



PSYCHOLOGY | COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

B.A. / B.S. IN PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology is a science that studies human behavior and mental processes.

Psychological scientists study topics such as the structure and function of the brain, perception, learning, memory, thinking, personality, and psychological disorders.

A Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science in Psychology curriculum enables students to 1) think scientifically about behavior and mental processes, 2) appreciate and respect individual differences, and 3) pursue a variety of post-baccalaureate alternatives, including enrollment in graduate or professional school or employment in social service agencies, business, and industry.

Coursework aims to teach students to evaluate research methods, research designs, and statistics; to distinguish theories and findings based on evidence from those without such support; to speak and write effectively about psychology; and to apply psychology to the improvement of life in their communities.

Both the B.A. and B.S. degrees in Psychology provide students with a rigorous general background in psychology that prepares students for entry into psychology graduate programs. The B.S. degree is designed for students who wish to prepare for health-related professional graduate programs such as medicine, dentistry or physical therapy. The more extensive requirements in biology, chemistry, mathematics, and physics have been selected to optimize the student's preparation for these health-related graduate programs.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Completion of a B.A. in Psychology requires 120 credit hours and a minimum of a 2.0 grade point average. Completion of a B.S. in Psychology requires 128 credit hours.

COURSEWORK

- Introductory Psychology 1
- Introductory Psychology 2
- Statistical Techniques (Prerequisite: M100 or higher Math)
- Methods of Experimental Psychology
- Upper-level (300-400) courses in General Experimental Psychology (two courses for the B.A. and three courses for the B.S.) and in Human Processes (two courses)
- Upper-division electives (one for the B.A. degree, two for the B.S. degree)
- An advanced experimental laboratory

In addition to the listed courses, the student is responsible for fulfilling the general requirements of the bachelor's degree as established by the College of Arts and Sciences.

Students should consult with the department for additional information concerning prerequisites, course content and academic counseling.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The department offers a wide variety of courses in all areas of psychology. Historically, students completing these courses have done well on national achievement tests. Students are able to engage in collaborative or independent study with faculty members. Over the past five years, dozens of students have taken advantage of this opportunity. Many have presented their research at student and professional meetings and some have won student research competitions.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A B.A. / B.S. IN PSYCHOLOGY?

B.A. and B.S. degree recipients find employment in social service agencies, personnel, sales, and various capacities in many different organizations. A career as a psychologist requires graduate training, at least at the master's level. Entry to doctoral programs is highly competitive, but the doctoral degree provides many possibilities for careers in service, research, and/or teaching. Some psychology students pursue degrees in medicine, dentistry, physical therapy, or related health sciences.

HANDS-ON LEARNING

Students can earn academic credit by working in community settings through the department's Cooperative Work Experience course. Popular community settings include prisons, mental health agencies, and nursing centers. In addition, students who wish to prepare for doctoral education can participate in faculty research in a variety of areas such as language, health, child development, and human learning.

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

Students are encouraged to join the Psychology Club, which sponsors speakers, field trips, service activities, and graduate school preparation sessions. The department has a chapter of Psi Chi, the national honor society in psychology.

RELATED DEGREE OPTION

- Minor in Psychology

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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