

## **Master of Science in General Psychology**

### **Admission Requirements**

Admission to the Master of Science in General Psychology program requires that a student has completed a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited academic institution with a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale). The General Test score of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) taken within the past 5 years is also required. Official reports of the GRE score must be sent directly to IPS from the Educational Testing Service (school code 5639). The applicant must submit three (3) letters of recommendation from individuals capable of evaluating academic preparedness for graduate work in psychology, philosophy, and theology.

The IPS recommends, but does not require, that applicants complete a minimum of 18 credit hours of coursework in basic psychology content areas (e.g., abnormal, developmental, experimental, physiological and social psychology, statistics, tests and measures, learning and motivation, or personality theory) prior to entering the program. However, applicants with little or no previous coursework in psychology will be considered for admission. If admitted, such applicants will be required to take additional coursework offered by the Institute during the first year of their program to make up for these deficiencies.

In addition, given the Institute's aim to integrate subject matter on the nature of the person from the Catholic philosophical and theological tradition into our psychology curriculum, all students are required to complete four courses in the areas of theology and philosophy. These courses are not ancillary to the Students who apply therefore should be prepared to undertake these rigorous graduate-level studies in philosophy and theology in areas relevant to psychology. For those with no formal education in theology or philosophy, we highly recommend as preparation for studies at the Institute that you familiarize yourself with the general content of the following ecclesiastical texts:

From Vatican II:

Lumen gentium, Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (1964)

Dei verbum, Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (1965)

Gaudium et spes, Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (1965)

Dignitatis humanae, Declaration on Religious Liberty (1965)

Apostolicam actuositatem, Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity (1965)

From the Papal Writings

Pius XI: Casti Connubii, On Christian Marriage (1930)

Paul VI: Humanae Vitae, On the Regulation of Birth (1968)

John Paul II:

o Redemptor hominis, On the Redeemer of Man (1979)

o Veritatis splendor, On Fundamental Questions on the Church's Moral Teaching (1993)

o Evangelium vitae, On the Value and Inviolability of Human Life (1995)

o Fides et ratio, On the Relationship between Faith and Reason (1998)

o Ecclesia de eucharistia, On the Eucharist in its Relationship to the Church (2003)

o Theology of the Body, Part One: "Original Unity of Man and Woman," "Blessed are the Pure of Heart."

Applicants whose native language is not English must have taken the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) within the past two years and obtained equivalent scores of 600 on the paper and pencil version, or 250 on the computerized version, or 100 internet-based. The Institute also accepts the International English Language Test System (IELTS) with an overall band score of 7.0 on the academic IELTS with no individual band scores below 6.0.

Applicants holding degrees from institutions outside of the United States must arrange to have these transcripts translated and evaluated course-by-course. In addition to the official copy of each International Transcript, the Office of Admissions must receive the official "Course-by-Course Evaluation" directly from an approved evaluation service (ex. [www.wes.org](http://www.wes.org) or [www.ece.org](http://www.ece.org)).

In considering applicants to the M.S. in General Psychology degree program, the following factors are considered: cumulative undergraduate GPA (as well as graduate GPA if available), GRE scores, letters of recommendation, answers to essays on the application, and TOEFL or IELTS scores (where applicable).

In some cases, personal interviews may be required to determine the suitability of a given applicant for the M.S. in General Psychology Program. In cases where a personal interview is necessary and it presents a prohibitive hardship because of distance or other extenuating circumstances, the applicant to the Master of Science in General Psychology degree program may petition to have the in-person interview requirement waived and conducted by telephone.