The Psychology major is a broad-based curriculum within a research-focused department. The program is designed both for students interested in a liberal arts education with psychology as a focal area and for students who plan to attend graduate or professional school either in psychology or in a different field such as medicine, law, social work, business administration, counseling, labor relations and many others.

The Psychology major provides both depth and breadth of knowledge in Psychology. The major consists of an introductory course, a statistics course, a breadth of knowledge or foundation in the different areas of psychology that comes from a set of core courses, a research methods course, and elective courses that give students a depth of knowledge. Each concentration, except for intradisciplinary psychology, has a core course specific to that area of psychology with a research methods course designed for that concentration. In formulating their Plan of Study, students can decide either to undertake a concentration in Intradisciplinary Psychology and select courses that focus on their own unique interests or to specialize in a particular area of Psychology by fulfilling the requirements for one of the other concentrations listed below. As undergraduate students fulfill the requirements, they also have the opportunity to participate in current research projects by working in labs. Students should contact our Undergraduate Advising Office for help in creating a plan of study and research that best meets their goals and interests.

The Department of Psychology also offers a BSLAS in Brain & Cognitive Science (http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/las/brain-cognitive-science-bslas/#text).

**Academic Advising**

The Psychology Undergraduate Advising Office is open to help students choose patterns of courses relevant to their interests, as well as to help students explore graduate school, professional school, and career options. Advising is done by an award-winning staff of academic professionals along with mentoring by faculty for students with research interests. Peer registration assistants are also available to help with the registration process.

**Areas of Interest**

Psychology is the scientific investigation of human and animal behavior. Psychologists study behavior in systems ranging from single cells to the individual person, from small groups of people to communities. Psychologists strive to describe behavior and to understand its underlying biological and social mechanisms. This enterprise, designed to better understand the human condition, accumulates knowledge that can help solve problems faced by individuals and by communities. Students that graduate with a major in psychology acquire a wide range of knowledge and useful skills that allows them to find employment in many different areas.

Areas of interest in psychology, and many of these are reflected in the similarly-titled concentrations that are available within the major:

- Behavioral Neuroscience (http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/las/psychology-bslas/behavioral-neuroscience/)
- Clinical/Community Psychology (http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/las/psychology-bslas/clinical-community-psychology/)
- Cognitive Neuroscience (http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/las/psychology-bslas/cognitive-neuroscience/)
- Cognitive Psychology (http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/las/psychology-bslas/cognitive-psychology/)
- Developmental Psychology (http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/las/psychology-bslas/developmental-psychology/)
- Diversity Science (http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/las/psychology-bslas/diversity-science/)
- Intradisciplinary Psychology (http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/las/psychology-bslas/intradisciplinary-psychology/)
- Organizational Psychology (http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/las/psychology-bslas/organizational-psychology/)
- Personality Psychology (http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/las/psychology-bslas/personality-psychology/)
- Social Psychology (http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/las/psychology-bslas/social-psychology/)

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• Organizational psychology is the application of techniques of assessment, prediction, and intervention to areas of human resources in organizations, including, but not limited to, standard personnel selection and training, attitude assessments and interventions, and program evaluations.

• Personality psychology focuses on individual behavior. It is the study of ways to understand and describe an individual's behavior and to predict an individual's future behavior.

• Quantitative psychology specialists develop mathematical models of psychological processes and devise methods for quantitative representation and analysis of data about behavior. These are used in the study of differences between individuals in ability, personality, preferences, and other psychological phenomena.

• Social psychology is the study of attitudes, social perception and cognition, interpersonal relations, interpersonal interactions, and social and cultural factors affecting human behavior.

• Visual cognition and human performance is the study of attention, visual perception, visual memory, and human performance. Visual cognition research uses tools drawn from cognitive psychology and cognitive neuroscience to better understand how visual information is perceived and remembered.

Prescribing Psychologists

The states of Illinois, New Mexico and Louisiana now allow appropriately qualified psychologists to write prescriptions for psychotropic medications, if they have the necessary training. There are many other states that currently have pending prescriptive authority legislative initiatives. One component of becoming a prescribing psychologist is completion of the following undergraduate courses:

• 2-semester course sequence in chemistry or biochemistry with lab

• 1 semester microbiology with lab

• 1 semester general biology for science majors

• 1 semester physiology

• 1 semester human anatomy

• 1 semester physiology and anatomy

• Medical terminology (class or proficiency)

For more information on becoming a prescribing psychologist and a detailed list of which courses meet these requirements, please consult with one of the academic advisors in psychology.

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