

Psychology

Interim Department Chair: Mimi Hedges, M.F.A.

The psychology curriculum ensures that students receive training in each major area of psychological inquiry. Required courses give students grounding in the basic sub-fields of psychology. Electives are then taken to complement the individual student's career and life plans. Majors may choose to pursue the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Psychology or the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Human Development. The B.S. in Psychology prepares students for graduate school. These students are primarily interested in careers that require an M.A. or Ph.D. (such as clinical psychology). Entry to graduate school in psychology is competitive. The B.S. degree ensures that students get the experiences necessary to successfully compete for graduate school admission. The B.S. in Human Development prepares students for entry-level employment into occupations where training in psychology and child development is an advantage. Both degree programs allow students the flexibility to meet personal and professional goals while building an awareness of and appreciation for the role and contributions of women in society.

A minor in psychology is an alternative route to utilize the many facets of the discipline of psychology. A minor combined with a major, or concentration in other disciplines like business administration, communication, social sciences, art, dance or theatre prepares a student for her chosen career. Examples of such combinations are preparation for graduate degrees in art therapy, equine therapy, Human Resource Management, or public relations.

Mission Statement

The Psychology program builds on the Liberal Arts goals to provide a link between social and natural sciences. Curriculum is designed to develop students' critical thinking skills in the areas of applied and empirical psychology. Students learn the importance of psychology's contribution toward the improvement of the human condition across individual, community and global issues. The psychology program prepares students to make informed decisions regarding future occupational and educational goals.

Psychology student outcomes:

1. Students use knowledge of the major concepts in Psychology.
2. Students utilize critical thinking, reasoning and research skills for Psychology.
3. Students are effective oral and written communicators.
4. Students apply the concepts of multicultural diversity and ethics in psychology.

Requirements for the B.S. Major in Psychology

The B.S. in Psychology is designed primarily for the student who is interested in applying to graduate school. The required courses draw from each of the major areas of psychology. Electives allow students to specialize in their areas of interest. A strong foundation in math and science will help students prepare for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). A senior research capstone experience ensures that students will gain the research experience they need to compete for graduate school admission.

The Bachelor of Science Major in Psychology requires the completion of at least 41 semester hours of psychology courses (29 required courses and at least 12 elective), 6 semester hours of math (statistics and one other course), and at 7-8 semester hours of natural science (biology, chemistry or physics). Students must have at least 21 semester hours of Psychology at the 300 or 400 level to graduate. A grade of C- or better must be earned in each of the required Psychology courses.

Required Courses for the B.S. degree

PSY 111: Introduction to Psychology (3 hrs.)
PSY 225: Social Psychology (3 hrs.)
INT 210: Internship Development (2 hrs.)
PSY 310: Developmental Psychology (3 hrs.)
PSY 320: Abnormal Psychology (3 hrs.)
PSY 331: Learning and Cognition (3 hrs.)
PSY 345: Psychological Research Methods (3 hrs.)
PSY 415: Psychology of Personality (3 hrs.) **OR** PSY 425: History & Systems of Psychology (3 hrs.)
PSY 430: Physiological Psychology (3 hrs.)
PSY 441: Senior Research Capstone (3 hrs.)
MAT 207: Introduction to Statistics (3 hrs.)

BIO 111: Biological Concepts (3 hrs.) **OR** BIO 181: Introduction to Biological concepts 1 with lab (4 hrs.)

and

One math course (any course except MAT 105/106; 3 hrs.)
One laboratory-based natural science (BIO, CHM, PHY) course (4 hrs.)

and

At least twelve semester hours (and up to 21 hrs.) from the following list of electives including at least 6 hours at the 300 level or above.

Electives

EDU 114: The Child: Lifespan (3 hrs.)
EDU 115: Advanced Child Development: Cross Cultural Perspective (3-6 hrs.)
PSY 121: Psychology of Adjustment (3 hrs.)
PSY 211: Educational Psychology (3 hrs.)
PSY 271: Human Sexuality (3 hrs.)
PSY 280: Topics in Psychology (3 hrs.)
PSY 301: Psychology of Gender (3 hrs.)
PSY 330: Forensic Psychology (3 hrs.)
PSY 355: Psychological Testing and Personality Assessment (3 hrs.)
PSY 359: Counseling I (3 hrs.)
EDU 363: Education and Psychology of the Exceptional Child (3 hrs.)
PSY 380: Topics in Psychology (3 hrs.)
PSY 381: Internship (1-4 hrs.)
PSY 404: Group Procedures (3 hrs.)
PSY 415: Psychology of Personality (3 hrs.)
PSY 425: History and Systems of Psychology (3 hrs.)

NOTE: Course descriptions for the CHS/EDU and MAT may be found under the program headings of Education and Mathematics.

Students who major in Psychology or Human Development/Child Study will be required to complete a Senior Capstone in their senior year.

Requirements for a Minor in Psychology

The minor in psychology requires completion of a minimum of 15 semester hours in PSY, including the required course listed below and at least 6 semester hours at or above the 300 level.

Required Courses

PSY 111: Introduction to Psychology (3 hrs.)
PSY 225: Social Psychology (3 hrs.)

Requirements for a Minor in Forensic Science

A forensic science minor requires completion of PSY 111 Introduction to Psychology plus six hours in Biology/Forensic Science and six hours in Psychology/Forensic Science. Six of those hours must be at or above the 300 level.

Required Course:

PSY 111: Introduction to Psychology (3 hours)

Courses which fulfill the Minor requirements in Forensic Science include:

PSY 225: Social Psychology (3 hours)
PSY 320: Abnormal Psychology (3 hours)
FOR/PSY 330: Forensic Psychology (3 hours)
FOR/PSY 355: Psychological Testing and Personality Assessment (3 hours)
FOR/PSY 380: Topics in Forensic Psychology (3 hours)
PSY 415: Psychology of Personality (3 hours)
BIO 200: Crime Scene Analysis (3 hours)
FOR 301: Forensic Microscopy
FOR 280: Topics in Forensic Biology (3 hours)
FOR 380: Topics in Forensic Biology (3 hours)

Psychology Courses

PSY 111: Introduction to Psychology

(3 hrs.)

(Open to all students) (Offered every semester)

An introduction to the major sub-fields of contemporary psychology. Emphases on the diversity of psychology as a discipline and how psychological principles pertain to everyday life.

PSY 121: Psychology of Adjustment

(3 hrs.)

(Open to all students) (Offered every other year)

Students in the course develop an informed perspective on their psychological adjustment. Relationships, values, health and personal history are studied.

PSY 211: Educational Psychology

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: PSY 111 and sophomore standing) (Offered every other semester)

This course surveys the nature and conditions of human learning. We examine methods of assessing intellectual and personality characteristics as well as social dynamics, as pupils enter into the learning process.

PSY 225: Social Psychology

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: PSY 111) (Offered every year, Spring semester)

Social psychology is the study of the influences on and consequences of social interaction. It is concerned with the relationships between the individual and other persons or groups of people. This course presents a survey of theory and research in social psychology. We will explore the various ways people think about, affect and relate to one another. The course will cover topics such as the social self concept, social judgment, attitudes, persuasion, conformity, aggression, helping behavior, prejudice and interpersonal relationships.

PSY 271: Human Sexuality

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: PSY 111) (Offered every three years)

Course examines human sexuality from several perspectives (biological, social, cultural, ethical). Topics include anatomy and reproduction, gender roles, love, varieties of sexual expression, birth control, the development of sexuality over the life span, diseases, dysfunction and treatment.

PSY 280: Topics in Psychology

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: PSY 111)(Offered as needed)

Topics courses are devoted to special subjects that may not be covered in depth in other courses. Topics offered may include Health Psychology, Positive Psychology.

PSY 301: Psychology of Gender

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: PSY 111 and sophomore standing; cross listed as WST 301) (Offered every other year)

This course examines the psychology and biology of gender. The development of gender roles, stereotypic conceptions of femininity, masculinity and their impact on the development of self and the different perspectives men and women bring to intimate relationships.

PSY 310: Developmental Psychology

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: PSY 111 and sophomore standing) (Offered every year, alternating semesters)

This course uses major psychological theories to explore the normal stages of development from birth until death. Selected controversial issues and case studies relating to development will also be discussed.

PSY 320: Abnormal Psychology

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: PSY 225)(Offered every year, fall semester)

Survey of basic areas of abnormal psychology, history of mental disorders, survey of extent and severity of problems today. Emphases in biological, psychological and social approaches to explaining mental disorders.

PSY 330: Forensic Psychology

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: PSY 111 and sophomore standing)(Offered every other year)

This course is intended for students interested in the interactive relationship between psychology and law. The student will explore the many aspects of criminal and civil law and how psychological research, theory, and practice assist the legal system and influence public policy.

PSY 331: Learning and Cognition

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: PSY 310)(Offered every year, alternating semesters)

Provides an introduction to the study of learning and cognition through an examination of the learning paradigms of classical and instrumental conditioning and issues fundamental to the structure and function of cognitive theory. Emphases on applied and theoretical findings.

PSY 345: Psychological Research Methods

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: PSY 320 or PSY 331, and senior standing)(Offered every fall semester)

This course is designed to introduce students to the research methods used in psychology, to begin designing a study, and conducting the initial literature review. Students incorporate class materials to design an independent research study and complete the corresponding literature review necessary to support the project, guided by the instructor. This course is a "hands-on" research design course.

PSY 355: Psychological Testing and Personality Assessment

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: PSY 310, PSY 320; Cross listed with FOR 355)(Offered every other year)

This course covers the basic concepts for describing and evaluating standardized tests, including reliability, validity, norms and standard scores. These concepts are then used to evaluate a number of representative tests in different areas: intelligence, interests, aptitude and personality. Students also take and score some of these standard tests.

PSY 359: Counseling I

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: PSY 320)(Offered every other year)

Introductory course in clinical counseling psychology. Discussion and assessment of a variety of counseling and therapeutic approaches for adjustment problems and mental disorders. Review of taped practice interviews under supervision of instructor.

PSY 380: Topics in Psychology

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: PSY 225 and sophomore standing)(Offered as needed)

Topics courses are devoted to special subjects that may not be covered in depth in other courses. Topics may include Addictions, Gerontology.

PSY 381: Internship

(1-4 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: INT 210, PSY 225 and sophomore standing)(Offered every semester)

Students must complete 126 hours of work in an agency or institution as a contributing member of the staff for each 3 semester hours of credit earned (or 42 hrs per credit hour). Student carries on a wide a range of duties as she is qualified to execute under the direct supervision of a professional in the agency or institution. Each student will work with a Psychology Faculty member to complete an appropriate documentation and assessment of their internship. This may include a log of time, regular internship meetings, a journal, a summary of learning, and a paper on the history and scope of the agency.

PSY 404: Group Procedures

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: PSY 359 and PSY 310)(Offered every other year)

An in-depth exposure to experiential learning through small group experiences. For trainees in psychology who want to develop skills in facilitating groups for persons in therapy or work settings. Review of taped practice groups under supervision of instructor.

PSY 415: Psychology of Personality

(3hrs.)

(Prerequisites: PSY 320 and one other 300 level course)

This course is grouped around the major theories and theorists in personality. Development of personality, structure of personality, motivation of personality, normal and abnormal personality characteristics will be examined.

PSY 425: History and Systems of Psychology

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: PSY 320 or PSY 331, and senior standing)

This course is designed to give the student an in-depth exposure to the philosophical underpinnings and broad ontological background of theories developed throughout the history of psychology as a science. Specifically, this course gives a student perspective into science, a deeper understanding of the field of psychology, and greater knowledge about the directions psychology might take in the future. This course covers the history of psychology from Aristotle to the present. Writing intensive.

PSY 430: Physiological Psychology

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: BIO 181 or BIO 111, and PSY 331)(Offered every other year)

This course uses current knowledge of the brain, nervous system and endocrine system to explore the roles of physiological factors in health, disease, behavior, emotions, and mental disorders.

PSY 441: Senior Research

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: PSY 345 and senior standing)

In-depth original research of topics not covered in other courses. Check semester course schedule for topic offered. This is the required senior capstone course for psychology majors. The course uses both research writing skills and seminar discussion as learning tools.

Forensic Science Courses**FOR 280: Topics in Forensic Science**

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: PSY 111)

Topics courses are devoted to special subjects that may not be covered in depth in other courses.

FOR 330: Forensic Psychology

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: PSY 111 and sophomore standing; cross-listed with PSY 330.)

This course is intended for students interested in the interactive relationship between psychology and law. The student will explore the many aspects of criminal and civil law and how psychological research, theory, and practice assist the legal system and influence public policy.

FOR 301: Forensic Microscopy

(3 hrs)

(Prerequisite: BIO 181 or BIO 111 or BIO 200; lab fee charged. Cross listed with BIO 302.)

This course is designed to use various microscopic techniques to examine trace evidence. The focus will be on how to use a microscope for forensic science and the examination of various mounting and staining techniques of trace evidence. The trace evidence examined will include human and animal hairs, various fibers and plastic fusion, glass, paint, soil, explosives, minerals, dust, drugs and arson. In addition, students will learn the criteria for including or excluding trace evidence, and the preparation of evidence. This class is lab intensive and will use case studies using various techniques.

FOR 355: Psychological Testing and Personality Assessment

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisites PSY 320 and sophomore standing; cross-listed with PSY 355)(Offered every other year)

This course covers the basic concepts for describing and evaluating standardized tests, including reliability, validity, norms and standard scores. These concepts are then used to evaluate a number of representative tests in different areas: intelligence, interests, aptitude and personality. Students also take and score some of these standard tests.

FOR 380: Topics in Forensic Science/Topics in Forensic Psychology

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: FOR/PSY/BIO 200, or permission of instructor)

Topics courses are devoted to special subjects that may not be covered in depth in other courses.

Independent Study

Independent studies (special studies, tutorials, readings, projects) may be proposed by students who wish to investigate a subject not otherwise available. Information about independent studies may be obtained by contacting a faculty member to sponsor the study and in the Office of the Registrar