Psychology

Psychology is the study of the biological, cognitive, emotional and social processes related to human and animal behavior. Using scientific methods to study, explain and predict behavior, psychologists explore such questions as how the brain learns and stores information; what triggers our biological rhythms, aggression and personality characteristics; how human relationships develop; what leads to judgment and decision-making; how society deals with mental illness and behavioral disorders; and the psychological impact of activities such as work and sports.

Pursuing Psychology at Ohio State
Students considering a major in psychology should follow a college preparatory curriculum in high school. Courses which provide excellent preparation include English composition, mathematics, and the biological and physical sciences.

All freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process for the Columbus campus; find admissions criteria at go.osu.edu/admissions.

Upon admission to the university, students can declare a major in psychology within the College of Arts and Sciences. Students may choose to pursue either a Bachelor of Arts (BA) or a Bachelor of Science (BS). Each psychology student works closely with an advisor to select course work in psychology appropriate to the student’s interests and goals.

Psychology Requirements
The psychology major consists of 36 credit hours of psychology courses and a prerequisite course, Introductory Psychology. Course work for the psychology major includes Data Analysis in Psychology, Research Methods in Psychology and a core course from each of four areas: brain and behavior, cognitive psychology, clinical and development psychology, and social psychology.

In addition, students must take at least two advanced courses. Students completing a BS degree also must take Quantitative and Statistical Methods in Psychology, and an advanced research course (Cognitive Psychology Laboratory or Social Psychology Laboratory).

Co-Curricular Opportunities
The Psychology Enrichment Program provides students with an opportunity to meet with faculty outside the classroom and explore various areas of psychology as well as learn about career exploration tools and resources.

Students can become involved in faculty research labs as early as their freshmen year. Psychology faculty and graduate students offer over 50 research opportunities for interested students. Each year, 600–700 students earn course credit for research experience through the Undergraduate Research in Psychology course. Students may present a poster of their research at the annual Psychology Research Colloquium, the Denman Research Forum, or can travel to a regional, national or international conference. The Psychology Department offers Conference Travel Scholarships and Summer Research Fellowships for students involved in research.

Students also may participate in community-based internship experiences at settings such as Suicide Prevention Services, Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio, Northwest Counseling Services, the American Red Cross, Goodwill of Columbus, COSI, the Student Wellness Center and Northwestern Mutual Financial Services. Students completing internships can receive credit through the Internship in Psychology course.

There are three student organizations in the Psychology Department: the Psychology Club, the Minority Psychology Student Association and Psi Chi, the national psychology honors society. Each organization hosts academic, social and service activities to facilitate student interaction, learning and service.

Praise for Psychology at Ohio State:
Ohio State’s Psychology Department ranks 10th nationally among public universities and 21st among all institutions (U.S. News and World Report).

Sixteen faculty members from the Psychology Department have received the Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching, while 9 are Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The department’s faculty are among the top researchers in areas such as stereotyping and prejudice, stress and breast cancer recovery, language development, Alzheimer’s, and schizophrenia.

For more information, check these websites:

Psychology: undergrad.psy.ohio-state.edu
College of Arts and Sciences: artsandsciences.osu.edu
Ohio State: osu.edu
Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu
First Year Experience: fye.osu.edu
Contact information:
For students interested in incorporating a study abroad experience into their education, the Department of Psychology offers the annual Psychology and Culture in Europe study abroad program. The Psychology Department also offers scholarships for students studying abroad.

Honors & Scholars Program
The Department of Psychology offers unique and challenging opportunities for Honors students. There are over 10 psychology Honors courses at both introductory and advanced levels. Honors students are encouraged to participate in research activities through participation in faculty research projects. Honors students seeking a three-year intensive research experience can apply for the Psychology Honors Research Mentorship Program. Students also may choose to design and implement their own research project via the Honors Thesis track.

Many psychology majors are also involved in Ohio State’s Scholars Programs, and students in the Health Sciences Scholars, Mount Leadership Society, Sport and Wellness Scholars, International Affairs Scholars, and Tomorrow’s Teachers Scholars programs often choose psychology as a major.

Career Prospects in Psychology
A strong liberal arts education with a major in psychology will prepare students for entry into many career fields and graduate/professional programs. The following are some of the fields that graduates with bachelor’s degrees in psychology have entered: administration and management, business and industry, casework, child care, employment interviewing, gerontology, health services, marketing and public relations, personnel, probation and parole, psychiatric assistant, research or laboratory assistant, sales, teaching, and technical writing.

Close to 60 percent of psychology graduates pursue post-graduate education in a wide variety of fields including psychology, counseling, social work, education, student affairs, law, medicine, human resources, nursing, public health, occupational and physical therapy, city and regional planning, and public policy. For more information on our alumni, check out our Alumni Survey results at undergrad.psy.ohio-state.edu/html/AlumniSurvey.php, or search by career field through our Ask-an-Alum Program at undergrad.psy.ohio-state.edu/html/askanalum.php.

Post-graduate areas of study specific to psychology include clinical, child clinical, cognitive, community, comparative, counseling, developmental, educational, environmental, experimental, forensic, gerontology, health, industrial/organizational, neuropsychology/psychobiology, psychometrics, quantitative, rehabilitation and social psychology. Students who earn advanced degrees in psychology have many career opportunities. Most psychologists are found in academic settings, independent practice, hospitals, clinics or other human services settings, and in business or government.

Curriculum Sample
This is a sample list of classes a student will take to pursue a degree in psychology. Since university students need more than specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete General Education (GE) requirements. Because GE courses come from a variety of academic areas of study, this course work helps students develop fundamental skills essential to collegiate success and allows them to tailor these courses toward their interests. Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree in psychology. Visit undergrad.psy.ohio-state.edu for details.

Freshman Year:
Survey course 1
First writing course 3
Introductory Psychology 3
Data Analysis in Psychology 3
Abnormal Psychology 3
GE courses 15–19
Total hours 28–32

Sophomore Year:
Research in Psychology 3
Social Psychology 3
Introduction to Behavioral Neuroscience 3
Psychology of Personal Security: Global and Local Perspectives 3
Second writing course 3
GE courses 15–18
Minor/electives 3
Total hours 30–33

Junior Year:
Memory and Cognition 3
Psychology of Emotions 3
Health Psychology 3
Internship in Psychology 3
Undergraduate Research in Psychology 3
GE courses 6
Minor/Electives 6–9
Total hours 30–33

Senior Year:
Psychology of Judgment and Decision Making 3
Counseling Psychology 3
Introduction to Psychopharmacology 3
Psychology of Human Sexuality 3
GE courses 3
Minor/Electives 15
Total hours 30

Revised August 2015. Information subject to change. For the most up-to-date information on the psychology program, visit undergrad.psy.ohio-state.edu.

Contact information:
Psychology Advising Office | 1835 Neil Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43210-1230 | 614-292-5750

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