PSYCHOLOGY

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The psychology department offers students exposure to the subject matter, methodologies, and professional practice of psychology. As a subject matter, psychology is the study of the brain, behavior, and human experience. Students explore the methodologies of psychology in the required courses for the minor and the major, with specialized courses, internships, and practica encouraging students to use experimental, correlational, and observational approaches in research and practice.

Both research and practice raise ethical questions embedded in most of the courses offered and in individualized study through internships, honors thesis, and directed studies. Psychology graduates pursue studies in psychology, medicine, related health sciences, law, administration, education, divinity, business, and social work. The multidisciplinary inquiry necessary for investigating many topics in psychology attracts students with interests the sciences, humanities, and other social sciences.

Degree Plans Offered in Psychology
Major in Psychology
Minor in Psychology
Minor in Educational Psychology

A major in psychology consists of:

Required Psychology Core Course (3 courses)
_____ PSY 101 General Psychology
_____ PSY 120 Statistics for Psychologists
_____ PSY 201 Research Methods in Psychology

Group A: Psychology as a Natural Science (1 course)
_____ PSY 214 Psychopharmacology
_____ PSY 215 Behavioral Neuroscience
_____ PSY 220 Introduction to Cognitive Psychology
_____ PSY 265 Psychology of Human Sexuality

Group B: Psychology as a Social Science (1 course)
Group C: Psychology as an Applied Science (1 course)
- PSY 222 Environmental Psychology
- PSY 255 Health Psychology
- PSY 270 Introduction to Forensic Psychology
- PSY 281 Psychopathology
- PSY 282 Psychotherapy and Assessment

Psychology Lab Courses (1 course and lab)
- PSY 315 & lab Advanced Behavioral Neuroscience
- PSY 330 & lab Educational Psychology
- PSY 355 & lab Learning, Memory and Cognition
- Approved course

Advanced Course (1 course)
- PSY 300 level or higher

Advanced Seminar (1 course)
- PSY 400 level or higher

Other Considerations When Planning for the Major:
- Psychology 101 is a prerequisite for all other courses in psychology unless the course description states otherwise.
- Mathematics 120 or Social Sciences 120 may be substituted for Psychology 120 if already taken.
- The choice of electives for the major and minor should take into account both the qualifications and objectives of the individual student and the depth and breadth of psychological knowledge generally considered desirable for an undergraduate with an in-depth study of psychology.
- Courses for the major or minor may not be taken S/D/U.
- Students are required to complete Psychology 201 before being accepted into the major or minor.
- Students who are taking Psychology 201 during the spring semester of their second year will be provisionally accepted into the major or minor.
- Recommended that students take statistics and methods in consecutive semesters.
- Generally, graduate programs expect completion of Psychology 215, 240, and 281. Psychology 491 or 495 is strongly recommended as preparation for graduate study in psychology.
- Students must earn a C or above in Psychology 101, Psychology 120 (Social Sciences 120, Mathematics 120), and Psychology 201 in order to graduate with a major or minor in psychology.

Total Credits Requirement = 9 to 11 course credits
A minor in psychology consists of:

**Required (2 courses)**
- PSY 101 General Psychology
- PSY 201 Research Methods in Psychology

**Electives (3 courses)**
- PSY 200 level or higher
- PSY 200 level or higher
- PSY 300 level or higher

**Supporting Course**
- PSY 120 Statistics for Psychologists (or MATH 120 or SSCI 120)

**Total Credits Requirement = 5 course credits**

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

Educational psychology links the disciplines of psychology and education with attention to the complex contextual forces that shape individual lives and the institutions within which individuals are shaped by their cultures.

A minor in educational psychology consists of:

**Psychology Courses (3 courses)**
- PSY 101 General Psychology
- PSY 201 Research Methods
- PSY 296 Life Span Psychology

**Education Courses (2 courses)**
- EDUC 351 Teacher/Learner Interaction
- EDUC 475 The Learner, the Teacher, and the Curriculum

**Approved Elective (1 course)**
- Course Prefix and Number — See program faculty for approval

**Other Considerations When Planning for the Minor:**
- The director must pre-approve the sixth course that is intended to be a special bridging course that assists the student in linking knowledge gained from the required courses with a specific interest.
- Given that a course in Life Span Psychology is required for teacher certification, it is required for the Educational Psychology minor.
- Psychology 330: Educational Psychology may be taken for the approved sixth course.
- Courses for the educational psychology minor may not be taken S/D/U.
- Students may not major in psychology and minor in educational psychology.
- Recommend that students take statistics and methods in consecutive semesters.
Total Credits Requirement = 6 course credits

COURSES

PSY 101 General Psychology
A general study of the field of psychology, suitable for both the student who wishes only one course in psychology and the student desiring a basic course as foundation for further study in psychology. Requirements met: Social Sciences Breadth. (Each fall and spring)

PSY 120 Statistics for Psychologists
An introduction to the standard statistical tools used in psychology to summarize data, describe relationships among variables, and make inferences from samples to populations with discussion of theory of probability and probability distributions, hypothesis testing, and exploration of computer packages. Examples and problems are derived from psychology research. May not be taken by students who have completed Social Sciences 120, Mathematics 120, or equivalent. Requirements Met: Quantitative Competency. (Each fall and spring)

PSY 125 Research Practicum
Supervised research study in psychology using analytical and behavioral science research techniques. PREQ: Psychology 101 and Psychology 201. 0.25 course credit unit. May be repeated for a total of one course credit unit.

PSY 201 Research Methods in Psychology
Study of the basic research techniques used in the scientific study of psychological processes. Extensive laboratory work includes application of inferential statistics to psychological data. Comparison of the strengths and weakness of various experimental, quasi-experimental, and qualitative research designs, with attention to ethical and theoretical issues as well as methodological ones. Involves completing a review of the literature in a defined area of psychology culminating with a detailed research proposal. Ensures that all students can adhere to standards outlined in The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. PREQ: Psychology 101 and Psychology 120 or Social Science 120 or Mathematics 120 or equivalent. Requirements met: Social Sciences Breadth, Quantitative Competency, and Full Writing Competency. (Each fall and spring)

PSY 214 Psychopharmacology
A study of how drugs are administered, how they are distributed through the body, how they affect neurons and behavior, and how they are inactivated. The course examines the how the chemical structure of drugs affects their actions on the nervous system. Included in the course is the classification of psychoactive drugs and some of the major members of the classes of drugs – stimulants, depressants, opiates, anti-psychotics, anti-depressants, tranquilizers, NSAID, and hallucinogens. The course considers how drugs are clinically used, why people use recreational drugs, and treatment of drug abuse. PREQ: Psychology 101. Requirements met: Social Sciences Breadth or Non-Lab Science Breadth. (Each fall or spring)

PSY 215 Behavioral Neuroscience
An introduction to the study of the physiological, evolutionary, and developmental mechanisms of behavior and experience with an emphasis on the relationship between the brain and behavior. Topics covered include the structure and function of the neuron, basic neuroanatomy, wakefulness and sleep, learning and memory, psychological disorders, emotional behavior, and reproductive behavior in humans and animals. PREQ: Psychology 101. Requirements met: Social Sciences Breadth or Non-Lab Science Breadth. (Each fall or spring).

**PSY 220 Introduction to Cognitive Psychology**
An examination of some of the problems studied by psychologists in the fields of information-processing, perception, and cognition together with representative theories and methods proposed for their solution. Includes lab work with Logo programming or robotics. This course is cross-listed as Cognitive Science 120. PREQ: Psychology 101. Requirements met: Social Sciences Breadth. (Each fall or spring)

**PSY 222 Environmental Psychology**
An examination of the relationship between humans and built, natural and virtual environments. The course explores topics such as environmental health and justice, planning and design, personal space, noise, crowding, and pro-environmental behavior. Students will have an opportunity to apply environmental psychology in community settings through needs assessment, research, and intervention. PREQ: Psychology 101 recommended. Requirements met: Social Sciences Breadth. (Typically each spring)

**PSY 225 Research Practicum**
Supervised research study in psychology using analytical and behavioral science research techniques. PREQ: Psychology 101 and Psychology 201. 0.25 course credit unit. May be repeated for a total of one course credit unit.

**PSY 235 Psychology of Gender**
Surveys the field of gender psychology, considering the views of experts in the field. Course explores gender differences and possible etiology of these differences; gender identity development and sexual orientation; communication styles; gender and violence; and gender issues in physical and mental health. PREQ: Psychology 101. Requirements met: Social Sciences Breadth. (Every other year)

**PSY 240 Social Psychology**
An examination of scientific theory and research concerning how the thoughts, feelings, and behaviors of individuals are affected by other individuals or by the group. The course investigates such topics as attraction, persuasion, and attitudes. PREQ: Psychology 101. Requirements met: Social Sciences Breadth. (Typically each spring)

**PSY 250 Topics in Psychology**
A study of selected topics offered on an occasional basis. PREQ: Psychology 101. May be repeated when topic varies.

**PSY 255 Health Psychology**
An exploration of the relationship between psychological factors and physical health. Specific
topics include stress and coping, seeking medical treatment, patient-practitioner interaction, adherence to medical advice, and health disparities. Students will have an opportunity to apply health psychology in community settings through needs assessment, research, and intervention. PREQ: Psychology 101. Requirements met: Social Sciences Breadth. (Typically each fall)

**PSY 260 Intermediate Directed Study**
Student investigation of topic of interest working in collaboration with a faculty member resulting in significant oral and written work. See On-Campus Learning Opportunities for more information. PREQ: Freshman Jan Term or Sophomore standing. Special permission required. Offered in variable course credit from 0.25-1.00.

**PSY 265 Psychology of Human Sexuality**
An examination of methodologies used in the study of human sexuality, with attention to attitudes regarding sexual orientation, identity, and gender. The course investigates the anatomy and physiology of sexual behavior as well as accompanying psychological phenomena, and considers biological, psychological, and cultural schools that serve as a basis for understanding heterosexual, lesbian, gay, and bisexual orientations. PREQ: Psychology 101. Requirements met: Social Sciences Breadth. (Every other year)

**PSY 281 Psychopathology**
This class focuses on learning diagnostic criteria for use in psychology and related helping fields, although anyone with an interest in abnormal psychology is encouraged to enroll. The course will consider the possible definitions of forensic assessment, ahistorical ways of thinking about mental illness, up to and including our present standards as defined in the DSM-5. The course will cover diagnostic criteria, prevalence, cultural and special population considerations, and how disorders are portrayed in the media. PREQ: Psychology 101. Formerly PSY 320. Requirements met: Social Sciences Breadth. (Typically each spring)

**PSY 282 Psychotherapy & Assessment**
This course guides students through the clinical responsibilities of mental health practitioners. Students interested in counseling/clinical psychology, social work, marriage and family therapy, school counseling, or educational psychology will especially benefit from this class. The major focus of this course is the varied models and modalities of psychotherapy. The secondary focus is the clinical assessment methods clinicians use to diagnose, treat, and track outcomes in their clients. Requirements met: Social Sciences Breadth. (Typically each fall)

**PSY 296 Life Span Psychology**
This course will examine human development from the prenatal period through old age. Topics covered will include development of thought, perception, language, parent-child relationships, peer relationships, aggression, morality, identity, and the developmental contexts of family, school, and culture. The course will be primarily conducted as lecture and discussion, with some videos and activities. PREQ: Psychology 101. Formerly PSY 345. Requirements met: Social Sciences Breadth. (Each fall or spring)

**PSY 315 Advanced Behavioral Neuroscience**
An in-depth study of selected fields within behavioral neuroscience including experience
dependent synaptic plasticity, learning and memory, addiction, emotions, and aging. Neuroanatomy and the neural mechanism of behavior in animals are investigated through laboratory demonstrations and student-conducted experiments PREQ: Psychology 101, Psychology 201, and Psychology 215 or instructor permission. (Typically each fall)

**PSY 325 Research Practicum**
Supervised research study in psychology using analytical and behavioral science research techniques. PREQ: Psychology 101 and Psychology 201. 0.25 course credit unit. May be repeated for a total of one course credit unit.

**PSY 330 Educational Psychology**
The purpose of this course is to examine how psychological theories can be applied to education. Topics covered will include traditional fields of psychology such as cognition and behavior modification as well as current issues like bullying and standardized testing. A co-requisite lab is required for students to learn how to conduct structured observations of behavior while evaluating how educational and psychological theories look in real-world situations. Many of the lab activities occur off campus at local schools. In order to take this class, students must pass the school district’s background check. Most lab times will be arranged individually with your cooperating teacher. PREQ: Psychology 101 and Psychology 201 or Education 225. Requirements met: Social Sciences Breadth. (Typically each fall)

**PSY 340 Cultural Psychology**
An exploration of the ways in which different cultures lead people to vary in basic psychological processes. The course will particularly focus on collectivism and individualism. Topics include language development, moral reasoning, mental health, self-concept, and parenting styles. PREQ: Psychology 101 and Psychology 201. Requirements met: Social Sciences Breadth. (Typically each spring)

**PSY 341 Interpersonal Relationships**
This course will consist of an overview of relevant research pertaining to interpersonal relationships with a particular emphasis on intimate relationships. Topics include initial attraction, love, interdependence, commitment, communication, and relationship deterioration/maintenance. The course is structured to familiarize students with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, and empirical findings within the study of interpersonal relationships. In addition, the course gives students the opportunity to think critically about relationships in their own lives. PREQ: Psychology 101 and Psychology 201. (Spring, alternate years)

**PSY 355 Learning, Memory, and Cognition**
Investigation of fundamental principles of learning and conditioning including animal cognition, the application of conditioning to clinical and classroom settings, and the human cognitive processes of knowledge acquisition, categorization, memory, problem solving, and reasoning. Extensive laboratory exercises involve hands-on exploration of classic experiments in cognitive psychology, the application of cognition, and the observation of cognition and learning. PREQ: Psychology 101 and either Psychology 201 or Education 225, and at least Junior standing.
Formerly called Conditioning and Cognitive Processes. Requirements met: Social Sciences Breadth. (Each fall or spring)

**PSY 375 Psychology and Law**
The course examines how psychology can inform the application of justice. The trial process is thoroughly explored, comparing the law’s informal theories of human behavior to what psychologists know based on theory and research. The application of psychological research and theory to various controversial courtroom issues is discussed. These issues include eyewitness identification and testimony, witness interrogations and confessions, use of the polygraph as a lie-detector test, child witnesses in sexual abuse cases, the death penalty, and the role of psychologists in jury selection and the trial process. PREQ: Psychology 101 and Psychology 201 or instructor permission. Formerly Psychology 275. (Every other year alternating with 270 Introduction to Forensic Psychology)

**PSY 382 Foundations of Clinical Practice**
This course is designed to give students a deeper understanding of how clinical practice in mental health is delivered. The course will focus on therapeutic microskills (e.g., understanding non-verbal behavior, how to ask effective questions) and targeted interventions (e.g., anxiety management, assertiveness) via readings, demonstrations, role plays, and reflective processing. The class will also emphasize ethical practice and self-care in this challenging field. The course will help students determine if mental health services is a career path for them, and what is learned will be of service in a number of human service professions (e.g., medicine, teaching, care management). Those student who want to take the clinical psychology practicum capstone course need to take this course as a prerequisite. PREQ: Psychology 201 and 282. (Each Spring)

**PSY 410 Stigma and Prejudice**
A critical examination of a social psychological perspective of stigma (stigma being ways in which people experience others’ prejudice toward themselves). We investigate stigma based upon ethnicity, gender, religion, age, color, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and other characteristics. We also investigate historical changes in the conceptualizations of stigma and prejudice. PREQ: Psychology 101, Psychology 201, and Psychology 240 (or instructor permission to bypass Psychology 240). Requirements met: Social Sciences Breadth. (Typically each fall)

**PSY 414 Understanding and Treating Addiction**
The course examines the physiological, neurological and psychological underpinnings of drug addiction (including alcohol) and compulsive gambling. PREQ: Psychology 201 and Psychology 214 or Psychology 215 or instructor permission. (Fall terms only).

**PSY 425 Research Practicum**
Supervised research study in psychology using analytical and behavioral science research techniques. PREQ: Psychology 101 and Psychology 201. 0.25 course credit units. May be repeated for a total of one course credit unit.

**PSY 350, 450 Advanced Topics in Psychology**
A proseminar on contemporary issues relevant to psychology offered on an occasional basis.
Open to juniors and seniors by instructor permission. PREQ: Psychology 101 and Psychology 201 and Junior or Senior Standing. May be repeated when topic varies.

**PSY 451 Clinical Neuroscience**
This capstone experience is designed for students with a strong interest in Cognitive Neuroscience, Neuropsychology, or Neurology. The main goal of the course will be to correlate neuroanatomic structures with clinically relevant information. Case presentations provide the framework for all communications about patient care. Instead of making the mastery of anatomical details the main goal and then searching for applications of this knowledge, actual clinical cases will be used as both a teaching instrument and motivating force to encourage each student to delve into further study of normal neuroanatomy and function. We will begin with a rapid review of Human Neuroanatomy followed by learning to read and write clinical case presentations and what components are a part of the standard neurological examination. The remaining portion of the semester will be devoted to working with the individual case studies in neurology and psychology. The cases allow for the formation of hypotheses concerning the location and nature of each patient's problems. Special attention will be devoted to new treatments thanks to recent advances in neuroscience in a wide variety of clinical populations. Behavioral and brain alterations due to stroke, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury or degenerative diseases will be at the core of many of the clinical cases that we will examine during the semester. This course will require substantial time outside of class to review appropriate materials concerning each case covered. PREQ: Psychology 201 and 215, or instructor permission. (Typically each fall)

**PSY 460 Advanced Directed Study**
Student investigation of topic of interest related to the major or minor working in collaboration with a faculty member resulting in significant oral and written work. See On-Campus Learning Opportunities for more information. PREQ: Junior or Senior standing. Special permission required. Offered for variable course credit from 0.25-1.00.

**PSY 464 Teaching/Learning Participation**
An individualized study that includes sharing in the instructional process for a particular psychology course under the supervision of the faculty member teaching the course. Open only to certain highly qualified juniors and seniors by invitation. See On-Campus Learning Opportunities for more information.

**PSY 490 Independent Study**
Student-driven independent work to produce a high quality body of work such as paper, report, art project, etc. See On-Campus Learning Opportunities for more information. PREQ: Junior or Senior standing. Special permission required. Offered in variable course credit from 0.25-1.00.

**PSY 491 Honors Thesis in Psychology**
Extensive independent study in the major in a topic of special interest culminating in a bachelor’s thesis with oral examination by thesis committee resulting in a bachelor’s degree with Honors upon completion. See Departmental Honors Program for more information. Completed in last three semesters before graduation. Offered for variable course credit from 1.00-2.00.
PSY 492 Independent Study Off-Campus/NSOC
Student-driven independent study in a topic related to the major completed at an off-campus site. See Off-Campus Learning Opportunities for more information. PREQ: Junior or Senior standing. Special permission required. Offered in variable course credit from 0.25-1.00.

PSY 495 Senior Seminar
See program faculty for more information.

PSY 496 Parents, Peers, and Media Socialization
This course will consist of a broad overview of topics in social development, with a particular emphasis on how children and adolescents are socialized within our society and across cultures. The course is structured with four units: (1) Parent-child relationships, with a focus on how parents influence children as well as how children affect behaviors and practices of their parents. (2) Peer relationships, friendships, and interpersonal behavior. (3) Media, including the effects of watching television on aggression, academic achievement, and body image. (4) Romantic relationships, including such topics as maintaining romantic relationships and sexual behavior in young adulthood. PREQ: Grade of C or higher in Psychology 201.