Effective fall semester, 2008, the incoming class of doctoral students will be
required to participate in the Research Apprenticeship, a program designed to provide
students with experience in psychological research. The research apprenticeship is one
important way that doctoral students can gain essential research skills and prepare for a
comprehensive exam project in (approximately) their third year in the program.

The Research Apprenticeship should be initiated prior to completion of 12 credit
hours in the doctoral program. The student may complete this project with his or her
assigned advisor or another faculty member from the School of Psychological Sciences.
It is expected that this apprenticeship will provide the student with experience in various
phases of the research process, such as: analysis of empirical and theoretical
literature, research design, IRB, data acquisition, data coding, data analysis, and
preparation of presentations and articles in APA format. The mentor and student will fill
out the Research Apprenticeship Working Agreement form, which includes the set of
the agreed-upon goals for the project, project description, and the student's contribution.

The Research Apprenticeship must be equivalent to six semester credit hours
over at least two contiguous semesters. With consent of the faculty mentor, the student
may enroll in up to six total credits of independent study (e.g., PSY 663 and/or 693; a
course that involves S/U grading). The Research Apprenticeship must be completed by
the end of 36 credit hours of courses in the doctoral program. The Research
Apprenticeship will involve satisfying agreed-upon learning experiences in the research
process (contained in the original or revised agreement) and must result in a written
product warranting co-authorship for the student and advisor according to guidelines
Only after the completion of the project, the mentor’s approval, and the student’s
fulfillment of other requirements as specified by the Graduate School will the student be
allowed to proceed to the written comprehensive phase of the doctoral program.
Successful completion of the Apprenticeship Project will be followed by the requirement
of one comprehensive project (one written paper and subsequent oral examination).