PSB Student Orientation

September 15, 2015
Welcome 2015 1st year cohort!

Steven Carlson (Social)
Ka Man Fung (Affective Science)
Esmeralda Garcia (Health)
Andrew Gregory (Social)
Melody Moore (Affective Science)
Jasmine Norman (Social)

Angela Robinson (Social)
Cristian Rodriguez (Social)
Emily Shaw (Psych & Law)
Josiah Sweeting (Social)
Jennifer Teitcher (Psych & Law)
Dmitry Tsukerman (Affective Science)
PSB Administrative Organization

Chair
Karen Rook

Vice Chair
Susan Charles

Graduate Advisor
Roxy Silver
PSB Administrative Organization

Department Administrator
Diane Enriquez

Graduate Coordinator
Claudia Campos

Department Coordinator
Toni Browning

Administrative Assistant
Donna Blue
Advising Structure

- Your advisor has been assigned based on interest and availability (everyone has a primary advisor; some have secondary advisors as well)
- Provides office space
- Discusses your course plans
- Coordinates research opportunities or projects
- Some students do not actually conduct research with their faculty advisor, but most do, especially in the first year or two
- You can talk with other faculty, in addition to your advisor, about research projects
- You can change this individual as your interests evolve
Research Projects

• The primary goal of our program is to train scientists to conduct psychological research that is applicable to social problems

• It is imperative that you get involved in research immediately

• Second year projects are typically developed in conjunction with your advisor
  • Some projects developed by student
  • Other projects are a part of faculty’s larger research program
  • “Publication” should be end goal of project
Research Projects

• Most successful students do not simply conduct one project during their first two years

• Students are typically involved in several projects, with varying levels of responsibility across them
Working with Multiple Faculty

• Some students attend meetings with multiple faculty and get involved in projects with two (or more) faculty members – encouraged (particularly in later years)

• However, it’s important to confirm with your advisor her/his expectations about commitments when developing collaborations with different faculty (in -- or outside -- PSB)
Formal Program Requirements

• Complete required coursework
  – Major / Minor [see handout]

• 1st Year Concept Paper
  – 2 page document (often longer)
    • Aims/hypotheses of your 2nd year project
    • Brief description of the methodology
    • Brief analytic strategy
  – 15-20 articles related to topic (reading list)
  – Approval from 2 faculty members by June 1st

• 2nd year project
  – Due June 1st
Formal Program Requirements

• Comprehensive exams
  – Take at the beginning of your 3rd or 4th year
• Dissertation proposal oral examination (Advancement to Candidacy)
  – Must complete by the end of your 4th year
• Dissertation defense
Coursework

• Take required courses when they are offered
  – Many courses are not offered annually
  – 1st year: SE200, P264 a & b, P201
  – 2nd year: P209 (Fall)
  – Later years: P231 Professional issues

• Enrolling in two courses, especially when TA’ing, is the norm

• Do not take more than three courses/quarter
Coursework (cont.)

- Add/Drop Policy
  - Add or Drop in the first 2 weeks – no drops after that time

- Register for courses on time!
  - We lose $7,000 in funding when a student doesn’t register on time.

- Incompletes will automatically turn to F’s within one year.
Grading in Graduate School

- **A**
- **A-**
- **B+**
- **B**
- **B-** *

- **A/A-**
- **B+/B**
- **B-/C+**
- **C/C-**
- **F**

* Receipt of a B- results in a student being placed on Conditional Academic Status
Second Year Project

• Deadline: June 1 of 2nd year
  – Work with advisor and second reader to develop timeline to get members written drafts for comment

• 2 committee members must sign off on the written product

• Present your findings (10 minutes) at the departmental colloquium

• Can be developed into a Masters thesis
  – Must have 3 signatures for a MA
Comprehensive Exams

- Students demonstrate expertise in one of four departmental areas of emphasis
- Written two-day exam taken beginning of 3rd or 4th year
- Exam focuses on:
  - History/Theory
  - Area of Expertise
  - Statistics/Research Design
  - Current Directions
- Provided with reading list 6 weeks before exam
  - Exam is in September (typically the week before classes/orientation)
- Majority of the readings are based on those given in core, required courses in the area
Dissertation

• Advance to Candidacy (ABD)
  – Oral Examination
  – 5 committee members
  – Advance by the end of your 4\textsuperscript{th} year (June 1\textsuperscript{st})
    • If you fail to do so, could lose funding
    • Departmental policy
  – Advance by the end of your 5\textsuperscript{th} year (June 1\textsuperscript{st})
    • If you fail to do so, will be terminated from the program
    • University policy
  – Closed meeting (only you and your committee)

• Complete Dissertation
  – 3 committee members (2 primary PSB faculty, no outside member required)
    • Typically from your advancement committee
  – Time to complete is 5 to 6 years
    • Final deadline is 8 years
  – Dissertation defense
Degree Checks and Evaluations

• It is your responsibility to keep track of your courses and all program requirements are completed (see handout)

• Students are evaluated annually by the faculty
Teaching Assistant (TA)
Assignments

- TA training: Tues., 9/22, 8:15 am, Lower Social Science Plaza
- Must TA twice in graduate school
- All TAs are assigned to classes, at first with more senior students who are familiar with the process
- Need to learn ropes quickly, may not be assigned to such classes in winter
- TA’ing should be taken seriously; issues concerning TA competence come up in student evaluations
- In rare circumstances, changes to TA assignment can be requested
  - E-mail me and document reason

- Can only TA 12 times before you advance to candidacy
- Can only TA 18 times for your entire career at UCI
Teaching at UCI

• Summer Teaching
  – Completion of your Masters; must have advanced to candidacy (ABD) to teach upper division course
  – Must be in good standing
  – Approval from your advisor and the Graduate Advisor

• Teaching during the Academic Year
  – Must have advanced to candidacy (ABD)
  – Must be in good standing
  – Teaching experience (served as TA)
  – Approval from your advisor and the Graduate Advisor
Departmental Colloquium (Brown Bag)

• Every Monday (12:00 PM – 1:00 PM)
  – Organized by Sarah Pressman
  – SBSG Room 1517
• 2nd year students assist with the organization
• EVERYONE should attend
  – Opportunity to see what’s new in the field
  – All topics are related to your research
  – Meet scholars from different universities; learn how to give a good presentation
  – Faculty notice…
UCI Academic Honesty Policy

- **Cheating**
  - Offering another person's work as one's own.
  - Allowing others to do the research and writing of an assigned paper (including use of the services of a commercial term-paper company).

- **Dishonest Conduct**
  - Submitting substantial portions of the same work for credit in more than one course without consulting all instructors involved.
  - Intentionally disrupting the educational process in any manner.

- **Plagiarism**
  - To steal or pass off as one's own the ideas or words, images, or other creative works of another.
  - To use a creative production without crediting the source, even if only minimal information is available to identify it for citation.

- **Collusion**
  - Any student who knowingly or intentionally helps another student perform any of the above acts of cheating or plagiarism is subject to discipline for academic dishonesty.
Success your 1st year

• Be proactive
  • Meet with your advisor early and often
  • Identify other faculty whose research is of interest; ask to attend their lab meetings

• Apply for an NSF predoctoral fellowship (these require developing a proposal almost immediately with your advisor, due October 29th), a Ford fellowship, or other opportunities. (Letters of recommendation are critical.)

• Seek out external funding options

• Be willing to do whatever will be helpful on faculty’s projects; prove that you are responsible and committed

• Peruse journals for interesting topics and ideas
Additional things to know

- Importance of Email
- PSB Graduate student intranet (access from PSB webpage)
- Website – picture, advisor, concentration/emphasis
- Funding
  - Guaranteed for 5 years – complete quarterly support form by deadline
  - Travel funds annually
- Establish California residency next summer
- Social activities
- Two job searches this year
- Assist with Graduate Recruitment
- Institutional Review Board
- Mentor / Mentee Program
- DECADE Student Council