Psychology

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences

Department of Psychology

23 Armstrong Hall • 507-389-2724
Website: www.mnsu.edu/psych/psych.html

Chair: Barry J. Ries

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Psychology is the scientific study of the effects of individual, social, physiological, developmental and environmental factors on thoughts, feelings and behavior. Psychology courses seek to teach students about the methods of psychological inquiry and the findings of psychological research.

Students study psychology because they wish to prepare for a professional career as a psychologist, because they are planning a career in which the understanding of human behavior is important, or simply because they wish to develop a greater understanding of themselves and others. The practice of psychology at the professional level requires a graduate degree beyond the bachelor’s degree.

Psychology Honors Degree. The purpose of the psychology departmental honors degree program is to provide top-level psychology students with an opportunity to obtain specialized research training that will make them better research scholars and more competitive applicants for graduate school in psychology and psychology-related programs. Regardless of participation in the university-level honors program. These top psychology students would obtain research experience modeled after graduate-level training, which is both similar to and recognized by other university.

Admission to Major is granted by the department. Department admissions requirements are:
- a minimum of 32 earned semester credit hours.
- a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50 (“C”).
- completion of PSYC 201 (Statistics) with a grade of “C” or better.
Contact the department for application procedures.

POLICIES/INFORMATION

GPA Policy. Any Psychology course in which a grade of less than “C-” (or P) is earned will not be counted toward a major or a minor in psychology.

P/N Grading Policy. No more than 8 credits of the major or 4 credits of the minor may be taken for P/N credit. PSYC 291 is only available on a P/N basis. PSYC 497 and PSYC 499 are also normally taken for P/N credit.

Teaching Psychology. Students who intend to gain initial licensure to teach psychology in Minnesota schools need to meet the requirements of the social studies BS (teaching) program as described in the social studies section of this bulletin.

PSYCHOLOGY BA

Prerequisites to the Major
PSYC 101 Psychology (4)

Major Common Core
PSYC 201 Statistics for Psychology (4)
PSYC 211 Research Methods and Design (4)
PSYC 409 History and Systems (3)

Major Restricted Electives
Learning and Cognition
(Choose 4 credits)
PSYC 413 Sensation & Perception (4)

PSYC 414 Learning (4)
PSYC 415 Human Memory (4)
PSYC 416 Cognitive Psychology (4)

Personality/Social
(Choose 3-4 credits)
PSYC 340 Social Psychology (4)
PSYC 455 Abnormal Psychology (4)
PSYC 456 Personality Theories (3)
PSYC 458 Cultural Psychology (3)

Biological
(Choose 4 credits)
PSYC 420 Drugs and Behavior (4)
PSYC 421 Biopsychology (4)
PSYC 423 Neuroscience (4)

Developmental
(Choose 3-4 credits)
PSYC 433 Child Psychology (4)
PSYC 436 Adolescent Psychology (4)
PSYC 466 Psychology of Aging (3)

Major Unrestricted Electives
(Choose 13-15 credits from the following psychology courses)
PSYC 103 Psychology Today (3)
PSYC 103W Psychology Today (3)
PSYC 198 Psychology CLEP Examination (4)
PSYC 202 Careers in Psychology (1)
PSYC 206 The Human Mind (4)
PSYC 207 Introduction to Behavior Analysis (4)
PSYC 230 Child Care Psychology (3)
PSYC 240 Personal Adjustment (3)
PSYC 289 Psychology and the Law (3)
PSYC 291 Tutoring Psychology (1-4)
PSYC 303 Introduction to Clinical Psychology (3)
PSYC 304 Introduction to School Psychology (2)
PSYC 340 Social Psychology (4)
PSYC 405 Motivation (4)
PSYC 407 Advanced Behavior Analysis (4)
PSYC 413 Sensation & Perception (4)
PSYC 414 Learning (4)
PSYC 415 Human Memory (4)
PSYC 416 Cognitive Psychology (4)
PSYC 419 Psychometric Theory (4)
PSYC 420 Drugs and Behavior (4)
PSYC 421 Biopsychology (4)
PSYC 422 Neuropsychology (4)
PSYC 423 Neuroscience (4)
PSYC 424 Psychology Laboratory (4)
PSYC 429 Drug Dependence (3)
PSYC 433 Child Psychology (4)
PSYC 436 Adolescent Psychology (4)
PSYC 441 Attitudes (3)
PSYC 442 Group Psychology (3)
PSYC 443 Advanced Social Psychology (3)
PSYC 451 Methods of Enhancing Performance (3)
PSYC 453 Human Factors (3)
PSYC 455 Abnormal Psychology (4)
PSYC 456 Personality Theories (3)
PSYC 458 Cultural Psychology (3)
PSYC 460 Psychology of Women (3)
PSYC 461 Marketing Psychology (3)
PSYC 462 Management Psychology (3)
PSYC 463 Survey of Industrial/Organizational Psychology (4)
PSYC 466 Psychology of Aging (3)
PSYC 476 Applied Behavior Analysis (4)
PSYC 478 Health Psychology (4)
PSYC 489 Advanced Topics (1-5)
PSYC 490 Workshop (1-3)
PSYC 491 In-Service: Issues in Behavior Therapy (1)

Policies/Information

Contact the department for application procedures.
PSYCHOLOGY

PSYC 495 Honors Seminar in Psychology (2)
PSYC 497 Field Experience (1-8)
PSYC 499 Individual Study (1-4)

Other Graduation Requirements
Required for Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree ONLY: Language (8 credits)

PSYCHOLOGY BS

Prerequisites to the Major
PSYC 101 Psychology (4)

Major Common Core
PSYC 201 Statistics for Psychology (4)
PSYC 211 Research Methods and Design (4)
PSYC 409 History and Systems (3)

Major Restricted Electives
Learning and Cognition
(Choose 4 credits)
PSYC 413 Sensation & Perception (4)
PSYC 414 Learning (4)
PSYC 415 Human Memory (4)
PSYC 416 Cognitive Psychology (4)

Personality/Social
(Choose 3-4 credits)
PSYC 340 Social Psychology (4)
PSYC 455 Abnormal Psychology (4)
PSYC 456 Personality Theories (3)
PSYC 458 Cultural Psychology (3)

Biological
(Choose 4 credits)
PSYC 420 Drugs and Behavior (4)
PSYC 421 Biopsychology (4)
PSYC 423 Neuroscience (4)

Developmental
(Choose 3-4 credits)
PSYC 433 Child Psychology (4)
PSYC 436 Adolescent Psychology (4)
PSYC 466 Psychology of Aging (3)

Major Unrestricted Electives
(Choose 13-15 credits from the following psychology courses)
PSYC 103 Psychology Today (3)
PSYC 103W Psychology Today (3)
PSYC 198 Psychology CLEP Examination (4)
PSYC 202 Careers in Psychology (1)
PSYC 206 The Human Mind (4)
PSYC 207 Introduction to Behavior Analysis (4)
PSYC 230 Child Care Psychology (3)
PSYC 240 Personal Adjustment (3)
PSYC 289 Psychology and the Law (3)
PSYC 291 Tutoring Psychology (1-4)
PSYC 303 Introduction to Clinical Psychology (3)
PSYC 304 Introduction to School Psychology (2)
PSYC 340 Social Psychology (4)
PSYC 340 Motivation (4)
PSYC 407 Advanced Behavior Analysis (4)
PSYC 413 Sensation & Perception (4)
PSYC 414 Learning (4)
PSYC 415 Human Memory (4)
PSYC 416 Cognitive Psychology (4)
PSYC 419 Psychometric Theory (4)
PSYC 420 Drugs and Behavior (4)
PSYC 421 Biopsychology (4)
PSYC 422 Neuropsychology (4)
PSYC 423 Neuroscience (4)
PSYC 424 Physiology Psychology Laboratory (4)
PSYC 429 Drug Dependence (3)
PSYC 433 Child Psychology (4)
PSYC 436 Adolescent Psychology (4)
PSYC 441 Attitudes (3)
PSYC 442 Group Psychology (3)
PSYC 443 Advanced Social Psychology (3)
PSYC 451 Methods of Enhancing Performance (3)
PSYC 453 Human Factors (3)
PSYC 455 Abnormal Psychology (4)
PSYC 456 Personality Theories (3)
PSYC 458 Cultural Psychology (3)
PSYC 460 Psychology of Women (3)
PSYC 461 Marketing Psychology (3)
PSYC 462 Management Psychology (3)
PSYC 463 Survey of Industrial/Organizational Psychology (4)
PSYC 466 Psychology of Aging (3)
PSYC 476 Applied Behavior Analysis (4)
PSYC 478 Health Psychology (4)
PSYC 489 Advanced Topics (1-5)
PSYC 490 Workshop (1-3)
PSYC 491 In-Service: Issues in Behavior Therapy (1)
PSYC 495 Honors Seminar in Psychology (2)
PSYC 497 Field Experience (1-8)
PSYC 499 Individual Study (1-4)

Required Minor: Yes. Any.

PSYCHOLOGY MINOR

Required for Minor (General Education)
PSYC 101 Psychology (4)
Choose 17 credits of electives, including at least 8 credits at the 400 level.
PSYC Elective
PSYC Elective
PSYC Elective
PSYC 400 Level Elective
PSYC 400 Level Elective
PSYC 400 Level Elective

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PSYC 101 (4) Psychology
This course is designed to provide a thorough introduction to the broad spectrum of theories and applications that make up the field of psychology.
Fall, Spring
GE-5

PSYC 103W (3) Psychology Today
Introduces students to major issues in society that impact their lives, behaviors, and the way they think. Course requires student to critically address controversial and non-controversial issues through clear arguments, intensive writings, research and presentations.
Spring
GE-1C, GE-2

PSYC 202 (4) Statistics for Psychology
This course emphasizes understanding the conceptual basis of common statistical procedures and applying those procedures to the problems of organizing information and making inferences from data. Topics include: summarizing data, the logic of inference, estimation, analysis of variance, and correlation.
Pr: MATH 112
Fall, Spring

PSYC 201 (4) Careers in Psychology
Exploration of various degrees and types of careers available in psychology, and what psychologists do.
Fall, Spring
PSYC 206 (4) The Human Mind
An overview of psychology from the cognitive perspective. What we know about
the mental processes that underlie human activities and how we study them.
Spring
GE-5

PSYC 207 (4) Introduction to Behavior Analysis
This is a unit/mastery and laboratory course designed to introduce the student
to the science of behavior analysis: the study of how behavior is influenced by
its interactions with environmental events. The subject matter will be illustrated
by human and animal experiments.
Fall

PSYC 211 (4) Research Methods and Design
An introduction to the major components of internally valid investigations.
Includes use of computers in psychological research.
Pre: PSYC 201
Fall, Spring

PSYC 230 (3) Child Care Psychology
This course is designed to develop an understanding of major variables that
impact the psychological development of children. Emphasis will be placed on
what parents and other care givers can do to maximize the healthy psychological
development of their children.
Fall, Spring

PSYC 240 (3) Personal Adjustment
Understanding oneself and increasing one’s satisfaction in living.
Fall, Spring

PSYC 289 (3) Psychology and the Law
This course will introduce you to specific psychological theories and research
that have been applied to the United States legal system. Course topics include
eyewitness testimony and memory, false confessions, lie detection, gender and
ethnicity, and jury processes, among others.
Fall, Spring

PSYC 291 (1-4) Tutoring Psychology
Application of the principles of learning to the instruction of students.
Permission required. Pre: PSYC 101
Fall, Spring

PSYC 303 (3) Introduction to Clinical Psychology
This course is designed for psychology majors who plan careers in professional
psychology (clinical, school, etc.). The purpose of the course is to assist students
in developing the skills necessary to compete for graduate school placement. It
is advised that students complete this course during their sophomore or junior
year.
Pre: PSYC Major and 3.0 GPA
Fall

PSYC 304 (2) Introduction to School Psychology
This course is designed to introduce students to school psychology. The course
will broadly address prominent topics in the field as well as assist students in
deciding on graduate school and career objectives.
Spring

PSYC 340 (4) Social Psychology
An exploration of theories and research related to the ways that the social envi-
ronment affects people’s behavior.
Pre: PSYC 101
Fall, Spring

PSYC 405 (4) Motivation
Major concepts of human motivation and emotion, presentation of learned cogni-
tive and biological influences on sustained behavior.
Pre: PSYC 201, PSYC 207 or PSYC 211, or consent
Fall

PSYC 407 (4) Advanced Behavior Analysis
The science and technology of Behavior Analysis. The application of the
principles of operant and respondent conditioning to the understanding and
modification of human behavior. The primary mode of instruction is unit/mas-
tery based on the text. There will also be a lab component involving human and
animal experiments.
Pre: PSYC 207
Variable

PSYC 409 (3) History and Systems
Examination of the historical origins of the principal contemporary psychologi-
tical theories.
Pre: PSYC 211, Senior Status
Fall, Spring

PSYC 413 (4) Sensation & Perception
How the senses respond to environmental stimuli and how the information they
provide is organized into meaningful patterns that make up our experience of
the physical world. The effects of maturation and learning in altering those pat-
terns as also considered.
Pre: PSYC 101, PSYC 201, PSYC 207 or PSYC 211
Fall, Spring

PSYC 414 (4) Learning
This course provides a broad overview and analysis of the major theories of
human and animal learning.
Pre: PSYC 101
Fall

PSYC 415 (4) Human Memory
This course covers experimental and behavioral studies of human memory includ-
ing long-and short-term memory, memory for text, pictures, spatial information,
and autobiographical events. Emphasis on real-world situations, including educa-
tion, in which memory and learning play a role.
Pre: PSYC 201 & PSYC 211
Fall

PSYC 416 (4) Cognitive Psychology
An examination and evaluation of selected topics dealing with human informa-
tion processing such as attention, memory, pattern recognition, consciousness,
language, dyslexia, decision making, and problem-solving.
Pre: PSYC 201 & PSYC 211
Fall, Spring

PSYC 419 (4) Psychometric Theory
An overview of development, use, and validation of psychological tests. Top-
ics include reliability and validity, test construction, item analysis, ethics, test
administration and scoring, and computerized testing.
Pre: PSYC 201
Fall

PSYC 420 (4) Drugs and Behavior
Drug and alcohol use and abuse including history, biology, psychology, sociolog-
ical, and clinical treatment and prevention of abuse.
Pre: PSYC 211
Spring

PSYC 421 (4) Biopsychology
Biological basis of psychological processes and behavior. Basic topics such as
neuroanatomy and neuron function are presented as well as more general ones
such as sensation and movement, sleep, memory and learning, schizophrenia
and depression.
Pre: PSYC 201, and either PSYC 207 or PSYC 211
Fall, Spring
PSYCHOLOGY

PSYC 422 (4) Neuropsychoogy
Detailed analysis of the relationship between human behavior and brain function. Basic topics will include cerebral asymmetry, memory, language, and attention as well as behavioral deficits such as learning disabilities, psychiatric disorders, and disconnection syndromes associated with neurological abnormalities.
Pre: PSYC 421
Variable

PSYC 423 (4) Neuroscience
The goal of neuroscience is to understand the human mind. This goal is approached by revealing the brain processes involved in how we perceive, think, remember, and move. Brain development, communication, and plasticity at the neural level are all described.
Pre: PSYC 421
Spring

PSYC 424 (4) Physiological Psychology Laboratory
This course provides an in depth, hands on follow up to biopsychology. Through lectures, discussion and laboratory exercises this class will explore the workings of the brain and how the structure and function of the nervous system leads to behavior.
Pre: PSYC 421
Spring

PSYC 425 (4) Behavior Genetics
This course provides an overview of the application of genetic methods to the study of behavior. This course examines the basic concepts in genetics with an emphasis on behavioral phenotypes, evolution and evolutionary psychology and the genetics of individual differences.
Pre: PSYC 211
Variable

PSYC 429 (3) Drug Dependence
Examination of psychological theories relevant to the prevention and treatment of drug abuse.
Pre: PSYC 101
Fall

PSYC 433 (4) Child Psychology
Physical, social, emotional, intellectual, and personality development from conception to preadolescence. Focus on interplay between maturation and experience.
Pre: PSYC 101
Fall, Spring

PSYC 434 (4) Adolescent Psychology
This class covers the development of the individual from the age of 11 to 19 years of age. Discussion will include aspects of both normal and abnormal development.
Pre: PSYC 101
Fall, Spring

PSYC 441 (3) Attitudes
Examining cultural, social, and individual influences on attitude development and change through lectures and discussions of theories and findings, and through experiential activities.
Pre: PSYC 101
Variable

PSYC 442 (3) Group Psychology
Exploring factors affecting leadership and effective group processes through lectures and discussion of theories and findings and through experiential activities.
Pre: PSYC 101
Variable

PSYC 443 (3) Advanced Social Psychology
An in-depth examination of social psychological research in laboratory and field settings.
Pre: PSYC 201, PSYC 211, and PSYC 340
ALT

PSYC 451 (3) Methods of Enhancing Performance
The role of psychological factors in performance and psychological methods of performance enhancement. Factors examined will include attention, motivation, decision making, mental rehearsal, arousal, and self management.
Pre: 8 PSYC credits
Variable

PSYC 453 (3) Human Factors
The person-machine system; the strengths, operating limits, and tendencies of its human component.
Pre: PSYC 201 and PSYC 211 or PSYC 207
Variable

PSYC 455 (4) Abnormal Psychology
This course is designed to increase the student’s awareness and understanding of abnormal psychology. Students will become familiar with clinical descriptions, course of onset, and treatment regimens specific to various disorders.
Pre: 8 PSYC credits
Fall, Spring

PSYC 456 (3) Personality Theories
Major theories of normal personality formation, organization, and structure.
Pre: 8 PSYC credits
Fall, Spring

PSYC 458 (3) Cultural Psychology
Cultural psychology is an interdisciplinary field that unites psychologists, anthropologists, linguists and philosophers to study how cultural meanings, practices and institutions influence and reflect individual human psychologies. Cultural influences on cognition, perception, emotion, motivation, moral reasoning, and well-being will be discussed with a view towards understanding divergent mentalities by drawing primarily from studies comparing Eastern and Western cultures, as well as some ethnic group companions within the United States. Students should come out of this course with an appreciation for the capacity for humans to create psychological diversity.
Spring

PSYC 460 (3) Psychology of Women
Psychological study of women in historical and functional perspective. Role of hereditary, physiological, and socialization variables on women’s thinking, feelings, and behavior.
Pre: PSYC 101
Spring
Diverse Cultures - Purple

PSYC 461 (3) Marketing Psychology
Analysis of product marketing and consumer purchasing strategies and their determinants.
Pre: 8 PSYC credits
Fall

PSYC 462 (3) Management Psychology
Managerial behavior, problems, and effects in planning, problem-solving, decision-making, supervision, leadership, conflict, communication, appraisal, motivation, training, and information systems in organizational environments.
Pre: 8 PSYC credits
Variable
PSYC 463 (4) Survey of Industrial/Organizational Psychology
An examination of the psychological aspects of human behavior in the work place. Topics include history of Industrial/Organizational psychology, job analysis, performance measurement, predictors of performance, making personnel decisions, training, satisfaction, social perception, motivation, communication, group process, leadership, and organizational culture.
Pre: PSYC 201, PSYC 211
Variable

PSYC 466 (3) Psychology of Aging
Aging process and development during the adult years; psychology and psychological concerns of the aging individual; dealing with death.
Pre: PSYC 101
Spring

PSYC 476 (4) Applied Behavior Analysis
Principles and procedures of behavior therapy in clinical areas. Emphasis is placed on procedures for developing more appropriate behaviors through positive and negative reinforcement, modeling, and cognitive procedures. Decreasing problematic behaviors through decelerating consequences and exposure techniques is also presented.
Pre: PSYC 207 or PSYC 211
Spring

PSYC 478 (4) Health Psychology
The interface of behavioral and medical science is explored. Research on environmental and learning factors in the etiology and treatment of physical disease and rehabilitation is examined. Specific topics include pain management, medical compliance, behavior disorders in nursing homes and on chronic illnesses.
Pre: Three courses in PSYC
Spring

PSYC 489 (1-5) Advanced Topics
Application of psychology to topics of current interest. May be retaken for credit.
Variable

PSYC 490 (1-3) Workshop
Topics to be announced. May be retaken for credit.
Fall, Spring

PSYC 491 (1) In-Service: Issues in Behavior Therapy
Current issues in Behavior Therapy are addressed. Students participate in off-campus didactic activities such as attendance at grand rounds at local hospitals, attendance at national, regional or local professional conferences, and augment learning with library research. Topics vary and students may repeat for credit.
Pre: Consent. Academic and experience in human services strongly recommended.
Fall, Spring

PSYC 495 (2) Honors Seminar in Psychology
The honors seminar is required for all psychology honors students and will provide a forum for discussing common concerns such as the process of writing an IRB proposal, writing in APA style, time management issues, and professional development.
Fall, Spring

PSYC 497 (1-8) Field Experience
A learning experience integrated with the student’s course of study, to be developed with an advisor and the field experience coordinator. May be retaken for credit up to an 8 credit total for all enrollments. Available for P/N grading only.
Pre: 9 credits of PSYC
Fall, Spring

PSYC 499 (1-4) Individual Study
Individualized learning under faculty supervision.
Fall, Spring