

**Checklist for Cognition and Cognitive Neuroscience Graduate Students**  
**Psychological Sciences PhD Program**  
**Vanderbilt University**

Updated 7/15/2020

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

All students must familiarize themselves with the rules and regulations outlined in the [Graduate Student Handbook for Psychological Sciences](#).

This checklist should in no way be seen as a substitute for a careful reading of the Graduate Student Handbook.

**General Psychological Science Requirements-Everyone must complete**

8861 (P): Statistical Inference (3)

6104 (A&S): Quant Methods/Exp Design (3) or 8864 (P): Experimental Design & Statistics (3)

6300 (A&S): Research Seminar (1)

**Breadth Requirements**

One (1) course from three (3) of the following areas of specialization (total of 9 credit hours) must be taken regardless of specialization. Note that you may *not* use a course listed in multiple categories to satisfy more than one requirement (a course taken to satisfy general or program requirements cannot be used to satisfy the breadth requirement). See Appendix A in your *Graduate Student Handbook* for qualifying courses in each category.

<u>Categories</u>	<u>Semester/Year Completed</u>	<u>Course Completed</u>
A. Clinical Psychology	_____	_____
B. Cognition and Cognitive Neuroscience	_____	_____
C. Developmental Psychology	_____	_____
D. Neuroscience/Physiological Psychology	_____	_____
E. Perception	_____	_____
F. Personality and Individual Differences	_____	_____
G. Quantitative Methods and Evaluation	_____	_____
H. Social Psychology	_____	_____

Students must complete 72 hours of graduate work.

24 of these hours must be in formal course and seminar work. This minimum 24 hours does not include research or reading credits (e.g., Psychology 7999 and 9999 in both departments) or area colloquia (e.g., Seminar in Cognition and Cognitive Neuroscience, Seminar in Clinical Science, Seminar in Neuroscience).

**CCN Program Course Requirements**

As a CCN program student, participation is required in the PSY 8557 Seminar in Cognitive and Cognitive Neuroscience. First year students must audit this course. Second and third year students formally enroll for one credit hour.

	<i>1<sup>st</sup> Year</i>	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Year</i>	<i>3<sup>rd</sup> Year</i>
	Audit	Hours	Hours
PSY 8557 Sem: Cognitive Science	Fall _____ Spring _____	Fall _____ Spring _____	Fall _____ Spring _____

**Year 1:** All students in the CCN program are expected to complete a graduate fellowship application in their first year. If they are eligible for funding from an agency, their advisor will determine whether the application should be submitted for review. For U.S. students, this will be an NSF graduate fellowship or an NRSA predoctoral fellowship from the NIH. For Canadian students, this will be an NSERC. For students from other countries, the advisor, area heads, and Director of Graduate Studies will attempt to find other possible sources for fellowship funding.

At the end of the first year, all students will give a brief public presentation of their research at the annual first-year research presentations scheduled for early to mid-May.

**Year 2:** Second year students are expected to present their research at one of the CCN seminars (either in the fall or spring semester of the second year).

### **CCN Program Research Requirements**

1. Complete a research project in each of the first two years.
2. It is the student's responsibility to form an Advisory Committee consisting of three faculty members (including the advisor) from Psychological Sciences and to schedule the meeting. **Advisory Committees must be formed by March 31 each year and a form must be filed with the Department Program Coordinator.** You may have the same committee both years and this committee may serve as the base for your Qualifying and Doctoral committees.
3. The advisor will serve as chair of the Advisory Committee.
4. Advisory Committee meetings **must occur by May 1st** of each of the first two years.
5. **At least one week** before the meeting, students must provide committee members with written evidence of research productivity (typically a research paper).
6. Refer to the [Graduate Student Handbook](#) for full details.

### **Qualifying Examination**

See the graduate student handbook for details on the qualifying exam.

The Qualifying Committee consists of at least four members of the Graduate Faculty with at least three members within the student's home department and at least one faculty member from outside the home department (i.e., either from the other Psychology Department or another Vanderbilt Department). If the outside member is from the other Psychology Department, that person must be from a different area group. **Note that the required 24 hours of course work must be completed prior to scheduling the qualifying examination.**

**The qualifying examination must be held no later than May 1st of the third year.**

Forms to schedule your qualifying examination may be obtained from the Department Program Coordinator.

Rooms may be scheduled in the departmental office.

**Doctoral Dissertation Proposal and Final Defense**

See the graduate student handbook for details on the dissertation proposal and the dissertation defense.

**A Request to Schedule dissertation proposal form should be filed with the Department Program Coordinator at least two (2) weeks prior to the scheduled date.**

**According to Vanderbilt University regulations, the Ph.D. dissertation must be completed and the dissertation defense passed within four years after the student has passed the Qualifying Exam and has been admitted to candidacy for the degree.**

A Request to Schedule Final Defense form must be filed at least 2 weeks prior to scheduled date.

All necessary forms are available from the Department Program Coordinator.