QUEENS COLLEGE

2024-2025 ASSESSMENT PLAN

Department: Psychology

Programs of Study:
Master's in Behavioral Neuroscience (MABN), Psychology (GMA), and Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)

(1) Learning Objectives	(2) Justification for Learning Objective	(3) Courses in which Students Engage with the Learning Objective
Attaining graduate-level knowledge of the field, including ethics of research and practice, data analysis and statistics Students will gain an in-depth understanding of the core concepts and disciplines within their field of study, engage with primary literature, and receive training in the lab, field, and/or clinic. Graduates will be competitive for doctoral programs, technical support positions, and/or licensure.	Students should be able to demonstrate comprehension of the field's key concepts, theoretical perspectives, historical trends, and empirical findings within their area of specialization. Students should be well versed in how research accrues knowledge, how to think critically about research methods and findings, through reading, evaluating, and discussing primary literature. Conferral of degrees follow demonstration of capstone experience in the form of Comprehensive Exams, or Research Thesis and Oral Defense.	Core Courses GMA: History (700), Advanced Experimental Psychology (701), Statistics (705) MABN: Molecular (709.1), Systems (709.2), Cognitive (709.3), Behavioral (709.4) Neuroscience ABA: Learning (730.00), Theory and Methods (730.01, 730.02),
Acquisition of advanced laboratory (MABN and GMA optional) or learn to use Applied Behavior Analysis techniques in clinical, school, or other field settings (ABA). By the end of their studies students conducting laboratory or clinical research will have acquired advanced experimental skills and conducted publication-quality research. Students will: • Learn to design independent research projects using the scientific method. • Conduct long-term day-to-day experiments using animal or human subjects, collect and analyze data (MABN/GMA-optional), or conduct supervised experience in applied behavior analysis (ABA). • Develop an understanding of ethical issues when conducting neuroscience research using human participants and animal subjects.	Students will be able to conduct lab research in almost any laboratory that asks Neuroscience, Neuropsychology, or Psychology-related questions or uses techniques commonly used in this research. Students will be prepared for doctoral-level study, and/or careers in their chosen subfield. Students should also be able to use scientific reasoning and problem-solving skills, including research methods, to understand and interpret neurobiological research, clinical research, and applied behavior analysis methodology to modify behavior.	Research credits, Record Keeping (791.3), Applied Behavior Analysis Project (730.05, 730.06), Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis (730.04)
Development of oral and written communication skills Students will learn to communicate research findings orally through presentations in local, state, or national/international forums, in writing (i.e., thesis), and to gain the capstone experience of publishing a peer-reviewed paper in a scientific journal.	Students should be able to communicate their experiences and findings through their written work and oral presentations in training toward becoming professional scientists.	Colloquium (772.2), Thesis Seminar (772.3) All MABN students are required to submit a written thesis and make an oral presentation based on their research. GMA and ABA students may choose to write a thesis in lieu of comprehensive exams.
Develop critical thinking within their area of specialty By the end of their studies students will be able to: • Read, comprehend, integrate, and critically evaluate primary scientific literature • Use this knowledge to design, conduct, analyze, interpret, experiments and experimental results including the application of statistical methods to analyze and interpret data.	Students should be able to critically evaluate scientific findings reported by others.	Advanced Experimental Psych (701), Neuroscience Methods 1 (704.1) Neuroscience Methods 2 (704.2), Ethics/Ethical Issues (772.1, 771.3), Theory and Method in ABA 1 and 2 (730.01, 730.02)