Dear {#First Name#},

Thank you for your interest in the Psychology graduate program at New Mexico State University. As you will see in the information presented below, we are a successful and unique department in many ways.

Our department is large enough to offer exciting opportunities and rigorous training in psychological research and small enough to provide each student with a great deal of one-on-one attention. We embody three general areas of scholarship - cognitive, engineering, and social psychology - with many faculty and students engaging in interdisciplinary and applied research. Most faculty advisors in the psychology department have three or four advisees at a time, totaling approximately 50 students across the department, which has been the norm over the past decade.

New Mexico State University is the land-grant university of the state of New Mexico. As a land-grant institution, NMSU focuses on high-quality research that addresses both basic mechanisms and applications to real-world problems. In addition, NMSU has the largest minority enrollment of any Doctoral/Research University-Extensive at 49% minority students, which makes NMSU eligible for grant funding specifically designated for minority-serving and Hispanic-serving institutions.

Faculty members in the Psychology Department regularly publish in leading peer-reviewed journals such as *Psychological Review*; the *Journals of Experimental Psychology, Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, Attention, Perception, & Psychophysics, Memory & Cognition,* and *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review.* Faculty members and graduate students also present ongoing research at national and international conferences such as the annual meetings of the Psychonomic Society, the Society of Personality and Social Psychology, the Vision Sciences Society, and the Human Factors and Ergonomic Society. See below for a list of recent and representative publications by our faculty members, as well as email addresses and links to their web pages.

The faculty and staff at NMSU are friendly and dedicated to student learning and mentoring. For example, the majority of faculty publications are collaborations with current or past graduate students, and students are often funded by faculty grants. In addition, all incoming students participate in the First-Year Scholars workshop, meeting as a group once a week with the chair of the Graduate Program Committee to discuss time management, improve writing skills, and practice oral presentations.

The Graduate School offers numerous financial aid options, including cash awards and assistantships (see this link for more information). The majority of our M.A. and Ph.D. students are funded at some level, with many receiving full funding throughout their time in the program.
Students have a variety of opportunities to develop their teaching skills. The Psychology Department offers a dedicated graduate course in the Teaching of Psychology. Additionally, the NMSU Teaching Academy offers dozens of free short workshops each academic year for faculty, staff, and graduate students. Doctoral students who have completed one of several preparatory programs have numerous paid opportunities to teach undergraduate courses for the Psychology Department. The majority of our doctoral students graduate with more teaching experience than their peers at other institutions.

The weather in southern New Mexico is pleasant year round. Las Cruces averages 350 days of sunshine every year, which allows residents to participate in a wide range of outdoor activities. In addition, there are numerous artistic and cultural events throughout the year. The cost of living in Las Cruces is also low and the mild weather allows many students to commute on foot or bicycle.

The graduate program offers on-campus M.A. and Ph.D. degrees. The M.A. degree is in general experimental psychology. The program is designed to provide graduates with the tools and knowledge necessary for further training at the doctoral level or for employment in industry, government, or community college teaching. Most students who earn the M.A. degree either find gainful employment in a degree-relevant job or move into the Ph.D. program.

The Ph.D. is offered with emphases in the areas of cognitive, engineering, and social psychology. All three areas have a joint focus on basic and applied research. There is considerable overlap in the research interests of the cognitive and engineering faculty. These interests include human memory, visual cognition, attention, sensation and perception, neuroscience, language processing, cognitive and perceptual development, perception and action, human-computer interaction, human factors, and modeling, among others. The social faculty research interests include social cognition, evolutionary psychology, close relationships, philosophy of science, emotions, sexuality, and gender-role attitudes.

Alumni of our programs work in corporate, government, and academic settings. For example, our students have been employed by IBM, Lexmark, Dell, Cisco Systems, Honeywell, the FAA, the Naval Warfare Research Center, and the CIA. Alumni working in academic settings have been employed by educational institutions such as Winston Salem State University, Western Kentucky University, California State University-Bakersfield, and the University of Western Sydney.

Financial aid for graduate students is awarded on the basis of potential for research and teaching in the form of an assistantship. Research and teaching assistantships are awarded for each of the fall and spring semesters, and support ranges from partial (working 10 hours per week) to full (working 20 hours per week). In 2013-2014, the salary for entering fully-supported M.A. students was approximately $16,200 over 10 months; the salary for entering Ph.D. students was approximately $17,000 over 10 months.
To be considered for admission all material should be on file in the department via the NMSU online submission portal by January 15th. Students will be admitted to graduate study on the basis of their potential for achievement in research. The most promising applicants will be accepted. Because the number of students the department can successfully accommodate is limited, it will not always be possible to admit all qualified applicants.

If you are interested in counseling or clinical psychology, we advise that you contact the Counseling and Educational Psychology Department.

To be considered for admission for graduate study in the Psychology Department, the minimum application consists of (with minimum acceptable values provided in parentheses, where applicable):

1. A completed Graduate School admission application ([http://prospective.nmsu.edu/graduate/apply/](http://prospective.nmsu.edu/graduate/apply/)).
2. Complete transcripts of all college work (minimum 3.0 GPA).
3. Graduate Record Exam (GRE) score. Applicants to the M.A. program are most likely to be considered with minimum scores of 155 Verbal, 156 Quantitative, and 4.5 Analytical Writing. Applicants to the Ph.D. program are most likely to be considered with minimum scores of 158 Verbal, 159 Quantitative, and 4.5 Analytical Writing. Scores on the GRE Psychology test are not required.
4. Three (3) letters of recommendation from professors, employers, or others qualified to evaluate your potential for graduate work (uploaded during online application process).
5. A personal statement explaining your research interests and experience and an indication of the faculty members whose work is of particular interest to you (uploaded during online application process). Our program uses an apprenticeship model where students learn how to conduct original research by collaborating closely with their advisor. Thus, a close match between the research interests of the student and his/her advisor is a critical factor in our admission decisions.
6. A curriculum vitae (uploaded during online application process).
7. A sample of your writing (e.g., a research article, a paper you wrote for a course a senior thesis, or a Master’s thesis, uploaded during online application process). Ideally, the sample should demonstrate your ability to write clearly about psychological research.

Additional application information and requirements can be found on our website at [http://www-psych.nmsu.edu/](http://www-psych.nmsu.edu/).

Contact information and representative publications for our faculty members are listed below in alphabetical order:
Dolgov, Igor  (Assistant Professor)  
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