

Welcome to the Psychology Major at Lehigh University

This document is designed to provide useful information for new majors. For more info regarding the psychology major, go to the Undergraduate section of the Psychology Department website.

Overview

The undergraduate psychology program at Lehigh offers the opportunity to study how the mind and brain enable people to act, think, and feel. At the core of our program is a focus on psychology as a basic and applied science. Our program is designed to foster critical thinking and scientific reasoning skills through exposure to cutting-edge psychological research, training in behavioral research methods and data analysis, and active research participation. Majors are also prepared to consider the practical implications of psychological research in everyday life, including for improving psychological outcomes, addressing societal needs, and informing public policy.

Psych Major Statistics

- Average number of majors: 175-250
- 70% BA Degree | 30% BS Degree
- 20-25% have a second major
- 70-80% have one or more minors
- 60-70% participate in at least one semester of research at Lehigh
- 20-30% pursue advanced research opportunities (e.g., senior thesis, independent research)

Psychology Major Degree Requirements

Core Courses

- PSYC 001: Introduction to Psychology
- PSYC 201: Research Methods & Data Analysis I
- PSYC 202: Research Methods & Data Analysis II
- PSYC 203: Research Methods & Data Analysis III

Breadth Courses

- Four 100-level courses with a minimum of one from each of the following 3 areas:
 - **Cognition & Cognitive Neuroscience:** PSYC 117 Cognitive Psychology | PSYC 176 Cognitive Neuroscience
 - **Developmental Psychology:** PSYC 107 Child Development | PSYC 109 Adulthood & Aging
 - **Social & Personality Psychology:** PSYC 121 Social Psychology | PSYC 153 Personality
- Additional 100-level Options: PSYC 130 Introduction to Health Psychology | PSYC 138 Abnormal Psychology
- A recitation accompanying one 100-level course

Advanced Seminars

- Four 300-level seminars

Major Portfolio

Portfolio of written work providing a record of learning in the major (see website)

Additional Requirements for the BS

- A fifth 300-level seminar
- A concentration in one of the following:
 - Clinical & Behavioral Health
 - Cognition & Cognitive Neuroscience
 - Developmental Psychology
 - Social & Personality Psychology
- Nine collateral courses taken in math or computer science, natural science, and other social sciences

See the full set of BS requirements on the department website

Tips for Success

- 1) Explore different areas of psychology by taking a variety of courses.
- 2) Get to know faculty personally by being actively involved in classes and utilizing office hours.
- 3) Gain experience with research early in your academic career through PSYC 161 Supervised Research.
- 4) Get involved in the intellectual culture of the department. Explore Psych Club and Psi Chi. Attend departmental talks and undergraduate-focused information sessions.
- 5) Plan for your future. Review the Life after Lehigh section of the website for information about career options or graduate school.
- 6) Meet with your advisor regularly. Use your advisor as a resource to ask questions and discuss your academic and professional goals.

Research Opportunities

As a behavioral science, psychology relies on research to explain human behavior, thought, and emotion. A critical part of a psychology major's education is learning about and engaging in research. Majors are encouraged to consider these research opportunities:

- **PSYC 161: Supervised Research:** Work as a research assistant in a faculty lab for course credit. Identify a faculty member whose research area interests you and contact him or her directly.
- **PSYC 393: Independent Research:** Build on your supervised research experiences by conducting your own research project with a faculty mentor.
- **PSYC Honors Program:** Eligible seniors (GPA 3.5 or greater) can pursue a senior honors thesis.

Other Ways to Get Involved

- **Psychology Club:** Student-led organization open to all students interested in psychology.
- **Psi Chi:** International Honor Society with a mission of recognizing and promoting excellence in the science and application of psychology.

Common Career Paths

Psychology majors cultivate the knowledge and skills necessary to study at the graduate level or to embark on careers in a wide array of fields, including:

Business



Education



Health Care



Law



Mental Health & Social Services



Basic & Applied Research



Graduate School

Many psych majors go on to earn graduate degrees. Given the versatility of the major and the variety of potential career trajectories, there are many different graduate paths. Students pursue a range of different graduate degree types (e.g., MA, MS, PhD, PsyD) and pursue graduate education in a variety of different fields, including:

Applied Psychology
(e.g., clinical, counseling, industrial/organizational, school psychology)

Experimental or Research Psychology
(e.g., cognitive, social, developmental, neuro)

Fields Outside Psychology
(e.g., business, education, law, physical/occupational therapy, public policy, social work)

The variety of paths available to psychology majors can be daunting! Consult the Psych Department website for resources designed to help you explore your interests, learn about potential graduate and career paths, and prepare for life after Lehigh. Also, meet with your advisor for further guidance.