper or papers in a subsequent examination or to present himself for re-examination in the paper or papers in a subsequent examination without repeating the curriculum or may be required to discontinue his studies.
- (b) A candidate who has failed to satisfy the examiners in one or more papers at his second attempt shall be deemed to have failed the whole examination and be recommended for discontinuation of studies under the provisions of General Regulation G12.

**PS 8.** A list of candidates who have successfully completed all the postgraduate certificate requirements and are to be awarded the Postgraduate Certificate in Psychology shall be published. Candidates who have shown exceptional merit at the whole examination may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidates' certificates.

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**SYLLABUSES FOR THE  
POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PSYCHOLOGY**

1. The selection of courses and special topics in psychology available in a particular year is subject to the approval of the Programme Director. A candidate must complete 8 courses as listed below and 2 6-credit Psychology courses from the B.Soc.Sc. curriculum. All courses listed in the curriculum are 6 credits courses, except PSYC3005 (12 credits) and PSYC3009 (12 credits).

PSYC0001 Research methods in psychology  
PSYC0007 Cognitive psychology *or* PSYC0051 Perception  
PSYC0009 Life-span developmental psychology  
PSYC0019 Psychology of personality  
PSYC0020 Fundamentals of social psychology  
PSYC0022 Biological psychology  
PSYC0035 Introduction to educational psychology *or* PSYC0062 Introduction to psychopathology  
PSYC3005 Thesis in psychology *or* PSYC3009 Independent study in psychology

2. In addition to class sessions, each course may include a practical element on which a candidate may expect to spend about two hours per week.
3. Full-time candidates are required to read ten courses with five to be taken in each semester. Candidates doing part-time mode are required to read ten courses with five courses to be taken in each academic year. Slight variations from this pattern are permitted subject to the permission of the Programme Director.
4. Assessment will be based on coursework (50%) and a final examination (50%) with passing mark of 50% for all courses unless otherwise specified.

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**PSYC0001. Research methods in psychology (6 credits)**

This course adopts a practical approach to teaching the analytical aspects of research techniques in psychology. It is designed to provide students with the basic background in research design and data analysis. The logic of statistical inference and scientific explanation, the merits and limitations of quantitative approaches to the study of psychological phenomena, and research ethics will all be discussed.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

**PSYC0007. Cognitive psychology (6 credits)**

This course covers how humans learn to deal with information from the environment. Topics include various aspects of perception, memory, concept structure and learning, and thinking. Students will be involved in conducting experiments on cognitive functioning as part of the coursework.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**PSYC0009. Life-span developmental psychology (6 credits)**

This course provides an introduction to developmental psychology from a life-span perspective. The topics include: basic concepts and theories of human development; research methodology and issues in the study of developmental change; biological, environmental and social influences on development; processes of physical development over the life-span; attachment and emotional development; development of perception, language, cognition and morality; development of personality and social relationships.

Assessment: 70% coursework, 30% examination.

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**PSYC0019. Psychology of personality (6 credits)**

This course will critically examine a number of theories of personality as exemplified in the lives of some of the significant figures in the field. The relationship of specific theories to practical applications, personality assessment and psychotherapeutic techniques may be included. The major aims of the course are to provide a survey of the breadth and complexity of this field and to provide a perspective from which to examine assumptions about human nature and the evaluation of behaviour.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

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**PSYC0020. Fundamentals of social psychology (6 credits)**

This course gives an overview of the field which studies the behaviour of individuals in social contexts. It covers social perception, social cognition, social motivation, attitudes and attitude change, relationship between attitude and behaviour, aggression, helping, interpersonal attraction, social influence on individual behaviour and group dynamics. The impact of Chinese culture on various social behaviours will form part of the discussion.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**PSYC0022. Biological psychology (6 credits)**

This course provides an introduction to biological aspects of behaviour. The topics include: biological bases of behaviour, development, learning, memory, and abnormal psychology; the nervous system; processes of brain maturation; psychophysiology.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**PSYC0035. Introduction to educational psychology (6 credits)**

This course focuses on how psychological theories are applied to learning, teaching, and facilitation of human growth. The topics include major developmental theories and their application to learning and instruction, learning theories from both behavioral and cognitive traditions, effective teaching methods and practices, learners' individual and group differences, achievement motivation, and assessment. Students will be involved in learning activities that require self-reflection and integration of daily life experience.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**PSYC0051. Perception (6 credits)**

An introduction to sensation and perception, with an emphasis on the psychology of seeing. Specific topics include the following examination of the functional properties of sensory systems (e.g., auditory system, color vision, vestibular system, touch, and kinaesthesia); phenomenology of sensation and perception; psychophysical limits of perceptual systems; goals of sensory coding; structure and evolution of sensory systems; theories of perception. Perceptual experiments will be conducted by students in laboratory classes.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**PSYC0062. Introduction to psychopathology (6 credits)**

This course will provide a broad exposure to both theory and practice in clinical psychology. It is a foundation course in mental health, counselling and other psychological services. Also it will provide the information and understanding required to make informed decisions about how to cope with the many social problems connected with mental disorders. A wide array of types of mental disorders will be examined. Important themes will be emphasized such as the continuum in behaviour from mental health to mental illness, the diathesis-stress and nature-nurture models and epidemiology.

Assessment: 70% coursework, 30% examination.

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**PSYC3005. Thesis in psychology (12 credits)**

A student will conduct an independent empirical investigation of a psychological problem. Thesis research will be supervised individually by teaching members of the Department. The thesis should be about 9000 to 10000 words (exclusive of tables, bibliographies and appendices). Eligible students will be invited by the Department to apply for admission into this course. Approval by the Departmental Head is required for admission into this course.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**PSYC3009. Independent study in psychology (12 credits)**

Student will each conduct an independent empirical research project; regular attendance for research supervision is required. The project write-up should be about 9000 to 10000 words (exclusive of tables, bibliographies and appendices). Approval by Departmental Head is required for admissions into this course.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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