



The study of psychology involves not only the engagement and understanding of others, but also of self. It explores the common ground that exists among all human beings, as well as the variant aspects of everyday life. Whether based in physiological, mental, intellectual, personality, or social development causes, psychology delves into the myriad aspects of human behavior and explores tested and emerging methods for analyzing, explaining and improving that behavior.

At Ottawa University

The Psychology major provides a foundation in human physiological, mental, intellectual, personality, and social development. Specific coursework is focused on research, theories and processes useful for understanding oneself and others, both as individuals and as members of various societies, groups, cultures, and organizations. Students are encouraged to think critically, to analyze and integrate information from other disciplines and sources, and to draw conclusions which can lead to the application of psychology to the identification and realization of individual and group goals. Graduates are prepared for advanced study leading to professions in counseling and psychotherapy, teaching, church ministry, youth work, research, and organizational development.

Careers

Psychologists study the human mind and human behavior. Research psychologists investigate the physical, cognitive, emotional, or social aspects of human behavior. Psychologists in health service fields provide mental health care in hospitals, clinics, schools, or private settings. Psychologists employed in applied settings, such as business, industry, government, or nonprofit organizations, provide training, conduct research, design organizational systems, and act as advocates for psychology.

Education and Qualifications

A bachelor's degree in psychology qualifies a person to assist psychologists and other professionals in community mental health centers, vocational rehabilitation offices and correctional programs. A Master's degree, licensure and/or certification may be required depending on job duties.

Undergraduate Psychology

Required Major Courses

PSY 12053 General Psychology

Introduces basic elements in understanding human behavior. Emphasis on basic concepts and terminology of psychology, including the biological basis of behavior, sensation, perception, history of psychology, growth and development, motivation, learning, measurement and scientific methodology, emotion, personality, abnormal behavior, and psychotherapy.

PSY 32353 Developmental Psychology

Examines theory and research on issues of human growth and development.

PSY 30153 Theories of Personality

Emphasizes modern psychoanalytic, behaviorist and humanistic theories of personality development.
Prerequisite: PSY 12053

PSY 30353 Psychopathology

Study of biological, psychological and sociocultural influences contributing to abnormal behavior patterns. Includes history, identification, diagnosis, and treatment of various psychopathological disorders.

SOC 30653 Ethnic Relations and Multiculturalism

Focuses on intergroup and intragroup experiences of various ethnic populations within the United States. Includes impact of integration, discrimination, prejudice, and social dynamics of conflict and assimilation to various groups.
Prerequisite: SOC 10153 or SOC 10453

or

PSY 32153 Social Psychology

Examines social influences on human behavior, including attitude formation and change, influence and persuasion, social attraction, theories of aggression, conformity, cultural impact, leadership styles, power and status, social roles, and environmental influences.
Prerequisites: PSY 12053 (Alternate to SOC 30653)

PSY 31354 Physiological Psychology

Examines physical basis of human behavior and experience, how the brain and nervous system work, information flow, and processing at higher levels of organization. Addresses issues of intelligence, consciousness, addictions, and deviant behavior from a neurophysiological standpoint.

PSY 32253 Research Design and Analysis

Reviews basic research methods focusing on conceptual basis for experimentation. Includes basic design components such as control, sampling, data collection, and analysis.
Prerequisites: PSY 12053 or SOC 10453 and inferential statistics course.

PSY 36000 Statistics for the Social Sciences

Introduction to descriptive and inferential statistical techniques used in the social sciences. Topics include data collection procedures, measures of dispersion, correlation designs, probability, statistical inference, and analysis of variance.

PSY 40854 History and Systems of Psychology

Reviews historical antecedents of contemporary psychology, critical analysis of selected psychological theories and discussion of application of these theories in contemporary psychology.
Prerequisite: PSY 12053

PSY 49201 Seminar in Psychology

Capstone course that guides student in development of integrative written project that demonstrates personal achievement of learning outcomes in the psychology major. Culminates in a major theoretical paper, written in APA format, investigating and discussing a major issue or issues within the field and presented in seminar form in class.

Recommended Courses

COM 30163 Interpersonal Communication

Examines models of relational interaction, verbal and nonverbal messages, language use, critical listening, relational dynamics, self-concept, identity-management, disclosure, intimacy, defensiveness, supportiveness, perceptual processes, emotional influences, interpersonal conflicts, and the impact of gender, race and culture on communication.

SOC 10453 Introduction to Sociology

Introduces theory and method in social sciences as they relate to key concepts in the field of sociology including socialization, culture, status, stratification, conflict, and change.