

Psychology

The psychology major presents a scientific approach to the study of individual behavior and experience. The goal of the major is to provide an empirical and theoretical understanding of the basic knowledge, concepts, and methods of psychology. Though such understanding may lead to greater personal insight, the study of psychology is focused primarily on a body of empirical knowledge and theoretical formulations that aim to predict and explain behavior. The approach emphasizes both critical evaluation of evidence and awareness of the implications of psychological knowledge and theory for the lives of persons. Most psychology courses emphasize self-awareness and critical thinking.

A major in psychology is intended to prepare students for advanced study or entry into pre-professional employment. A psychology major also may function as the core of an educational program in preparation for continuing informal learning. Courses in basic skills for human service workers and internship in psychology are included to facilitate application of basic knowledge in real-life settings.

A minor in psychology may be related to a wide variety of career preparations or may serve as part of a general liberal arts degree program.

Psychology majors use critical thinking to solve human behavioral problems, they develop insight into their values and career goals, they develop good oral and written communication skills, and they develop skills in understanding and using statistics and research methods.

Career Opportunities

Social service agencies, government agencies and businesses are the prime employers of psychology majors.

Major

Required courses:

PS 101	Introductory Psychology	3
PS 102	Orientation To Psychology	1
PS 124	Developmental Psychology	3
PS 325	Statistics For Behavioral Sciences	4
PS 345	Psychological Research Methods	4
PS 450	Senior Seminar	3
Two of the following Perspectives courses:		6
PS 306	Abnormal Psychology	
PS 319	Classic Theories of Personality	
PS 371	Introduction To Counseling	
Two of the following Focus courses:		6
PS 221	Social Psychology	
PS 259	Health Psychology	
PS 286	Biological Psychology	
PS 385	Cognitive Psychology	
Two of the following Topics courses:		6
PS 214	Psychology of the Middle School Student	
or PS 215	Adolescent Psychology	
SW 245	Basic Helping Skills	

PS 349	Industrial/Organizational Psychology	
PS 401	Directed Reading in Psychology	
or PS 402	Directed Reading Psychology	
or PS 403	Directed Readings Psychology	
PS 411	Psychology in Practicum	
or PS 413	Internship in Psychology	
PS 425	Research Seminar	
PS 441	Independent Study in Psychology	
or PS 442	Independent Study in Psychology	
or PS 443	Independent Study in Psychology	
BI 357	Animal Behavior	
ED 253	Educational Psychology	
Total Hours		36

Additional courses from the Perspectives or Focused courses may also count toward the Topics courses. Students must complete a minimum of 12 semester hours in the major at Mount Mercy. A Bachelor of Science (BS) degree will be awarded.

Students planning to pursue teacher education should follow the program guidelines within the education section of this *Catalog* and contact an advisor in the education division for assistance.

Academic Requirements

A grade of C or above (C- does not count) in each course counted toward the major or minor including PS 101 Introductory Psychology. Other options for the study of psychology include endorsements in Elementary and Secondary Education.

Minor

PS 101	Introductory Psychology	3
PS 124	Developmental Psychology	3
One Perspectives course:		3
PS 306	Abnormal Psychology	
PS 319	Classic Theories of Personality	
PS 371	Introduction To Counseling	
One Focus course:		3
PS 221	Social Psychology	
PS 259	Health Psychology	
PS 286	Biological Psychology	
PS 385	Cognitive Psychology	
One Topics course:		3
PS 214	Psychology of the Middle School Student	
or PS 215	Adolescent Psychology	
SW 245	Basic Helping Skills	
PS 349	Industrial/Organizational Psychology	
PS 401	Directed Reading in Psychology	
or PS 402	Directed Reading Psychology	
or PS 403	Directed Readings Psychology	
PS 411	Psychology in Practicum	
or PS 413	Internship in Psychology	
PS 425	Research Seminar	
PS 441	Independent Study in Psychology	

or PS 442 Independent Study in Psychology

or PS 443 Independent Study in Psychology

Any college-level statistics course: 3

MA 135 Basic Statistics

BA 270 Business Statistics

Total Hours 18

Academic Requirements

A grade of C or above (C- does not count) in each course counted toward the major or minor including . Other options for the study of psychology include endorsements in Elementary and Secondary Education.