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 Principles of 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 Psychology of Abnormal Behavior
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 12053

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.

HUS 21253 The Family
Explores historical, anthropological and theoretical perspectives of family. Dynamics of family relationships, communication styles and interactions addressed, as well as issues relating to dating, love and friendship, human sexuality, relationships, life styles, divorce, child rearing and other related issues. Prerequisite: PSY 12053 Principles of Psychology or SOC 10153 Social Thought or SOC 10453 Introduction to Sociology.

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.

SOC 30753 Human Sexuality
Inter-disciplinary approach draws upon the scientific expertise of anthropologists, biologists, medical researchers, sociologists, social workers, and psychologists and the contributions of these fields to the study of human sexuality. Interest in this topic is based on the fact that sexual behavior reflects our biological capabilities, our psychological characteristics and social and cultural influences. Covers core topics in the field of human sexuality including anatomy, physiology, arousal and response, gender roles, attraction, love, intimate relationships, sexual communication, sexual techniques, sexual orientation, conception, birth control, prenatal development, childbirth, sexual behavior across the life-span, sexual dysfunction and therapy, sexually transmitted diseases, atypical variations in sexual behavior, sexual coercion and commercial sex. Focuses on critical thinking as a tool for learning and taking action through diverse literature in the field of study. In addition, addresses gender roles, sexual attitudes, sexual behaviors, sexual health, and sexually responsible decision-making.