

College of Arts and Science

Department of Psychological Sciences

MU psychology majors are part of an internationally recognized department. We are known for research in a wide variety of areas, from ways to prevent child abuse to new applications of brain imaging technologies. However, while the advances we make enhance the value of an MU psychology degree, the primary mission of the Department of Psychological Sciences is education.

Our Strengths

Our faculty and staff are committed to providing students with a high-quality, broadly based undergraduate education. We understand that undergraduate students use the psychology major as preparation for a variety of post-baccalaureate enterprises. We are dedicated to offering a wide range of courses and services to students. While some students are interested in pursuing psychology-related interests in graduate school, most students are interested in pursuing careers after they graduate with a BA.

Psychology majors work in diverse fields such as community and social services, human resources, management and business, student affairs and services, law enforcement, education and scientific research. Regardless of a student's ultimate goals, our faculty members believe students will be best served by completing a rigorous research-oriented program of study. Therefore, students should expect their instructors to take a scientific approach to the particular psychological content of each course.

Personal Attention

The department is large, with approximately 1,000 undergraduate majors and nearly 40 faculty members. Despite its size, student-faculty interactions in the classroom, in the laboratory and informally are a key component of undergraduate education. So, too, are the student-support services, such as academic advising and career counseling, provided by the department's student services office.

This office is directed by two academic advisers and a senior faculty member who serves as the director of undergraduate

studies. The director of undergraduate studies holds regular office hours and is readily available by e-mail.

The academic advisers hold regular office hours year-round and are trained, full-time professionals knowledgeable about degree requirements, academic regulations, career decision-making processes and graduate-school preparation.

Because psychology is such a diverse field, we strongly encourage students to explore their career interests by visiting the Career Center on campus. Students are encouraged to take advantage of its resources early and often.

Majoring in Psychology

The department awards a bachelor of arts degree. A complete description of departmental requirements is available in the psychology department's student services office and on our Web site: psychology.missouri.edu/.

The program's emphasis encompasses important theories, recent discoveries and scientific methods in the major areas of psychology.

Students must complete a distribution requirement with course work in each of the following five areas of psychology: learning/cognition, biological/comparative, social/personality, developmental and clinical/abnormal.

However, the focus of the undergraduate program is not on gaining practical experience for a specific career. Rather, we expect students to acquire writing, research and analytical skills, and an understanding of people that can be applied to *almost any career field*. These goals also are reflected in degree requirements.

All students must complete writing-intensive courses. Experience indicates that these courses are most effective when they focus on a content area of interest to the student. Hence, we offer a variety of writing-intensive courses, including *Theories of Learning*, *Cognitive Psychology*, *Normal Language Development*, *Research in Psychopathology*, *Emotional Disorders in Childhood and Adolescence* and *Psychology of Women*.

Our capstone requirement is satisfied by completion of a research project in a laboratory course. Here, too, there are a variety of courses to choose from, including *Tests and Measurement*, *Animal Learning*, *Human Cognition*, *Human Senses* and *Experimental Social Psychology*.

Our students also acquire extensive experience in research design and data analysis while completing a course in statistics and a two-course sequence in research methods that incorporates computer work.

Degree Requirements

The bachelor of arts degree in psychology requires a minimum of 120 credit hours. In addition, to the requirements for all students in the College of Arts and Science, there are specific psychology course requirements.

Major [30 hours]

REQUIRED COURSES

General Psychology I

Research Methods I and II

DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS (ONE COURSE FROM EACH OF THE FIVE AREAS)

- Learning/Cognition:

Theories of Learning

Human Memory

Decisions, Values and Choice

Cognitive Psychology

- Biological/Comparative

Mind, Brain and Behavior

Drugs and Behavior

Clinical Psychophysiology

Cognitive Neuroscience

- Social/Personality

Social Psychology

Stereotypes and Prejudice

Introduction to Personality

Functions and Processes of the Self

- Developmental

Developmental Psychology

Infancy

Cognitive Development in Childhood

Social Development in Childhood

- Clinical/Abnormal

Abnormal Psychology

Research in Psychopathology

Emotional Disorders in Childhood and Adolescence

Schizophrenia

CAPSTONE REQUIREMENT (ONE OF TWO CHOICES)

Regularly scheduled capstone course

Honors capstone course (two semesters)

ELECTIVES

Three elective hours from courses numbered 4000 or above

Additionally, *Statistics 1300 (Elementary Statistics)* is a requirement for the major but is counted outside the 30 hours of required major course work.

Internships, Service and Research

Although the department doesn't have a formal internship program at the present time, we encourage students to get involved in student organizations, volunteer activities or part-time work. We also offer a service-learning capstone course in clinical psychology that integrates classroom learning and community service.

Students, especially those planning to pursue advanced degrees, are encouraged to do research with individual faculty members. All faculty members are active researchers, and many undergraduates work with professors on their research projects to gain hands-on research experience while earning course credit.

For many students, the opportunity to be an active participant in research at

the frontiers of science provides the most exciting experience of their undergraduate career. The number and variety of ongoing research topics being investigated at any given time is too large to be listed here. However, updated listings of current research interests of the department faculty are always available in the psychology department's student services office and on our Web site to aid students in matching their research interests with those of faculty members.

Research experience is also a key feature of the department's honors program. Honors-eligible (GPA of 3.3 or above) students work with an individual professor to design and complete a research project of their own that culminates in an honors thesis. In recent years, nearly all psychology students in the honors program have presented papers based on their research at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, and the department has been proud to sponsor their trip to Chicago for that convention.

Psychology majors have also been among the largest number of MU award recipients for two other programs that offer unique research opportunities: the McNair Scholars Program and the MU College of Arts and Science Undergraduate Research Mentorship Program. The McNair Scholars Program, named in honor of the physicist Ronald E. McNair, who was killed in the 1986 Challenger space-shuttle explosion, is designed to prepare first-generation college students for graduate education. MU is one of 14 universities selected for this federally funded program in which students attend professional conferences, present their own research and receive tutorial and other support to enhance their chances of success in obtaining a graduate education. Junior psychology majors are eligible for the Undergraduate Research Mentorship Program, which offers research experience and graduate-level mentoring over the summer.

Undergraduate Organizations

Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in Psychology, meets regularly with the Psychology Club, which is open to all undergraduates. Psi Chi and Psychology Club host a variety of social events for psychology students and faculty, including a fall picnic and a brunch/reception honoring graduating psychology majors and their families during May graduation.

They also sponsor a variety of service events for our undergraduates. These include workshops on preparing resumes and applying to graduate school and pan-

els to discuss psychology courses and research opportunities. Perhaps most importantly, Psi Chi and Psychology Club offer excellent opportunities for socializing with other psychology majors, meeting professors and staying abreast of current events in the department.

Scholarships and Awards

If you apply for financial aid, you will learn about University scholarships and grants. In addition, endowment funds allow the department to make several scholarship awards to undergraduates each year.

- The Thornton Prize for Independent Writing by an Undergraduate Psychology Major is designed to encourage and reward independent scholarship and writing.
- The Fred C. McKinney Family Scholarship is awarded to the two senior psychology majors with the highest GPAs at the end of their junior year.
- The Max F. Meyer Achievement Award goes to the student judged to have completed the most creative and thorough honors research project.
- The Sam C. Brown Outstanding Achievement Award goes to the senior psychology major judged to have the greatest potential for achievement in the field of psychology.

Detailed information about these awards is available in the psychology department's Student Services Office and on our Web site.

Careers in Psychology

As noted earlier, our curriculum, along with the general requirements of the liberal arts degree, is designed to prepare students for success in a wide range of careers. Our graduates have been successful in, among other fields, business, law, law enforcement, medicine, education; government service, social services, and, of course, psychology.

Results of surveys we use to follow the careers of our majors are available in the department's student services office. However, the simplest way to note what becomes of our majors may be to list the occupations of some psychology alumni: state judge, obstetrician-gynecologist, vice president and general counsel of a public utility corporation, chief psychologist at a medical school, research scientist of a commercial research laboratory, U.S. Navy supervisory psychologist, financial planner, president and owner of a management-consulting firm, attorney in private practice, president of a major publishing company, real-estate broker, president and owner of a construction company, clinical

psychologist in private practice and university professor.

Missouri Admission

The University admits students on the basis of their chances for success here. The main criteria are the high-school curriculum, test scores and class rank.

Applicants are expected to have followed a college-preparatory program with at least 17 units of credit, as follows (one unit equals one year):

Four units of English

Two units emphasizing composition or writing skills are required; one unit may be in speech.

Four units of mathematics

Acceptable courses include algebra I, geometry, algebra II, pre-calculus/trigonometry/analytic geometry, calculus and math analysis. Courses such as computer math, programming, consumer math and accounting are not acceptable.

Three units of science

At least one must be a laboratory course, such as earth science, biology, chemistry or physics. Courses such as general science and agricultural science are not acceptable.

Three units of social studies

Examples are world history, American government and principles of democracy,

Two units in a single foreign language

One unit in fine arts

How to Apply

For information about applying to the psychology program, call or write:

Student Services Office

100 McAlester Hall

University of Missouri

Columbia, MO 65211

Phone: 573-884-3811

Web: psychology.missouri.edu

For information about applying to MU, call or write:

Office of Admissions

230 Jesse Hall

Columbia, MO 65211-1300

Phone: 573-882-7786

800-225-6075 (toll free in Missouri and Illinois)

Fax: 573-882-7887

E-mail: mu4u@missouri.edu

Web: www.missouri.edu

The University of Missouri does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, disability or status as a disabled, veteran or veteran of the Vietnam era. For more information, call Human Resource Services at 573-882-4256 or the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights.

