Psychology

The University of Texas at El Paso’s location on the U.S.-Mexico border provides a unique opportunity to investigate how an intersection of nationalities, cultures, and languages affects cognitive processes and behaviors. These issues permeate nearly all of our academic and scholarly activities, including classroom instruction, research, and community placements. The Psychology Department offers a variety of graduate programs and concentrations so students can tailor their graduate studies in preparation for their future career goals. We offer a PhD in General Psychology and provide three areas of concentration for students: Health; Legal; and Social, Cognitive, and Neurosciences. The objective of the PhD program is to prepare students for research careers in either academic or applied settings. We also offer two MA programs: one in Clinical Psychology that prepares students to either work in applied settings as a psychological associate or to continue on to a Clinical PhD program; and one in General Experimental Psychology that prepares students to continue on to a PhD program.

Programs

Master of Arts

• M.A. in Clinical Psychology (http://catalog.utep.edu/archive/2019-2020/grad/college-of-liberal-arts/psychology/clinical-psychology-ma/)
• M.A. in Experimental Psychology (http://catalog.utep.edu/archive/2019-2020/grad/college-of-liberal-arts/psychology/experimental-psychology-ma/)

Doctor of Philosophy

• Ph.D. in Psychology (http://catalog.utep.edu/archive/2019-2020/grad/college-of-liberal-arts/psychology/psychology-phd/)

Certificate

• Graduate Certificate in Quantitative Methods in Psychology (http://catalog.utep.edu/archive/2019-2020/grad/college-of-liberal-arts/psychology/quantitative-methods-psychology-graduate-certificate/)

CHAIR: Dr. Stephen Crites (http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=scrites/)

Professor

Edward Castañeda (http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=ecastaneda9/)
Contact Information: ecastaneda9@utep.edu (mtcortez@utep.edu); 915-747-6558
Education: Ph D, University of Michigan at Ann Arbor

Lawrence Cohn (http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=lcohn/)
Contact Information: lcohn@utep.edu (mtcortez@utep.edu); 915-747-6567
Education: BA, Boston University; Ph D, Washington University
Research Interests: Risk perception, risk communication, drug and alcohol use, safe driving interventions, health promotion, decision research, developmental changes in risk assessment, ego development, meta-analysis

Stephen Crites (http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=scrites/)
Contact Information: scrites@utep.edu (mtcortez@utep.edu); 915-747-6571
Education: BS, The Ohio State University; MA, The Ohio State University; Ph D, The Ohio State University

Wendy Francis (http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=wfrancis/)
Contact Information: wfrancis@utep.edu (mtcortez@utep.edu); 915-747-8956
Education: BA, University of Texas at Austin; MS, University of California, Los Angeles; Ph D, University of California, Los Angeles

Christian Meissner (http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=cmeissner/)
Contact Information: cmeissner@utep.edu (mtcortez@utep.edu); 915-747-6056
Education: BA, Pfeiffer University; MS, Florida State University; Ph D, Florida State University

Osvaldo Morera (http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=omorera/)
Contact Information: omorera@utep.edu (mtcortez@utep.edu); 915-747-5417
Education: BS, The Ohio State University; MA, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Ph D, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Laura O’Dell (http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=lodell/)
Contact Information: lodell@utep.edu (mtcortez@utep.edu); 915-747-6557
Education: BS, Texas A&M University; MS, Arizona State University; Ph D, Arizona State University

Research Interests: Drug Abuse, Tobacco use, Neuroscience, Neurobiology, Addiction, Development, Sex Differences, Diabetes, Vulnerable Populations

John Wiebe (http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=jwiebe/)
Contact Information: jwiebe@utep.edu (mtcortez@utep.edu); 915-747-7611
Education: Ph D, The University of Iowa

James Wood (http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=jawood/)
Contact Information: jawood@utep.edu (mtcortez@utep.edu); 915-747-6570
Education: BA, Harvard University; Master of Divinity, Yale Divinity School; MA, The University of New Mexico; MA, University of Arizona; Ph D, University of Arizona; MS, The University of Texas at El Paso

Michael Zarate (http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=mzarate/)
Contact Information: mzarate@utep.edu (mtcortez@utep.edu); 915-747-6569
Education: BA, University of California, Santa Barbara; MS, Purdue University; Ph D, Purdue University

Associate Professor

Theodore Cooper (http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=tvcooper/)
Contact Information: tvcooper@utep.edu (mtcortez@utep.edu); 915-747-6270
Education: BA, New York University; MS, The University of Memphis; Ph D, The University of Memphis; Post Doctoral, University of Mississippi

Jennifer Eno Louden (http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=jlenolouden/)
Contact Information: jlenolouden@utep.edu (mtcortez@utep.edu); 915-747-5517
Education: BA, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; MA, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Ph D, University of California, Irvine

Craig Field (http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=cfield/)
Contact Information: cfield@utep.edu (mtcortez@utep.edu); 915-747-8539
Education: Ph D, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas

Research Interests: Broadly speaking, my primary research interest is empirically evaluating brief health behavior interventions based on motivational interviewing and the refinement of these interventions through cultural adaptation. My funded research focuses on at risk or binge drinking by integrating health behavior interventions based on motivational interviewing in medical, judicial and collegiate settings to reduce the public health burden of alcohol related consequences. As Director of the Latino Alcohol and Health Disparities Research Center (LAHDR), I have integrated interdisciplinary research into the examination of health status and health outcomes among Hispanics by applying a biopsychosocial approach heavily focused on the role of culture. Specifically, we examine biological markers and psychological measures of cumulative stress as well as cultural risk and protective factors that influence health status and health outcomes in the Hispanic community.

Sergio Iñiguez (http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=sdiniguez/)
Contact Information: sdiniguez@utep.edu (mtcortez@utep.edu); 915-747-5769
Education: Ph D, Florida State University

Ana Schwartz (http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=aischwartz/)
Contact Information: aischwartz@utep.edu (mtcortez@utep.edu); 915-747-7365
Education: BA, Rutgers University; MS, Penn State University; Ph D, Penn State University

Assistant Professor

Ashley Bangert (http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=asbangert2/)
Contact Information: asbangert2@utep.edu (mtcortez@utep.edu); 915-747-8987
Education: BA, Trinity University; MA, University of Michigan; Ph D, University of Michigan

Carla Contemori (http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=ccontemori/)
Contact Information: ccontemori@utep.edu (mtcortez@utep.edu);
Education: MA, University of Siena; BA, University of Siena; Ph D, University of Siena

Adam Fetterman (http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=akfetterman/)
Contact Information: akfetterman@utep.edu (mtcortez@utep.edu); 915-747-6563
Education: Ph D, North Dakota State University

Iva Ivanova (http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=imivanova/)
Contact Information: imivanova@utep.edu (mtcortez@utep.edu);
Education: Ph D, University of Barcelona

Katherine Serafine (http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=kmserafine2/)
Contact Information: kmserafine2@utep.edu (mtcortez@utep.edu); 915-747-6566
Psychology

April Thomas (http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=athomas5/)
Contact Information: athomas5@utep.edu (mtcortez@utep.edu); 915-747-6572
Education: BA, Norwich University; MA, American University; Ph D, American University
Research Interests: Adolescent development, juvenile delinquency, juvenile justice, social relationships, adolescence, developmental psychology

Veronica Whitford (http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=vwhitford/)
Contact Information: vwhitford@utep.edu (mtcortez@utep.edu); 915-747-7514
Education: BA, McGill University; Ph D, McGill University; Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of Western Ontario; Postdoctoral Fellowship, Massachusetts Institute of Technology & Harvard University
Research Interests: Reading and Literacy Development, Bilingual Language Processing, Language Disorders, Cognitive Aging, Schizophrenia, Executive Function, Oculomotor Control, Visual Attention

Research Assistant Professor

Rebecca Pasillas (http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=rmpasillas/)
Contact Information: rmpasillas@utep.edu (mtcortez@utep.edu); 915-304-0117

Eden Robles (http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=erobles9/)
Contact Information: erobles9@utep.edu (mtcortez@utep.edu); 915-747-7986
Education: AA, St. Phillip's College; Bachelor of Social Work, Our Lady of the Lake University; MSW, Our Lady of the Lake University; Ph D, The University of Texas at Austin