



**Graduate Student Guide
for the
Quantitative Psychology
Master's Degree**

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Disclaimer

This handbook is meant to be consistent with university and departmental policy. In the event that there is a discrepancy between the handbook and the policies, the policies will be followed. *Please* let Dr. Fuller (dana.fuller@mtsu.edu or 615-898-2213) know if there are errors or discrepancies that need to be corrected or if other information should be added to the handbook.

Quantitative Program Mission

The Psychology Department at Middle Tennessee State University offers a Master of Arts degree in Psychology with an emphasis in Quantitative Psychology. The *primary educational objective* of the Quantitative Psychology Program is to prepare students for applied and research careers as statisticians, psychometricians, data analysts, and quantitative psychologists in education, business, government, and other organizations.

The specific educational goals of the program are:

- 1) To develop research skills to the extent that individuals are capable of keeping up with recent theoretical and practical developments that may affect their profession;
- 2) To develop data analysis skills used in organizations;
- 3) To develop skills related to interpretation and communication of statistical output;
- 4) To develop analytical skills for statistical decision making;
- 5) To develop test construction and validation skills with item response theory.

Common activities performed by persons holding a master's degree in Quantitative Psychology include:

- 1) Analyzing empirical data obtained from scientific research;
- 2) Providing program evaluation and statistical consulting services for federal and local governments, private businesses, hospitals, schools, and other data collecting agencies;
- 3) Performing scientific research on psychometrics or statistical phenomena through theoretical derivations and simulation methods;
- 4) Developing and evaluating mathematical models of psychological phenomena;
- 5) Developing and evaluating educational and psychological tests.

Quantitative Faculty and Areas of Interest

Dana K. Fuller (Ph.D., 1994, University of Oklahoma)

Jones Hall 306

615.898.2213

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My research interests include SAS programming, statistical methods, and program evaluation.

Ying Jin (Ph.D., 2013, University of Miami)

Jones Hall 308

615.898.2320

Ying.Jin@mtsu.edu

I am interested in item response theory, differential item functioning, and structural equation modeling.

Jwa K. Kim (Ph.D., 1989, University of Oklahoma)

COE 321

615.904.8419

Jwa.Kim@mtsu.edu

My research areas include:

- 1) Differential Item Functioning (DIF) and Person-Fit indices in both dichotomous and polytomous item response theory (IRT);
- 2) Application of multivariate data analysis methods to psychological and behavioral data;
- 3) Development of religiosity scales and validation of them in different cultures.

Michael Hein (Ph.D., 1990, Georgia Institute of Technology)

Jones Hall 323

615.898.2127

Michael.Hein@mtsu.edu

My research areas include measurement and validation of personality and work related values.

Resources Available

University Writing Center

The University Writing Center provides writing assistance for all students at no charge. They also have a research/thesis writing group in which students can receive feedback from others. A complete list of the services they provide is available at <http://www.mtsu.edu/writing-center/>. Check them out!

Technological Training

The Information Technology Division offers training to **graduate assistants** at no charge. Go to <http://mtsu.edu/itd/workshops.php> for a list of topics and support provided.

The Learning, Teaching, and Innovative Technologies Center offers a graduate teaching assistant teaching preparation certificate program. Information is available at <http://mtsu.edu/ltanditc/GraduateTeachingCertificateProgram.php>

Free Statistical Software

A list of free statistical software is available at <http://capone.mtsu.edu/dkfuller/>.

Computer Labs

University computer labs are available for all students, faculty, and staff with a current MTSU ID. The labs are listed below.

University Computer Lab, College of Business
(contains link to s-drive)
Business and Aerospace Bldg., S137

View the university computer lab open hours at <http://www.mtsu.edu/businesslab/>.

(615) 898-5515

Walker Library
SAS and SPSS are on computers in the library.

View the library open hours at <https://library.mtsu.edu/home>.

(615) 898-2817

The **Quantitative Psychology** computer lab is located in Jones Hall 315. All quantitative students may use it. The computers have specialized IRT and statistical software not available elsewhere. Contact Dr. Fuller or Dr. Jin for access.

Degree Requirements

Admission Requirements

Admission to the Master of Arts in Psychology with a concentration in Quantitative Psychology requires

1. an earned bachelor's degree from an accredited university or college;
2. an acceptable grade point average in all college work taken (generally 3.00 or higher);
3. an acceptable score on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)—generally a minimum of 291 (current scale) or 900 (former scale) on the combined Verbal and Quantitative sections is expected.

NOTE: *Students who do not meet admission requirements may be admitted conditionally to a specific concentration. Students admitted conditionally must maintain a 3.25 GPA in their first semester (9 hours minimum) of required graduate courses in their concentration areas.*

Pre-Requisites/Co-Requisites

Candidates must demonstrate knowledge of the core areas of psychology by completing the following courses at *either the undergraduate or graduate level*. MTSU courses that would meet the core requirement are listed below each core area. Students lacking knowledge in a core area need only take one course from those listed within the core area.

<p>Basic statistics PSY 3020-Basic statistics for behavioral sciences</p> <p>Research methods PSY 3070 & 3071-Research Methods & Lab PSY 4080/5080</p> <p>Group measurement/testing PSY 4260/5260-Introduction to Psychological Testing</p> <p>Abnormal, personality, social, or developmental psychology PSY 2210-Psychology of Social Behavior PSY 2300-Developmental Psychology PSY 3230/5230-Abnormal Psychology PSY 3590-Personality PSY 4190-Child Psychology PSY 4210/5210-Adolescent Psychology PSY 4610/5610-Adult Psychology and Aging PSY 6020-Theories of Personality PSY 6030-Current Topics in Personality PSY 6120-Developmental Psy: Child PSY 6130-Developmental Psy: Adolescent PSY 6410-Development Across the Lifespan</p>	<p>Learning, cognition, brain and behavior, or sensation and perception PSY 2190- Human Brain, Behavior and Consciousness PSY 4040-Introduction to Cognitive Psychology PSY 4480/5480-Learning Theories PSY 4030/5030-Psychology of Sensation and Perception PSY 4240/5240-Behavioral Neuroscience PSY 4780/5780-Human Neuropsychology PSY 6190-Advanced Cognitive Psychology</p>
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Requirements for the Non-Thesis Track

Students must complete a minimum of 36 semester hours, including at least 30 hours in psychology. Only 30 percent of the total number of hours may be dually listed (5000- level meeting in conjunction with 4000- or 3000-level) courses.

Required Courses (30 Hours)

COURSE	Title	Hours	Usually Offered
PSY 6210/7210	Advanced Psychometrics	3	Spring
PSY 6280	Psychological Statistics: Regression	3	Fall, Summer
PSY 6290	Psychological Statistics: Anova	3	Spring
PSY 6460	Factor Analysis	3	Fall
PSY 6560	Computer-based Statistical Packages	3	Fall
PSY 6565/7565	Behavioral Statistics Using R	3	Spring
PSY 6575/7575	Multilevel Analysis	3	Spring
PSY 6580/7580	Multivariate Data Analysis	3	Fall
PSY 6490	Practicum: Quantitative	6	Fall, Spring, Summer

Students must take 6 elective credits in addition to the required courses. The courses may be in psychology or related areas with the permission of the Quantitative Psychology Program Coordinator.

Electives (6 Hours)

COURSE	Title	Hours

Additional Requirements

- Meet with the Quantitative Program Coordinator and complete a degree plan (<http://www.mtsu.edu/graduate/degreeplan.php>). File the degree plan with the Graduate Office before the end of the first semester.
- Pass a written comprehensive examination over quantitative course work. The comprehensive examination may be taken no more than twice. Students register for comprehensive exams after successfully completing their required quantitative courses.
- All of the requirements for the degree must be completed within 6 years from the day you begin classes.

Requirements for the Thesis Track

Students must complete a minimum of 36 semester hours, including at least 30 hours in psychology. Only 30 percent of the total number of hours may be dually listed (5000- level meeting in conjunction with 4000- or 3000-level) courses.

Required Courses (30 Hours)

COURSE	Title	Hours	Usually Offered
PSY 6210/7210	Advanced Psychometrics	3	Spring
PSY 6280	Psychological Statistics: Regression	3	Fall, Summer
PSY 6290	Psychological Statistics: Anova	3	Spring
PSY 6460	Factor Analysis	3	Fall
PSY 6560	Computer-based Statistical Packages	3	Fall
PSY 6565/7565	Behavioral Statistics Using R	3	Spring
PSY 6575/7575	Multilevel Analysis	3	Spring
PSY 6580/7580	Multivariate Data Analysis	3	Fall
PSY 6640	Thesis	3	Fall, Spring, Summer
PSY 6660	Literature Review & Reading in PSY: Quantitative	3	Fall, Spring, Summer

Students must take 6 elective credits in addition to the required courses. The courses may be in psychology or related areas with the permission of the Quantitative Psychology Program Coordinator.

Electives (6 Hours)

COURSE	Title	Hours

Additional Requirements

- Meet with the Quantitative Program Coordinator and complete a degree plan (<http://www.mtsu.edu/graduate/degreeplan.php>). File the degree plan with the Graduate Office before the end of the first semester.
- Pass a written comprehensive examination over quantitative course work. The comprehensive examination may be taken no more than twice. Students register for comprehensive exams after successfully completing their required quantitative courses.
- Successfully write and orally present a written thesis evaluated by a committee of psychology faculty in conjunction with PSY 6640.
- All of the requirements for the degree must be completed within 6 years from the day you begin classes.

Recommended Electives for All Quantitative Students

6 Credit Hours from the Courses Listed Below.

COURSE ID	Course Title	Hours
PSY 6480	Advanced Topics in Quantitative Psychology	3
BIA 6905	Applied Business Analytics	3
BIA 6910	Business Intelligence	3
BIA 6920	Data Mining and Predictive Analytics	3
QM 6770	Computer-Based Decision Modeling	3
INFS 5790	Database Design Development	3
INFS 5830	Database Programming	3
INFS 6620	Advanced Computer Applications for Business	3
INFS 6790	Seminar in Database Management	3
INFS 6810	Big Data for Analytics	3
STAT 6510	Biostatistical Methods	3
STAT 6520	Advanced Biostatistical Methods	3

Other courses may be used as electives if approved by the Quantitative Psychology Program Coordinator.

Recommended Course Sequence

A recommended sequence of courses has been developed, but a different sequence may be recommended on a case-by-case basis (for example, if you are part-time or have numerous prerequisites). Some courses are prerequisites for other courses and should be taken early in your program of study. Your advisor will be able to help you develop your plan of study. A current schedule of quantitative psychology courses is listed below. Classes in other departments that might be relevant to your interest (computer information systems, statistics, etc.) are not listed on the schedule.

It is recommended that you maintain notebooks and retain textbooks from all of your required classes to aid you in studying for the comprehensive exam and as the beginning of your professional library.

If you need or desire to maintain full-time student status in the summer, you should pay close attention to the schedule. In general, few 6000 level classes are offered in the summer. Some 5000-level classes and program prerequisites may be offered in the summer.

Caution: Staffing issues may require changes to the course sequencing.

Recommended Course Sequence for Non-Thesis Track

Year 1		Year 2	
Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
PSY 6280, Regression	PSY 6290, ANOVA	PSY 6460, Factor Analysis	PSY 6210, Advanced Psychometrics or PSY 6575 Multilevel Modeling
PSY 6560, SAS	PSY 6210, Advanced Psychometrics or PSY 6575 Multilevel Modeling	PSY 6580, Multivariate	Practicum (3)
Elective		Elective or Practicum (3)	
Join LinkedIn and MTSU Quant Psych Group	PSY 6565, R Programming	Update Resume and Letter of Introduction	Elective or Practicum (3) Take Comps

Note. Students who did not have the group measurement/testing class at the undergraduate level should take PSY 5260 as their elective for Fall Year 1 (i.e., first semester) because it is a prerequisite for PSY 6210.

Recommended Course Sequence for Thesis Track

Year 1		Year 2	
Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
PSY 6280, Regression	PSY 6290, ANOVA	PSY 6460, Factor Analysis	PSY 6210, Advanced Psychometrics or PSY 6575 Multilevel Modeling
PSY 6560, SAS	PSY 6210, Advanced Psychometrics or PSY 6575 Multilevel Modeling	PSY 6660: Lit Review	PSY 6640, Thesis
Elective		PSY 6580, Multivariate	Elective
Join LinkedIn and MTSU Quant Psych Group	PSY 6565, R Programming	Update Vita and Letter of Introduction	Take Comps

Note. Students who did not have the group measurement/testing class at the undergraduate level should take PSY 5260 as their elective for Fall Year 1 (i.e., first semester) because it is a prerequisite for PSY 6210.

Degree Plan

A degree plan is an official record of your program of study. A graduate records analyst compares it to your transcript to make sure that you have met all of your requirements for graduation. You must file a degree plan prior to the start of your first semester. The electives you take **must be approved** by the program coordinator. Once complete, both you and the coordinator must sign it. The form is submitted to the Graduate Office. They will send a copy to you and to your advisor.

If your program of study changes in any way, you must file a revision to candidacy form with the Graduate School. The quantitative coordinator must approve the change(s). In some cases, the department chair also will need to approve the change(s). The candidacy revision form must be filed with the graduate office.

The forms are available at <http://mtsu.edu/graduate/forms.php>.

Comprehensive Exams

When to Register. You should plan to take comps when you have successfully completed all of the **quantitative courses** (excluding thesis and practicum). In general, students will not be permitted to take comps until the quantitative courses have been completed. An exception may be granted if a student has successfully completed at least 6 of the courses that are covered by comps **AND** the student is enrolled in the remaining required course(s) the semester comps is taken. Students granted an exception will still be held accountable for all the content covered on the comps study guide.

How to Register. Comprehensive exams (comps) are offered once each semester (fall, spring, and summer). Information about the registration deadline and the registration form are available online at <http://www.mtsu.edu/psychology/grad/masterexam.php>.

If you have a disability that may require assistance or accommodation, you need to contact the comps **coordinator** (Dr. Ujcich Ward, Kimberly.ward@mtsu.edu) **when you sign up for comps**. The comps coordinator will require a letter from the Disability and Access Center, (615) 898-2783, verifying the disability and addressing the accommodation(s) that need to be made.

Format. Comps are administered on a Saturday. You are given four hours to complete the exam. Once you have finished, you turn in the exam. It generally takes around two weeks for your grade to be reported. The length of time between taking your comps and receiving your grade will vary, however, according to how many people take comps.

Content Covered. Comps questions are derived from the required courses. A study guide for comps is available from <http://capone.mtsu.edu/dkfuller/quant/comps.pdf>. It may be useful to obtain a study guide early in your program in order to familiarize yourself with the types of questions that are asked on the exam. You should, however, obtain a current study guide before you start studying for the exam because the questions are periodically changed. Updated study guides will be available within two weeks after the start of the semester.

Grading Criteria. There are three possible grading outcomes--see below.

Pass Comps. Students must have 70% or higher for a total score **and** must have 70% or higher on at least 5 of the sections.

Fail Comps, Retake Failed Sections on Second Attempt

Students who have 70% or higher for a total score but do not have 70% or higher on at least 5 of the sections must retake comps. Students will be tested over the failed sections on the second attempt. Section scores on the second attempt replace failed section scores from the first attempt and the total score is recalculated.

Fail Comps, Retake All Sections on Second Attempt

Students who have a total score below 70% must retake all sections on the second attempt. The total score is based only on the second attempt results.

Students automatically will be allowed to attempt comps a second time. A second failure of comps generally results in termination from the program.

Re-enrollment and Leave of Absence from the University

Once admitted to the Quantitative Program, a student must enroll every semester (excluding summers). If a student has broken continuous enrollment (i.e., not enrolled in a fall or spring semester), the student must apply to be readmitted to the quantitative program. Readmission to the Quantitative Program is not automatically granted.

Thesis

One aspect of being a professional is keeping up to date on the research developments in quantitative psychology. In order to do that, you need to understand research methods. The thesis project is designed to ensure that you gain first hand experience with research methods used by quantitative psychologists and psychometricians.

The thesis is a research project that you will carry out under the direct supervision of a faculty member. The thesis is not a "class" (it will not meet in a classroom on a regular basis), and you will not be assigned a thesis advisor. Rather, a thesis project is a study that a faculty member and a student agree to work together on. It is recommended that during your first semester you begin to think about what you would like to do for a thesis and which faculty members you might be interested in working with. Feel free to discuss with faculty members their areas of interest and research.

You must register for thesis (PSY 6640) every semester you are working on it; however, only 3 credits will count toward your degree. You may register for 1 to 3 credits each semester, AND once you've begun your thesis you must enroll for at least 1 credit of thesis every semester until you graduate.

Do not register for thesis (PSY 6640) without the approval of the faculty member who will be supervising you. If you are signed up for thesis credits, you need to have contact with your advisor on a regular basis and put in the number of hours that are commensurate with your thesis credits. If you sign up for thesis credits and do not meet with your advisor and/or do not put in the required amount of work you may receive a "U" for thesis. *We urge you to consult with your thesis advisor about his/her expectations for the number of hours you need to work on your thesis each week. It is best if you and your advisor establish a 'contract' as to how you will be graded for a thesis OR any independent study course.*

A written thesis proposal has to be approved by your thesis advisor, a second committee member and a critical reader. **Your thesis advisor or your committee member must be from the quantitative program.** After the proposal is approved, the thesis study is conducted and the thesis is written. The finished thesis must be approved by your advisor and committee member and typed in accordance with graduate office guidelines and current APA format. **The finished thesis also must be formally presented, either at a research conference or before the psychology faculty.** The graduate college has travel awards of up to \$500 to cover the student's cost of presenting the paper at a research conference <http://www.mtsu.edu/graduate/pdf/StuTravelAppl.pdf>

Will you be using a pre-existing data set or collecting data on humans? Approval by MTSU's Institutional Review Board (IRB) is required before any data may be collected for research using human subjects—including the use of pre-existing data sets based on research with humans. This is to ensure

compliance with ethical guidelines. Researchers must complete the online **Human Subjects Protection Training** (<http://www.mtsu.edu/irb/requirements.php>) and then submit IRB materials to the MTSU IRB Committee (<http://www.mtsu.edu/irb>). See your advisor before collecting any data involving human subjects.

How long does it take to receive MTSU IRB approval? During the regular academic year, expedited reviews generally are completed four to six weeks after submission. Proposals for full review are considered once a month. Proposals are due two weeks before the meeting. Consult with your thesis chair or the website above to find out the exact dates for the semester for which you want to submit your proposal. It is best to have your proposal reviewed during the regular academic year. Obtaining IRB approval is less predictable in the summer and will generally take longer. The procedures for obtaining full review vary from summer to summer. If you are conducting research at another institution, that institution also will have to give approval. You need to take into account that each place has its own procedures and time for approval may vary.

A Caution about Schedules and Deadlines

- Committees usually require changes to the proposal or to the thesis before approving it.
- Faculty members have varying schedules in the summer and take their vacations at different times. Additionally, some faculty members are generally not on campus during the summer. Plan accordingly.
- The library is not open as much over the various university breaks.

Dates for the thesis to be submitted to the graduate office vary from semester to semester. See <http://mtsu.edu/graduate/student/calendar.php> for the specific date.

MTSU Thesis Manual & Thesis Checklist

The graduate college has prepared a thesis manual and thesis checklist. Both are available at <http://mtsu.edu/graduate/student/thesis.php>. Students are required to follow the specified format for their theses.

Thesis Binding Fee

Students will be required to pay a thesis binding fee before submitting their thesis to the graduate college. Additional information is available at <http://www.mtsu.edu/psychology/grad/thesis.php>.

Additional Information

The psychology department website has additional information about the thesis process. See <http://www.mtsu.edu/psychology/grad/thesis.php#a2> for additional details.

Practicum

The practicum requirement is designed to ensure that all non-thesis students have experience in an organizational environment and have an opportunity, under supervision, to apply the skills they are learning in the program. Although you have to register for a total of 6 credit hours of practicum at some point in your program, a practicum is not a class. A practicum is a practical experience or project consisting of **a minimum of 150 hours of work per 3 credit hour practicum** in an applied setting.

It is the student who has primary responsibility for finding his/her own practicum. Faculty support these efforts by providing announcements via email about potential positions. Students find additional leads through the MTSU Career and Employment Center (<http://www.mtsu.edu/career/>) and by networking with our alumni. Some students choose to complete a practicum on campus (e.g., MTEngage). The key advantage of a campus practicum is the schedule flexibility; the disadvantage is that campus practica often are unpaid or paid at a lower rate than in the corporate world.

Practica may be paid or unpaid. Long-term paid positions may also be referred to as internships. An internship (or full time job) can fulfill the practicum requirement— Contact the quantitative program coordinator to request approval. Approval is not guaranteed. Practica occur after you have taken some of the courses that give you skills to apply on the job. Thus, practica typically take place during the second year of the program. Students who want to obtain a job after earning their master's degree rather than continuing on to a doctoral program may want to seek out more than one practicum or internship experience in order to get a broader range of experience.

If you hold a quantitative related job while you are a student in the program, you may be able to obtain practicum credit for that experience. For it to count, you must (1) enroll in the practicum course, (2) complete a minimum of 150 hours per 3 hour practicum, (3) turn in a report of your practicum experience, and (4) have your supervisor submit an evaluation of your practicum performance. Contact the quantitative program coordinator to request approval. Approval is not guaranteed.

Students are encouraged to develop a resume during their first semester (even if you do not feel you have much to put on it). This resume should be kept in electronic format and updated every semester. If opportunities for internships or practica arise, students may need to have a formal resume ready in a short time. The career center (<http://www.mtsu.edu/career/>) or the quantitative faculty can provide guidance on the resume.

Intent to Graduate Form

As stated in the Graduate Catalog: an Intent to Graduate Form is available <http://mtsu.edu/graduate/forms.php>. The deadline for filing the Intent to Graduate form is listed on <http://mtsu.edu/graduate/student/calendar.php>. Note, it must be filed by the start of the semester in which the student intends to graduate. Students must also pay graduation fees at the Business Office, and complete the College of Graduate Studies exit survey. Details are included in the Intent to Graduate Guidelines handout (see link above).

Professional Organizations

Students interested in presenting their research at a regional or national conference should investigate the annual meetings for each of the professional organizations listed below.

MTSU Psychology Club and Psi Chi

The Psychology Club includes the local Psi Chi student chapter. Dr. Tom Brinthaup is currently the faculty advisor to this student organization. This club may be particularly of interest to students considering continuing their education to the Ph.D. level. Visit their website at <http://mtsupsihi.webs.com/>.

American Educational Research Association

<http://www.aera.net/>

Submission Deadline (estimated): End of October

Annual Convention Date: Mid-April

The AERA conference has an entire week of quantitative papers and workshops. The web site has relevant job ads for quantitative psychologists and psychometricians. Division D of AERA specializes in Measurement and Research Methodology.

American Psychological Association

<http://www.apa.org/>

Submission Deadline: December 1

Annual Convention Date: Mid-August

Division 5 of APA specializes in Measurement, Statistics, and Evaluation. You may want to subscribe to their listserv or to join as a student affiliate, www.apa.org/divisions/div5/.

American Psychological Society

<http://www.psychologicalscience.org/>

Submission Deadline: January 31

Annual Convention Date: May

Southwestern Psychological Association

www.swpsych.org

Submission Deadline: Mid-November

Conference Date: Mid-April

Mid-South Educational Research Association

<http://www.msera.org/>

Submission Deadline: Mid-July

Conference Date: November

Middle Tennessee Psychologists Association

<http://capone.mtsu.edu/wlangsto/MTPAHome.html>

Submission Deadline: Approximately 2 weeks before annual meeting

Annual Meeting Date: April

Midwestern Psychological Association

<http://www.midwesternpsych.org/>

Submission Deadline: November 1

Conference Date: May

Conference Location: Chicago, IL

Southeastern Psychological Association

<http://www.sepaonline.com/>

Submission Deadline: Mid-October

Conference Date: Mid-March

SAS Global Forum

<http://www.sasglobalforum.com>

Conference Date: Mid-April

Southeast SAS Users Group (SESUG)

<http://sesug.org/SESUG2018/index.php>

Conference Date: October

Administrative Points

Students should familiarize themselves with the Graduate Catalog at the time of admission into the program. Additionally, students need to ensure that they are officially admitted into the program and have filed a degree plan with the Office of Graduate Studies by the end of their first year. While you may discuss your program of study with any faculty member, it must be formally approved by the Quantitative Psychology Program Coordinator. Once your Candidacy Form has been filed, any changes must be approved by the Program Coordinator and filed with the Office of Graduate Studies.

If you were admitted to the program conditionally, you need to make sure that your program of study and your grades fulfill all the conditions of your admission. Conditionally admitted students are advised to take no more than nine hours a semester.

Academic Common Market

The Academic Common Market allows out-of-state students who are admitted to approved academic programs to pay in-state tuition while attending MTSU. The list of programs available through the ACM is updated by higher education representatives from participating states and is periodically subject to change.

Eligibility Requirements

In order to participate in the ACM:

- A student must apply to MTSU and be accepted unconditionally.
- Then, the student will provide their ACM home state coordinator with proof of acceptance and verification of the major field of study.
- The ACM home state coordinator will then make a final decision regarding eligibility and notify MTSU in writing.
- When the certificate of eligibility is received by MTSU, the student will be charged at the in-state tuition rate.

To retain in-state benefits:

- The student must enroll continuously at MTSU for Fall and Spring semesters.
- The student must remain in the approved ACM major.
- The student must maintain a permanent address in the state certifying eligibility.

Quantitative psychology students whose permanent residence is **Kentucky** or **Alabama** are currently eligible for in-state tuition (<http://www.mtsu.edu/acm/graduate.php>).

Quantitative psychology students whose permanent residence is a state listed below should contact your state ACM coordinator for approval of the program. Your state coordinator retains the right to make a final decision regarding your eligibility. Contact the Graduate Studies Office if you have questions. See also <http://www.mtsu.edu/acm/index.php>.

Academic Common Market State Coordinators

ACM States and Coordinators

Alabama	Alabama Commission on Higher Education	paul.mohr@ache.alabama.gov
Arkansas	Arkansas Department of Higher Education	Alana.Boles@adhe.edu
Delaware	Delaware Higher Education Commission	Juliet.Murwaski@doe.k12.de.us
Florida*	Board of Governors, State University System of Florida	Catherine.Oakley@flbog.edu
Georgia	Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia	Deborah.sullivan@usg.edu
Kentucky	Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education	Kathy.Garrett@ky.gov
Louisiana	Louisiana Board of Regents	Kathy.Hoyt@Regents.LA.Gov
Maryland	Maryland Higher Education Commission	Jacqueline.Cade@maryland.gov
Mississippi	Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning	gmler@mississippi.edu
Oklahoma	Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education	sbeauchamp@osrhe.edu
South Carolina	South Carolina Commission on Higher Education	scarr@che.sc.gov
Tennessee	Tennessee Higher Education Commission	Herbert.J.Brown@tn.gov
Texas*	Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board	Allen.Michie@thecb.state.tx.us
Virginia	State Council of Higher Education for Virginia	acm@schev.edu
West Virginia	Higher Education Policy Commission	Mark.Stotler@wvhepc.edu

Regional Scholars Program

The MTSU Regional Scholars Program allows select non-Tennessee resident students who live within approximately 250 miles to attend MTSU at a reduced rate.

In order to qualify the student must have a documented permanent residence located in a county within a 250 mile radius of MTSU.

Students who qualify will receive a reduced tuition rate equal to approximately 44% off the standard out of state rate (instate tuition + roughly \$235 per credit hour).

Financial Aid & Graduate Assistantships

Financial assistance is extremely limited for master's students. However, those desiring assistance should apply directly to the Office of Student Financial Aid, 212 Cope Administration Building, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN 37132; phone number, 615-898-2830.

Graduate Assistantships in the Psychology Department

The department has a limited number of **graduate assistantships** available. Students are not automatically considered for an assistantship. **There is a separate application process from the application for graduate school.** Details about the assistantship and the application process are available at <http://www.mtsu.edu/psychology/grad/assistantship.php>. **March 1** is the submission deadline for the fall

semester. **October 1** is the submission deadline for the spring semester. Failure to submit all the materials on time may jeopardize your chances for being hired.

Graduate Assistantships Offered by MTSU Non-Academic Offices

The following MTSU offices have graduate assistantship positions. However, this does not mean there are assistantships available at any given time. Students can check with the individual offices about whether they have graduate assistantship positions available by calling those offices directly at the telephone numbers given below.

Office	Contact Person	Contact Information
Dyslexic Studies	Erin Alexander	615-494-8884
Information Technology Division	Barbara Draude	615-904-8383
Center for Educational Media	Laura Clark	615-898-5191
Learning Teaching and Innovative Technology Center	Tom Brinthaup	615-494-7676
Office of Compliance	Moses Prabu	Moses.Parbu@mtsu.edu

Scholarships

Psychology Department

The Prytula Scholarship, in the amount of \$500, will be awarded each Spring. Applications will be made available in the main Psychology Office located in Jones Hall 103. For application information, please contact Dr. Ujcich Ward (Kimberly.ward@mtsu.edu).

Scholarships Available through the College of Graduate Studies

There are scholarships for graduate students available through the College of Graduate Studies. Information about these and other possible scholarships, including deadlines and application forms, is available online at <http://www.mtsu.edu/graduate/student/scholarship.php>.