The Psychological Sciences

Psychology is the study of the relationships among mental processes, brain systems, and behavior. Because these are complex subjects, psychology has many subdivisions and areas of specialization. Students graduating with an undergraduate degree in psychology from Rutgers have many different aspirations and career paths. Thus, our curriculum allows students flexibility in choosing the trajectory and intensity of the psychological training they will receive. Our aim is two-fold, first to prepare students for graduate professional training in behavioral neuroscience, cognitive, social, or clinical psychology or closely related disciplines, and secondly to equip all of our students with the basic concepts and skills in psychology to match the ever-changing demands of our fast-paced world. To accomplish both goals students are required to master a common base of knowledge, concepts, and skills prior to graduation. In addition, students learn to design research, to use quantitative analyses, to employ higher-order cognitive skills, and to practice the application of psychological concepts to areas outside the classroom both professionally and for civic engagement.

The Department of Psychology

With about 50 full-time faculty members, the Department of Psychology is able to offer students a broad selection of core and specialty courses as well as opportunities for research, independent study, internships, and fieldwork. We are the largest undergraduate program within the Rutgers University School of Arts and Sciences (SAS). The research-active faculty, who publish in all areas of applied and basic research in psychology, is nationally recognized. Support for research comes from the National Institutes of Mental Health, the National Science Foundation, and other public and private foundations. Our offices and laboratories are located in Tillett Hall (Livingston campus) and the Psychology Building (Busch campus).

The Major in Psychology

The major in Psychology consists of General Psychology, Quantitative Methods, a laboratory course, one course in each of the 4 core areas (Behavioral Systems Neuroscience, Clinical, Cognitive, and Social), 6 psychology electives, and one 400-level advanced course (41 credits total). We offer more than 30 advanced elective courses, including specialty seminars, covering virtually every area of psychology.

The Minor in Psychology

The minor in psychology consists of General Psychology and 5 psychology electives. (18 credits total)

For Further Information:

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Visit our web site at http://psych.rutgers.edu/undergraduate or e-mail your questions to advisor@psych.rutgers.edu

The Minor in Developmental Psychology

The minor Developmental Psychology consists of General Psychology, Principles of Developmental Psychology, and 4 courses from the Developmental Psychology minor electives list (18 credits total).

The Honors Major in Psychology

Students with excellent academic records may plan and conduct their own research project with a faculty member as part of the Honors Major in Psychology. This track requires 47 credits of work in psychology, including 6 credits of honors research and a 3-credit honors seminar course that fulfills the major’s 400 level requirement. The project culminates in a thesis and poster that is presented at the annual Honors Poster Session to which parents, family members, and the academic community are invited. Students receive awards for the best research proposals and projects as well as earn the BA with Honors in Psychology on their transcripts. Additionally, students often have the opportunity to present their work at national meetings and to publish their work in professional journals. Completing the Honors Major enhances a student’s prospects for acceptance into graduate school for psychology and related sciences or for other fields such as law, business, medicine, and social work.

Psychology majors with high grade-point averages may be elected to Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology, and may be eligible for special research programs, awards, and graduation honors.

Opportunities for Independent Work

Students may choose independent study, in the form of a laboratory apprenticeship or a reading course, in which a student and faculty member collaborate on research or an in-depth study of specialized topics.

The department arranges meaningful work experiences for students. Undergraduates currently work in schools, adult mental health centers, at programs associated with the Division of Youth and Family Services, and with foster children in their homes. Fieldwork in Psychology courses provide students with the opportunity to work with preschoolers or with autistic children and adults. For internships in Applied, School and Community Psychology, students participate in supervised work at prevention units, advocacy and self-help organizations, inpatient psychiatric facilities, and public schools.

These opportunities help students clarify career interests and enhance their credentials for graduate training. Many of our majors go on to earn Master’s, Ph.D., and Psy.D. degrees in psychology.

The Psychological Sciences
Psychology Courses

830:101 General Psychology
830:123 Soul Beliefs: Causes and Consequences
830:200 Quantitative Methods in Psychology
830:201 Principle & Issues in Psychological Science
830:210 Behavioral Data Analysis
830:220 Psycho Themes & Theories in Film
830:250 Psychology of Art
830:271 Principles of Developmental Psychology
830:301 Sensation and Perception Lab
830:303 Memory
830:304 Memory Lab
830:305 Cognition
830:306 Cognition Lab
830:307 Perception in Cognitive Science
830:308 Psychosocial Found of Hth & Medicine
830:310 Neuropsychology
830:311 Learning Processes
830:312 Learning Processes Lab
830:313 Physiological Psychology
830:314 Physiological Psychology Lab
830:315 Comparative Psychology
830:316 Comparative Psychology Lab
830:320 Forensic Psychology
830:321 Social Psychology
830:323 Research Methods in Social Psychology
830:325 The Religious Mind
830:326 Small Groups
830:327 Small Groups Lab
830:331 Infant and Child Development
830:332 Infant and Child Development Lab
830:333 Adolescent Development
830:335 Adult Development and Aging
830:338 Personality Psychology
830:340 Abnormal Psychology
830:341 Abnormal Psychology Lab
830:342 Research in Personality
830:343 Research in Personality Lab
830:346 Atyp Develop in Childhood & Adolescence
830:348 Psychological Tests and Measurements
830:349 Psychol Test & Measurements Lab
830:351 Psychology of Language
830:352 Psychology of Language Lab
830:355 Research Methods in Psychology
830:356 Research Methods in Psychology Lab
830:358 Exploring Science of Perception & Cognition
830:360 Drugs and Human Behavior
830:361 Developmental Psychobiology
830:362 Psychology of Sex and Gender
830:364 Motivation and Emotion
830:371 Group Dynamics
830:372 Psychological Approach to Social Problems
830:373 Organizational and Personnel Psychology
830:375 Prejudice and Conflict
830:380 Field Work: Foster Care III
830:382 Field Work: Autism I
830:383 Field Work: Autism II
830:388 Field Work: Child Development
830:389 Field Work: Child Development II
830:391/392 Research in Psychology
830:394 Common Psych & Community Mental Health
830:398 CESEP/Civic Engage & Serve Ed Partnership
830:401/402 Adv Topics in Human Cognition
830:403 Programming for Behavioral Scientists
830:408/409 Reason, Prob Solv & Decis Making
830:410/411 Advanced Topics in Psychology
830:412/414 Neuropsychopharmacology
830:413 Neuropsychopharmacology Lab
830:415 History of Brain Science
830:422/423 Advanced Topics in Social Psych
830:425/426 Advanced Topics in Health Psych
830:431/432 Adv Topics in Developmental Psych
830:441/442 Adv Topics in Personality Psych
830:450 Therapeutic Relationships in Clinical Practice
830:451/452 Adv Top in Clinical & Abnormal Psych
830:453/454 Systems of Psychotherapy
830:455/456 Positive Psychology
830:463/464 Behavioral Pharmacology
830:470/471 History of Psychology
830:480/481 Adv Topics in Visual Perception
830:484/485 Language Acquisition
830:490 Honors Research Seminar
830:493 Internship in Applied & Community Psych
830:494 Intern Seminar in Appl & Comm Psych
830:495/496 Advanced Research in Psych
830:497/498 Honors Research in Psychology

Department of Psychology
School of Arts and Sciences
Rutgers University
New Brunswick NJ

Our Faculty Members

John R. Aiello, Ph.D. Michigan State
Kordelia Aitken, Ph.D. Rutgers
Kasia Biesczad, Ph.D. UC Irvine
Keiko Brynildsen, Ph.D. UC Riverside
David Barker, Ph.D. Rutgers
Sarah Carter, Ph.D. NYU
Shana Cole, Ph.D. NYU
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