

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

Chair: Dr. William P. Wattles

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Department of Psychology offers an undergraduate psychology major along with a minor and collateral. The purpose of the undergraduate major is to provide students with an understanding of psychology as the science of behavior and experience including the major theories and issues within psychology; to emphasize the role of the liberal arts in higher education and personal development; to promote an appreciation for individual and cultural diversity; to develop critical thinking skills; to develop competence with methods of scientific research and data analysis; to assure that students have the necessary research experiences and coursework to undertake graduate education; and to assist students in developing their skills in library research, scientific writing, public presentations, and computer applications. Psychology majors will become aware of the various career options related to the major. The program also provides opportunities for internships in applied settings. A major in psychology will provide students with a broad-based education that will equip them for entry-level positions in business, government, and a wide variety of human service organizations. The major also prepares students who wish to pursue further education in areas such as law, medicine, business, or seminary, as well as psychology. The department also offers a graduate program.

MAJOR

A major in psychology requires 38 semester hours to include the following:

1. Psychology 206, 216, 220, 302, 303, 304, 319, 336, and 499
2. At least one course from the Developmental Core courses of Psychology 315, 316, 334
3. One course from the Integrative Experiences courses of Psychology 470 and 498
4. Nine hours of psychology electives, with a minimum of eight hours at the 300-level or higher
5. Biology 105/115 or 104
6. Minor/collateral requirements (two options)
 - a) two 12-hour collaterals approved by the faculty adviser
 - b) an 18-hour minor approved by the faculty adviser

A psychology major may only count Psychology 206 and 216 towards the General Education Requirements (Sciences). When fulfilling the General Education Requirements for Mathematics, it is recommended that psychology majors take Mathematics 134. Also, psychology majors should attempt to gain a strong background in the science areas, as that coursework will benefit them in their major studies.

The minimum number of semester hours required in psychology courses for a major in psychology is 38 (plus an additional four hours in Biology). The minimum number of semester hours in all courses (major and non-major) required for the major in psychology is 120.

MINOR

A minor in psychology requires 18 semester hours, including Psychology 206.

COLLATERAL

A collateral in psychology requires 12 semester hours, including Psychology 206.

PSYCHOLOGY COURSES (PSY)

206 Introductory Psychology (3) F, S, SU. Survey of the biological, experimental (including sensory processes, learning, memory, and motivation), social, personality, and developmental processes. In addition to these content areas, an understanding of scientific methodology will be studied.

216 Introductory Psychology Laboratory (1:3) (Prerequisite/corequisite: 206) F, S. The main focus will include hands-on experiences with scientific methodology used in psychology including observation of phenomenon, data collection, data analysis, critical analysis of findings, and report writing.

220 Careers in Psychology (1) (Prerequisites: 206 and 216; for declared psychology majors only; does not count toward General Education Requirements or the psychology minor or collateral) F, S. Provides general knowledge concerning careers that may be pursued in Psychology. Topics include strategies in making career decisions, how to apply to graduate schools, and how to seek entry-level jobs with a bachelor's degree. Entry-level evaluation of the major will occur.

270 Beginning Supervised Student Research (1:3) (Prerequisite: Permission of department) F, S, SU. This introduction to the laboratory practice of research methods in psychology provides students with familiarity in the basic techniques of data entry and conducting research protocols in the context of ongoing department research. Regular weekly lab meetings will include discussions of special topics. Students may earn a maximum of three-credit hours in 270/370 combined.

302 Quantitative and Psychometric Methods (3) (Prerequisite: 206, 216, completion of General Education Mathematics Requirement, Prerequisite/corequisite: 220 or permission of the department) F, S, SU. The student will become familiar with fundamental descriptive and inferential statistics as used in psychology. Topics will also include reliability, validity, confidence intervals, and measures of effect size. In addition, students learn APA-style reporting of statistics and become familiar with SPSS.

303 Research Methodology (3:2-2) (Prerequisite: Grade of C or higher in Psychology 302) F, S, SU. Introduction to the experimental method in the study of behavior, with laboratory exercises to provide practical knowledge and skill in experimental design and technical writing. Advanced inferential statistics.

304 Brain and Behavior (3) (Prerequisite: 206, Biology 104 or 105 and 115) F, S. Study of the role of the nervous system in the generation of behavior, feelings, and thoughts. Attention will be given to methodologies used by neuroscientists-particularly physiological psychologists-to study the nervous system and behavior. Primary emphasis will be on the role of neuronal activity in "normal" behavior; however, problems (e.g. addiction, amnesia, mental illness) will be studied as examples of some products of a malfunctioning nervous system.

305 Introduction to Behavioral Genetics (3) (Prerequisites: 206 and Biology 105 and 115 or permission of department) SU. This course is an introduction to the interdisciplinary field combining behavioral sciences and genetics to study roles of the genes and other factors involved in a variety of complex behaviors of humans. Emphasis is placed on the use of genetic designs and methods to address psychologically relevant questions concerning the nature and etiology of individual differences in behavior. Methods to be covered include traditional methodologies like twin and adoption studies as well as linkage and association studies. In addition, special emphasis on the interaction between genotype and environment during development is discussed. Other current issues in behavioral genetics will be discussed including Mendelian Genetics, Intelligence, Personality Disorders, Psychopathology, Antisocial Behavior, and