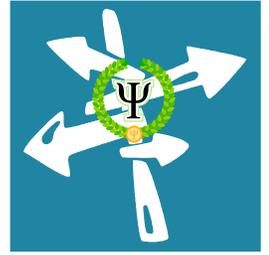




**PSY 385 (01):
GRAD SCHOOL PREPARATION SEMINAR I**

**Alicia Nordstrom, Ph.D.
Misericordia University
College of Professional Studies and Social Sciences
Spring, 2014**



**Wednesdays 5:00-5:50 pm
Mercy Hall 403**

Instructor Contact Information:

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General Course Information:

Credits: 0 credit

Catalog Description: This course is designed for juniors or seniors majoring Psychology who are planning on applying to graduate programs. The course will walk students through the beginning aspects of the application process including solidifying their career choice, searching for accredited graduate programs in their field of choice, preparing and taking the GRE, and planning for necessary coursework during their last year.

Prerequisites: Students must have a declared major in Psychology and be a junior or senior.

Course Goals and Objectives:

Each course in the Psychology department strives to attain the ten primary goals set by American Psychological Association *Guidelines for the Undergraduate Psychology Major* (APA, 2007). The following goal is targeted and assessed in this course:

APA Goal 10: Career Planning and Development: Pursue realistic ideas about how to implement their psychological knowledge, skills, and values in occupational pursuits in a variety of settings that meet personal goals and societal needs.

- linked to MU Goal #9: Succeed in their academic disciplines
- linked to MU Goal #10: Pursue lifelong learning

APA learning objectives for this goal:

10.1 Apply knowledge of psychology (e.g., decision strategies, life span processes, psychological assessment, types of psychological careers) when formulating career choices.

10.2 Identify the types of academic experience and performance in psychology and the liberal arts that will facilitate entry into the workforce, postbaccalaureate education, or both.

10.3 Describe preferred career paths based on accurate self-assessment of abilities, achievement, motivation, and work habits.

COURSE GOALS (linked to Program Goal 10 and University Goals 9 & 10):

1. To provide psychology majors with information and skills about the process of applying to graduate school.
2. To assist students with the final stages of decision making of their career goals.
3. To provide students with guidance on how to best plan the rest of their coursework to prepare them for graduate school.
4. To provide students with study tips, strategies, and practice opportunities for the GRE.
5. To discuss the role of research in Psychology careers and graduate school applications.

COURSE OBJECTIVES (linked to Program Goal 10 and University Goals 9 & 10):

1. Identify, and narrow down, the career goals they might like to pursue.
2. Use resources to evaluate the pragmatic aspects of different Psychology careers.
 - a. *Measured by career short list*
3. Write a personal statement that describes why they are pursuing their chosen career path.
 - *Measured by career personal statement*
4. Complete practice tests of the verbal, math, and Psychology forms of the GRE.
5. Write a study plan to prepare for the GRE based upon feedback on their practice tests.
 - *Measured by completion of GRE practice tests and GRE study plan*
6. Develop a plan for future coursework that best prepares them for graduate school.
 - *Measured by coursework plan*

Academic integrity: According to Misericordia University policies, any form of cheating or dishonesty is considered a violation of institutional policy and will result in academic penalties. Academic dishonesty encompasses a range of intentional or unintentional activities including fraud, plagiarism, cheating, lying, deception, harming the work of others, and any failure to cite all materials and sources used in one's work. Plagiarism is taking credit for, or representing as one's own work, anything that is the ideas, words, or property of someone else including classmates, published authors, internet contributors, etc. Students are responsible for clearly

and properly documenting the sources that inform their work according to the format specified in the Fifth Edition of the American Psychological Association's *Publication Manual* (APA, 2001). Students are also responsible for effectively paraphrasing information from another source so that the information is explained in the student's words and not the words of the original source, even if properly documented. Violations of the Academic Integrity Policy may result in sanctions which include (but are not limited to), a failing grade on assignment (0 points), failing grade in a course, and/or removal from the college program. This information was gathered from <http://www.misericordia.edu/catalog/4137.htm> and students are encouraged to consult this website for more information

Special accommodations: As stated in the University policies, "Misericordia University does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, color, disability, religion, gender, nationality, marital status, sexual orientation, or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic, or other university-administered programs." (see <http://www.misericordia.edu/catalog/4070.htm> for more information). Students with special needs or accommodations should tell the instructor as soon as possible.

Course Requirements:

This course is graded on a pass/fail basis and each assignment will be evaluated as "P" or "F".

1. **Meetings:** Students will meet for 8 sessions throughout the semester for informational classes, workshops, and GRE practice tests. Student attendance is mandatory and students are allowed to miss ONE class period without a point-deduction on their grade. The attendance grade will be calculated from the # of classes attended/total # of classes and converted into a ratio of 20 points.
2. **Assignments:** The rest of the student's grade will be determined from the completion of the following assignments.
 - a) **Career short list:** students will write a 1-2 page essay describing three possible career goals they are interested in pursuing. Students should explain their choices, identify strengths and weaknesses of each career, and discuss the graduate study needed to achieve this career goal.
 - b) **Practice GRE/Plan of Study:** all students (regardless of the criteria of their graduate programs) will complete a practice GRE for verbal, math, and Psychology. Students will receive feedback from testing professionals and write a "plan of study" to prepare for the actual GRE.
 - c) **Coursework plan:** students will write a reaction to the career dinner and plan of their remaining coursework before graduation. Specifically, students will address their plan for Practicum or Independent Research, job shadowing, summer opportunities, and how to use elective courses to best prepare them for graduate school.

Grade Breakdown

<u>Item</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Attendance	20	20%
Career short list	20	20%
Practice GREs	30	30%
GRE plan of study	15	15%
<u>Coursework plan</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>15%</u>
Total	100	100%

Students will receive an “S” for satisfactory if they earn 75 points or above and a “U” for unsatisfactory if they earn 74 points or less.

Course Schedule & Readings

DATE	TOPIC
Feb. 5	Introduction and “planning your future” exercise
Feb. 12	Careers and graduate programs in Psychology <i>Assignment: career short list (due to Blackboard by March 19)</i>
Feb. 26	GRE test taking strategies (Kaplan presentation)
March	Practice GRE test (schedule time and date with Insalaco Career Center staff – MUST BE COMPLETED BY APRIL 1)
March 19	Take Practice GRE Psychology test <i>Career short list due to Blackboard</i>
March 27 (Thursday at 5pm)	“What to do with your degree” dinner (meet in McGowan Room, Library)
April 2	Career dinner and GRE debriefing <i>Assignment: develop “plan of study” for GRE (due to Blackboard on April 23)</i>
April 23	Preparing for the graduate school search <i>GRE Plan of study due to blackboard</i> <i>Assignment: write coursework plan (due to Blackboard by April 30)</i>
April 30	<i>Coursework plan due to Blackboard</i>