

Human Factors Psychology examines human perception, cognition, and behavior as it relates to work-related activities. The emphasis is on the evaluation and analysis of human performance within the work environment.

The MS Human Factors Program is designed to prepare students to apply knowledge of psychology to the design of jobs, information systems, consumer products, workplaces and equipment in order to improve user performance, safety and comfort.



Students conducting a usability test in CUDA

Human Factors Psychologists work in most major industries including Aerospace, Computer, Telecommunications, Automotive, Software, Web design, Medical, Training, Government and Defense.

The MS Degree in Human Factors at Cal State University Long Beach trains students in the application of human factors through courses in human factors, computer applications and interface design. Special topic seminars complement the core program of study. Finally, students complete a thesis in their chosen area of human factors.

The MS Human Factors program is designed as a terminal degree, but it also provides excellent preparation for students interested in pursuing a Ph.D.

About the Department

The Department of Psychology enrolls over 650 undergraduate and 100 graduate students. Masters programs are offered in Human Factors, Industrial/Organizational and Research Psychology. Most faculty maintain ongoing research programs that actively involve graduate and undergraduate students.

Facilities

The department is located in the Psychology Building. Human factors experience can be obtained in two Centers and many laboratories:

- **The Center for the Study of Advanced Aeronautic Technologies (CSAAT)** is a state-of-the-art facility for research and simulations of advanced air technologies and air traffic management issues. CSAAT collaborates with government and commercial aerospace organizations.
- **The Center for Usability in Design and Accessibility (CUDA)** is a usability-testing laboratory that provides hands-on experience in usability testing and interface design for educational and commercial organizations.



Students observing an airspace simulation in CSAAT

- **Perceptual, cognitive, and neuroscience research laboratories** provide space and equipment for research in auditory and visual perception, cognitive psychology, aviation psychology, and human-computer interaction.

Pre-requisites

- An undergraduate major in either Psychology or another field with 24 units of upper division psychology.
- A minimum grade point average of approximately 3.0 for the last 60 semester units (90 quarter units) and for all Psychology units.
- Psychology courses in intermediate statistics, sensation and perception, cognitive psychology and physiological psychology.

Curriculum

Students complete courses in psychology, mechanical and aerospace engineering and computer science engineering

- Statistical Design and Analysis of Experiments
- Computer Applications in Psychology
- Human Factors
- Seminar in Cognition
- Seminar in Perception and Attention
- Systems Engineering and Integration
- Thesis

Students may also enroll in the following elective courses:

- Advanced Methods in Human Factors
- Multivariate Statistics
- Advanced Research Methods
- Cognitive Neuroscience
- Technical Writing

Financial Support

The Psychology Department has many graduate assistantships available, which are awarded on a competitive basis. Students also may apply for Boeing University Relations Scholarships.

Faculty

Dan Chiappe Ph.D. – Figurative language; reading; evolutionary psychology; attention; cognition.

Kenneth F. Green Ph.D. – Central mechanisms of pain inhibition; physiological psychology.

William Kelemen Ph.D. – Metacognition; prospective memory; cognition.

Diane Lee Ph.D. – Biological psychology; cognitive methodology.

Thomas Strybel Ph.D. – Situation awareness assessment, auditory-visual displays, multisensory interaction, human-computer interaction, human factors.

Kim Vu Ph.D. – Attention, cognition, display-control compatibility, human information processing, human-computer interaction, human factors, web design.

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Human Factors Program

**California State University
Long Beach**



**Master of Science in
Human Factors Psychology**