



Wayne State University

PSYCHOLOGY

FACTS IN BRIEF

No. of Faculty: 41

Psychology Majors: 365

Undergraduate courses per term: 36

Course Sections Per Term: 152

Graduate Students: 220

Special Undergraduate Programs:

Honors Program
Field Study Program
Psi Chi Honor Society

Graduate Programs:

Biopsychology
Clinical Psychology
Cognitive Psychology
Developmental Psychology
Industrial/Organizational Psychology
Social Psychology

Q. WHY SHOULD I STUDY PSYCHOLOGY?

- A. Psychology is the scientific study of human behavior. When you study psychology you learn how people sense and appreciate the world in which they live, how they learn and think and make decisions. You study the basic forces that motivate people, the nervous system and how it influences behavior, and you

study normal and abnormal behavior.

Psychology can be studied from many perspectives including biological, social, organizational and developmental. As well as increasing your self-understanding and insight into the behavior of others, psychology provides a good foundation for your future field of work. It can be applied to business, to medicine, to law, and to a wide variety of other fields

The in-depth study of psychology encompasses both the social sciences and natural sciences. It gives students a strong foundation for a wide range of careers and for graduate study in many different areas. Graduate study in psychology prepares the student for a career as a professional psychologist.

Q. WHAT CAREERS ARE AVAILABLE?

- A. A wide range of career possibilities exist for bachelor's degree graduates who have majored in psychology. Many Wayne State psychology graduates have positions in business, banking, industry, retailing, advertising and government settings. Others are in psychology related positions in personnel work, in industrial relations, in employment or rehabilitation counseling, in education, in mental health and crisis centers, in juvenile and nursing homes, and in other

human services settings.

Psychology is excellent preparation for professional fields such as medicine, dentistry, law, social work, education, the ministry and law enforcement. Many students in pre-med and pre-law programs elect psychology as an undergraduate major. The Bachelor of Science degree with a major in psychology is appropriate for pre-med programs and either the Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts with a psychology major is appropriate for pre-law and other fields.

Professional work in psychology requires graduate training and the Ph.D. degree is usually required. Many intriguing career opportunities are available for psychologists including positions as clinical psychologists in hospitals and clinics, research psychologists in government and private research foundations, industrial psychologists doing applied work in business and industry, as well as psychology professors in colleges and universities.

Q. WHY SHOULD I STUDY PSYCHOLOGY AT WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY?

The Wayne State University Psychology Department has a nationally recognized faculty of more than 40 full time members who have all made research contributions to the field of psychology in addition to their teaching activities. Recently faculty members have received fellowships from the National Institute of Aging and the Fulbright Hayes Fellowship program as well as research awards from organizations such as the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Mental Health and the National Institute of Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse. Members of the department appear regularly on programs of the American Psychological Association, the Society for Research in Child Development, and the Psychonomics Society. They hold offices in many

national and regional psychological associations.

There are various psychology research laboratories on campus including the animal labs where research is done on neurological and physiological bases of behavior and the computer oriented cognitive and perception labs where studies are done on human learning and memory. The Psychology Clinic offers individual counseling and special group activities such as assertiveness training and weight reduction classes.

The Psychology Department offers a broad range of courses and programs. About 70 courses available to undergraduate students are listed in the current university catalog. These cover the entire range of psychology encompassing biopsychology, social psychology, developmental psychology, cognitive psychology, industrial/organizational psychology, and clinical psychology. Special undergraduate programs include the Honors Program which is described in another section and the Field Study Program. Field Study is a two semester program that gives students the opportunity for supervised experience working with clients in community settings such as hospitals, mental health agencies, schools and rehabilitation centers. Wayne State University has a chapter of Psi Chi which is the only honor society open exclusively to students in psychology. Undergraduate students with distinguished records of scholarship are inducted annually into Psi Chi. In addition, there is an undergraduate psychology club open to all psychology majors.

Q. WHAT KINDS OF COURSES WOULD I TAKE AS A PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR?

A. The College of Liberal Arts has distribution course requirements in English, Foreign Language, Social Science, Natural Science and Humanities. In

addition to complete the psychology program of thirty credits to earn a Bachelor's degree in psychology. The psychology major must include:

1. Introductory Psychology (Psych 101)
2. A laboratory course in Perception (Psych 102) or Learning and Cognition (Psych 103)
3. Three core psychology courses (Psych 260, Psych 261, Psych 262)

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addition to completing these requirements, the psychology major takes a minimum of thirty credit hours in psychology to earn a Bachelor's degree with a major in psychology. The thirty credit hours in psychology must include:

1. Introductory Psychology (Psy 101)
2. A laboratory course chosen from:
Perception (Psy 205)
Learning and Memory (Psy 207)
Cognitive Processes (Psy 209)
3. Three core courses chosen from:
Developmental Psychology (Psy 240)
Psychology of Social Behavior (Psy 260)
Research Methods in Psychology (Psy 402)
Physiological Psychology (Psy 405 or 505)
Statistical Methods in Psychology (Psy 410)
A second laboratory course from the selection listed above.

Psychology majors may earn either a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science degree. The psychology course requirements are the same for both degrees. The Bachelor of Science degree requires additional science credits (27 to 30 credit hours in science courses outside the field of psychology) and the foreign language requirement is waived.

In addition to the core courses, psychology majors may take additional psychology courses according to their interests. These might include courses in clinical, developmental, experimental, industrial/organizational, or social psychology.

Q. WHAT TYPES OF RESEARCH ARE DONE IN THE PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT?

- A. Psychologists at Wayne State study issues in clinical, developmental, cognitive, social, industrial, and biological psychology. The wide diversity of research projects reflects this multiple

approach to the study of psychology as well as the many resources available in the Detroit metropolitan area.

Current projects include studies of the relationship between brain functions and behavior, the treatment of alcohol and drug abuse, and the psychobiological nature of addiction. Others are involved with the description and prevention of learning disabilities, and how people understand spoken, written and sign language. Additional studies are concerned with how memory develops in children and how it changes in older adults, the impact of peer relations on social development, understanding and treating unhealthy life styles, the nature of behavior pathology, and how individual self-evaluation can be used in personnel selection processes.

In any given year more than 100 different studies are conducted in the psychology department, and most have a role for interested undergraduates!

Q. WHAT OPPORTUNITIES ARE THERE FOR UNDERGRADUATES TO BE INVOLVED IN RESEARCH?

- A. Most faculty welcome the participation of serious undergraduates in their research. There are forms, tests and equipment to be prepared. Subjects must be contacted, experiments conducted, and results coded and analyzed. In most laboratories undergraduates can become involved in these and other phases of the research process.

In some psychology laboratories there is the opportunity to learn to work with computers, sophisticated electronic equipment, videotapes and other means of recording behavior, as well as a variety of psychological tests. These experiences can be invaluable both to the student who intends to go on for a graduate degree in psychology and the student who wants to pursue a career in business, medicine, or education.

Since all of the people doing research are also teachers, they are aware that students need to be trained and given an opportunity to learn specific skills. A significant part of any research program is training others to carry it forward.

Q. IS THERE AN HONORS PROGRAM IN PSYCHOLOGY?

- A. The Honors Program in Psychology is available to psychology majors who want to join the program and who have a minimum grade point average of 3.0. Students enter the program when they declare their major, ordinarily at the beginning of their junior year. Completion of the appropriate courses entitles the student to the designation "Honors in Psychology" on the diploma. Students who join the honors program tend to be those who are planning graduate work in psychology, medicine, or other professional fields.

The Honors Program offers many advantages to the able student. It emphasizes small classes, supervised research, independent study, and a mentor relationship with a faculty member or advanced graduate student. Intensive advising and planning is done to help psychology honors majors select and be accepted in graduate programs of their choice. Students in the program are enthusiastic about it and promote it on their own among their friends in psychology.

For further information regarding the program offerings at Wayne State University please contact:

Office of Admissions
116 Administrative Services Building
Wayne State University
Detroit, Michigan 48202
(313) 577-3577