



PSYCHOLOGY

B.A. IN PSYCHOLOGY

A major in psychology prepares students for a variety of careers. It provides the basis for service-oriented professions such as social work, counseling and special education. Students who pursue graduate degrees often work in teaching, research or applied human services. In addition, psychology provides knowledge and understanding of behavior that can be used in other professions, including medicine, law and business.

The College of Arts and Sciences at Case offers the combined advantages of a strong liberal arts college and a major research institution. The psychology department encourages close student-faculty interaction and offers many opportunities for individualized study and research. It also offers extensive coursework and hands-on experience in the biological and social sciences, management and computer technology.

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Currently, there are more than 200 psychology majors at Case, many of whom are pursuing double or even triple majors. These students come from 48 states and 34 countries, providing an unusually diverse academic environment.
- The department has a very active chapter of Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in psychology. Students involved in Psi Chi pursue honors theses and independent study opportunities.
- In addition to the undergraduate degree, the department offers the M.A. and Ph.D. in psychology.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS AND COURSE OFFERINGS

Department requirements include successful completion of 30 hours of course work and PSCL 101 (General Psychology I) and PSCL 282 (Quantitative Methods in Psychology).

In addition, three of the following classes are required:

- PSCL 315 Social Psychology
- PSCL 352 Physiological Psychology
- PSCL 353 Psychology of Learning
- PSCL 355 Sensation and Perception
- PSCL 357 Cognitive Psychology
- PSCL 382 Psychological Measurement
- PSCL 393 Experimental Child Psychology

The remaining 15 hours are taken from electives chosen by the student in collaboration with his/her adviser. No more than nine hours of practicum courses (PSCL 334, 335 and 336) may be used toward the major.

The undergraduate curriculum is structured in three levels: an introductory level that is prerequisite for most other departmental courses; an intermediate level covering the main areas of psychology; and an advanced level that offers opportunities for specialized and/or individualized work.

Please see the General Bulletin (www.case.edu/bulletin) for a complete list of course offerings and detailed course descriptions.

MINOR

Students who wish to minor in psychology must take General Psychology I (PSCL 101), plus a minimum of four other PSCL courses, for a total of 15 hours. The classes are chosen by the student in collaboration with his/her adviser. Practica and independent study are available, but may not be used to satisfy the minor requirement.

SPECIAL ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Departmental honors

Junior majors with a 3.0 overall GPA and a 3.25 GPA in psychology are encouraged to apply to the department's honors program. This program consists of one three-credit course PSCL 395, during which students carry out, under faculty supervision, an independent project in their area of interest. Satisfactory completion of a paper based on this research qualifies students to receive their degree with Honors in psychology noted on the academic transcript. PSCL 375 (Research Design and Analysis) is a prerequisite to PSCL 395.

Integrated Graduate Studies

This program is intended for highly motivated candidates for the B.A. whose objective is a degree at the master's or doctoral level. By closely integrating undergraduate and graduate studies, qualified students begin a program of graduate study their senior year leading to the simultaneous completion of requirements for both the master's and bachelor's degrees, each within its specified framework. Students interested in pursuing the IGS program should apply for admission at the end of the sophomore year.

Seminars and practica

There are numerous for-credit opportunities in various settings around Cleveland for experiential learning, which involves supervised field placement and attendance at staff conferences. Focus areas include preschool and day care, hospitalized children, adolescence and other populations.

Engineering core

Students who are completing the engineering core take a psychology sequence which emphasizes either the biological or social/personal aspects of the field. Variations to these sequences will not be allowed, except in extreme cases and then not by more than one course. Permission from the psychology chair should be obtained in advance. In addition to General Psychology I (PSCL 101), those completing the engineering core choose two courses from one of the following groups:

Personal and Social Behavior

PSCL 102 General Psychology II

PSCL 230 Child Psychology

PSCL 300 Psychological Perspectives on the Meanings of Life

PSCL 313 Psychology of Personality

PSCL 315 Social Psychology

PSCL 317 Health Psychology

PSCL 321 Abnormal Psychology

PSCL 325 Psychotherapy and Personality Change

Psychology as a Biological Science

PSCL 352 Physiological Psychology

PSCL 353 Psychology of Learning

PSCL 355 Sensation and Perception

PSCL 357 Cognitive Psychology

RESEARCH AND FACILITIES

The department of psychology successfully competes for grants from prominent funding institutions such as the National Institutes of Health and the National Institutes of Child Health and Human Development. Current research is supported by 13 grants, and students are encouraged to work with faculty on these projects. The department also interacts extensively with nearby medical centers and psychiatric institutions, including University Hospitals of Cleveland. This provides faculty and students outstanding access to patient populations suffering from mental and physical illnesses for both clinical and research purposes.

The department has laboratories devoted to the study of neuroscience, cognition, behavior genetics, health psychology, human memory, cognitive assessment, aging and clinical psychology, human and machine perception, perceptual development, personality disorders, adult psychopathology, childhood and creativity, and emotion and clinical psychology.

RECENT GRADUATES

A recent survey of post graduation plans among graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences found that 55 percent went on to graduate or professional school and the remainder pursued other plans.

Case's psychology majors have been admitted to competitive graduate programs including those at Boston University, New York University and University of Pennsylvania.

In addition, four students recently won awards for their research presentations at the Midwestern Psychological Association, and a double major in psychology and music received a Fulbright Scholarship to travel to Finland and study music perception.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

General Bulletin

www.case.edu/bulletin

Office of Undergraduate Admission

Phone: 216/368-4450

E-mail: admission@case.edu

Web site: <http://admission.case.edu>

Case Western Reserve University
10900 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44106