

Mission Statement

Psychology is the discipline that explores the determinants of human and nonhuman behavior and experience. Psychology also seeks to apply this knowledge to better the human condition. The Department of Psychology mission is to expose students to a wide range of content represented in psychology and to teach them to think critically about this knowledge and its broader applications. We teach students to carry out and evaluate elementary research on behavior and to evaluate psychological research that is reported in behavioral science journals and in the media. We prepare students for more advanced study and for careers that will use psychological knowledge and critical thinking about behavior and its determinants. Psychology helps students to understand the core methods and theories of scientific reasoning. It also helps them to develop oral and written communication skills and quantitative reasoning skills and to apply these skills to scholarship and to practical situations and problems. The historical and current emphasis of our Department on research and critical thinking and on preparation for advanced study supports the College's mission to "provides a diverse student body with exceptional opportunities to participate in creative intellectual pursuits" and accord well with the College's emphasis on "attainment of rigorous academic goals."

Learning Outcomes

1. One of the primary objectives of liberal arts education should be to promote critical thinking and to enable students to acquire and apply critical thinking to the content of a discipline and to practical problems they confront in other settings. We understand critical thinking to include at least these components:
 - a) Evaluating fact-based evidence.
 - b) Engaging in both inductive and deductive logical reasoning.
 - c) Identifying and considering multiple points of view.
 - d) Applying the above processes to problem-solving.

It is our intention to encourage the development of these skills in each departmental course using readings, written assignments, classroom exercises and through instructor examples. We also intend to encourage the development of these skills through mentoring and advisement.

The Departmental course offerings exemplify this general goal in several specific content domains. Further, our courses will enable students to:

2. Understand basic and more advanced psychological theories, principles, and concepts in a variety of areas such as, human development, social interaction, psychopathology, cognitive processes, and the biological bases of behavior.
3. Explore connections between published research findings and their applications. This will prepare students to apply psychological concepts to their own lives and experiences.
4. Evaluate hypotheses, research designs, research findings, and theories.
5. Formulate questions and hypotheses, design research protocols, and analyze research findings.
6. Demonstrate competence in quantitative reasoning and applying statistical procedures on a conceptual level and through the use of statistical software packages.
7. Understand the difference between pseudo-science and science and apply such understanding to media reports about psychology.
8. Apply psychological concepts and principles to understanding social, political, and cultural phenomena (including, for example, issues of ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and disability).
9. Act ethically, both in the conduct of research and in their everyday interactions.
10. Demonstrate effective communication skills in oral, written, and numerical formats.

Learning Outcome Grid

(Outcomes are numbered from 1 to 10 as listed above)

Courses	Learning Outcomes									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Psychology of the Modern World (102)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Science of Behavior (103)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Statistics (215)	X		O	O	O	X	O	O	O	O
Life –Span Development (226)	X	X	X					X	X	X
Human Development: Infancy and Childhood (246)	X	X	X					X	X	X
Social Psychology (247)	X	X	X				X	X		X
Abnormal Psychology (248)	X	X	X				X		X	X
Thinking, Knowing and Remembering (253)	X	X		X	O		O	O		X
Brain, Mind, and Behavior (254)	X	X		X	O		O	O		X
Women and Violence (31823)	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Experimental (321)	X	O	O	X	X	X	X	O	X	X
Perception (343)	X	X		X			X	X		X
Human Development: Adolescence and Youth (356/256)	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X
Theories of Personality (377)	X	X	X	X			X	X		X
Theories of Psychotherapy (388)	X	X	X					X	X	X
Psychology or Tests and Measurements (389)	X				X	X	X	X	X	X

X -indicates objective identified as addressed in the class

O -indicates objective addressed by some of the faculty who regularly teach the course but not by all of the faculty