

Joseph A. Spitzig, PhD

Doctoral Curriculum

The courses I took as a part of my doctoral program in Cognitive Psychology include the following:

- Doctoral Studies in Psychology
- History and Systems of Psychology
- Advanced Life Span Development
- Biological Psychology
- Personality Psychology
- Advanced Social Psychology
- Social Cognition
- Cognitive Science
- Cognition and Instruction
- Human Learning and Cognition
- Doctoral Statistics
- Multivariate Statistics
- Tests and Measurements
- Qualitative Research Methods
- Advanced Research Design
- Ethical Issues In Psychology
- Program Evaluation

The title of my doctoral dissertation was:

Self-Perceived Social Isolation among Doctoral Students in the Dissertation Phase of their Programs: A Qualitative Descriptive Study

I was primarily examining the effect of social isolation on academic motivation. The dissertation phase of a doctoral program is marked by extreme social isolation, as the doctoral student studies primarily in solitude. In the age of online education, students tend to be deprived of daily classroom social interaction, which helps to reinforce their academic motivation. When students are socially isolated, maintaining academic motivation can be especially difficult.

[My Website](#)