

PROPOSAL TO RENAME A DEGREE PROGRAM

Proposals will only be accepted electronically as a Word document to the Office of the Provost when submitted to provost.deg.changes@wsu.edu

Current Degree Title:	Doctor of Philosophy - Psychology
Proposed Degree Title:	Unchanged – this is a program plan name change
Academic Program:	Ph.D Psychology
Academic Plan:	Experiment Psychology to Psychological Science
Number of Credits:	
Department(s) or Program(s):	Psychology
Campus(es):	Pullman, Vancouver
College(s):	Arts & Sciences

Contact Name:	Carrie Cuttler	Email Address:	carrie.cuttler@wsu.edu
Contact Phone:	509-335-0151	Proposed start date:	Aug 15, 2026

Rationale for proposed name change:
<p>The proposed plan name change reflects the breadth of methodologies used by our faculty and students, many of whom do not rely exclusively on experimental approaches in their research. The title <i>Psychological Science</i> more accurately captures the diversity of theoretical, methodological, and applied work represented within the plan.</p> <p>In addition, we anticipate that <i>Psychological Science</i> will be clearer and more appealing to prospective graduate applicants, particularly undergraduates who may be unfamiliar with the traditional term <i>experimental psychology</i>. We believe this change will strengthen recruitment by better aligning the plan’s title with contemporary disciplinary language and student expectations.</p> <p>Note: This is plan (specialization name) change, not a program name change. If the change is approved the diploma and transcript will read:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Doctor of Philosophy Psychology – Psychological Science</p>
Implications for currently enrolled students:
<p>Their diplomas will now include the term Psychological Science rather than Experimental Psychology.</p>

Describe the process by which all current faculty and staff were consulted about this change and summarize the response:

This proposal was made during a program meeting with the Experimental Psychology faculty at which time the faculty unanimously agreed to the name change (including faculty on the Pullman and Vancouver campuses). The proposal was then brought to all the faculty in the department (Experimental Psychology faculty, Clinical Psychology Faculty, Career-Track Faculty, and Staff) through a confidential voting process (in which votes were submitted to our administrative assistant). A total of 14/15 experimental psychology faculty voted yes to the change and 1 abstained, 11/13 clinical psychology faculty voted yes and 2 abstained, 7/10 career-track faculty voted yes, 2 voted no and 2 abstained, 4/7 staff members voted yes, none voted no and 3 abstained. Therefore, out of the 45 faculty and staff who voted a total of 36 (80%) voted yes and only 2 (4.4%) voted no. We also consulted the current Experimental Psychology graduate students and 9/11 voted yes and 2 voted no.

Describe the process by which other degree programs, departments, colleges, and/or campuses were consulted about this change and summarize the response. Letters of support regarding the change from respective academic leaders are required.

We further consulted with and obtained letters of support from Dr. Pat Carter (Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies) and Dr. Pavithra Narayanan (Associate Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences in Vancouver))


If applicable, describe the process by which other stakeholders (e.g., advisory or alumni groups) were consulted about this change and summarize the response:

Not applicable

Please provide the current Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code for this program. If the proposed name change reflects a significant shift in curriculum or focus that warrants a different CIP code, identify the most appropriate new CIP code. You can refer to the CIP taxonomy at <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/>. Briefly explain why this code was selected.

SIGNATURES: The names typed below certify that the relevant academic and campus officials have reviewed and approved this proposal:

Chair or Director Signature:	 David Marcus	Date:	1/28/2026
---------------------------------	--	-------	-----------

Dean Signature:		Date:	1/29/2026
-----------------	---	-------	-----------

Signatures are required from all Chancellors (or delegates). A signature denotes endorsement if the degree will be offered and/or impact the respective campus. A signature will also denote receipt of notification if the degree is not being offered and/or will impact the respective campus. If needed, a signature abstention box is provided immediately below.

Everett Chancellor Signature:	 Paul Pitre	Date:	2/13/2026
----------------------------------	--	-------	-----------

Global Chancellor Signature:	<i>Dave Cillay</i>	Date:	02/12.2026
---------------------------------	--------------------	-------	------------

Tri-Cities Chancellor Signature:		Date:	2/16/2026
--	---	-------	-----------

Vancouver Chancellor Signature:		Date	2/16/2026
---------------------------------------	---	------	-----------

Comments regarding abstention of signature(s)			
---	--	--	--

Submit completed form as a Word document to the Provost's Office at provost.deg.changes@wsu.edu

For Registrar's Office Use Only:			
Confirmed CIP Code:		Approval Date:	