

Department of Psychology  
The University of Oklahoma

## **Ph.D. in Cognitive Psychology**

### **General Information**

Faculty in the cognitive program conducts basic and applied research in their investigations of mental processes. Low- to mid-level cognitive processes are emphasized, with a particular focus on the interrelationships among attention, perception, and memory. Opportunities to conduct applied research make our students attractive to non-academic employers and provide them with a unique perspective that enriches their basic research. Graduates from this area have been attractive to both academic and non-academic employers. Students in the cognitive area have been supported by grants from the National Science Foundation and the Federal Aviation Administration.

### **Faculty in the cognitive area are interested in the following questions:**

- *How do control processes bridge perception, action, and cognition?*
- *How do people remember to perform future actions?*
- *What factors influence eyewitness identification and the creation of false memories?*
- *What are the changes in cognitive processes that result from aging?*

Graduate students and faculty maintain research offices in the Human Cognition Laboratory. They share a laboratory with 12 cubicles each containing a networked Pentium computer, several small group-testing rooms, and a seminar room. The Human Cognition and Action Laboratory, and the Cognitive Aging Laboratory include high-speed PCs, high-resolution monitors, and multiple modality response control devices, including an eye tracking facility, 3-D mouse, touchscreen, and joysticks.

### **Requirements**

**Coursework:** The requirements for the Ph.D. are those established by the Department of Psychology. All students are assigned a faculty advisor upon being admitted. The individual student, in consultation with a faculty committee, designs a course of study that matches the student's interests and career aspirations. We follow an apprenticeship model of training, treating graduate students like junior colleagues.

### **How to Apply**

To apply, simply complete the enclosed departmental application or visit our web at:  
[www.ou.edu/cas/psychology](http://www.ou.edu/cas/psychology)

## **Principal Cognitive Faculty:**

**Scott D. Gronlund**, Professor, Ph.D. in 1986 from Indiana University. My students and I use quantitatively-specified models to guide our thinking about how memory works. We are principally interested in distortions of memory, especially as this relates to eyewitness identification. For more information, check out <http://faculty-staff.ou.edu/G/Scott.D.Gronlund-1/>.

**Sowon Hahn**, Assistant Professor, Ph.D. in 1997 from the University of Illinois. The central issue of my research is to understand the processing architecture that bridges perception, action, and cognition. To examine this issue, my research has focused on the following topics: 1) determining the interactions between perception, attention, and memory; 2) understanding the executive processing that controls multiple task dimensions and the switching between multiple domains; 3) the age-related changes in cognitive modulation; and 4) the processes underlying attentional and oculomotor control.

## **Affiliated Psychology Faculty Members:**

**Lynn Devenport**, Professor, Ph.D. in 1971 from the University of Chicago. Devenport's research interests include animal cognition, foraging behavior, choice, adaptation to environmental variability, concept formation, and evolutionary psychology.

**Robert M. Hamm**, Professor, Ph.D. in 1979 from Harvard University. Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, and Director, Clinical Decision Making Program. Dr. Hamm's research in medical decision making studies physicians and patients as they use the concepts relevant to optimal decision making: the probabilities of events, the utilities of outcomes, and the evaluation of options. He also does decision analysis of medical decisions.

**Marlys Lipe**, Rath Chair in Accounting and Professor of Accounting, Ph.D. in 1985 from the University of Chicago. Lipe's research interests are in the area of judgment and decision making, including causal and covariation judgments and investor and managerial use of accounting and finance information.

**Chris Swoyer**, Professor, Ph.D. in 1976 from Minnesota. Much of Dr. Swoyer's work is on the nature and use of structural representations in human reasoning. Such representations (which include many formal languages, measurement scales, and logical diagrams) depend on the existence of a common structure between the representation and what it represents. Hence we can reason directly about them in order to draw conclusions about the phenomena they depict. He is interested in the logical features of such representations and in empirical research on how well people actually use various representations of this sort.

**Rick Thomas**, Assistant Professor of Psychology. Dr. Thomas received his Ph.D. in 2004 from Kansas State University in the area of cognitive psychology. Dr. Thomas' current interests include behavioral decision theory, decision making in dynamic complex environments, measurement of expertise, and application of mathematical memory models to study judgment and decision making phenomena.