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

- Clinical psychologists are interested in the application of psychological knowledge and techniques for the alleviation of these problems.
- Clinical psychology is the study of problems encountered by individuals, groups, and families — especially problems involving psychopathology.
- Cognitive psychology is the study of mental processes such as attention, memory, and decision-making.
- Cognitive neuroscience is the study of the relationship between brain function and behavior.
- Developmental psychology is the study of psychological and cognitive development across the lifespan.
- Diversity science is the study of how diversity and inequality impact psychological processes and outcomes.
- Organizational psychology is the study of human behavior in workplace settings.
- Intradisciplinary psychology is a concentration that allows students to explore their unique interests or specialize in a particular area of psychology with a research methods course designed for that concentration.
- Personality psychology is the study of individual differences in behavior and personality traits.
- Social psychology is the study of how individuals think, feel, and act in social situations.

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 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 Department of Psychology also offers a BSLAS in Brain & Cognitive Science (http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/las/brain-cognitive-science-bslas/#text).
• Community psychology is the study of the social processes and problems of groups, organizations, and neighborhoods, and the development and evaluation of progress for social change and social policy based on psychological understanding.

• Cognitive neuroscience is concerned with understanding the neuroscientific bases of cognition. Various methods are employed to assess the roles of different brain systems in psychological functions such as memory, attention, language, executive control, decision making, response processing, and emotion.

• Cognitive psychology is the study of basic behavioral and cognitive processes, including learning, memory, problem-solving, motivation, and language.

• Developmental psychology is the study of intellectual development, emerging personality, and the acquisition of language, as well as psychophysiological and social development processes as individuals develop from birth through old age.

• Engineering psychology is the study of human behavior in the context of interactions between humans and machines.

• 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.