PSYCHOLOGY

The Psychology program provides its students with a basic foundation in the scientific study of human behavior. This background is of value to two groups of students: those who enter the employment market after completion of the Baccalaureate degree and those who further their education through graduate study and pursue a career in psychology or a related field.

The department offers courses on conducting experimental research, as well as providing internship opportunities and a wide range of elective courses covering many different areas of interest.

Faculty

RACHEL E. BOWMAN, PH.D.
Associate Professor

MAUREEN A. CONARD, PH.D.
Associate Professor

SUSAN GANNON, M.A.
Instructor

RUTH M. GRANT, PH.D.
Visiting Assistant Professor

RONALD HAMEL, M.A.
Instructor

WILLIAM MAYER, PSY.D.
Lecturer

DAWN MELZER, PH.D.,
Assistant Professor

MINDY MISERENDINO, PH.D.
Associate Professor, Chair

SHIRLEY PAVONE, PH.D.
Visiting Assistant Professor

JESSICA SAMUOLIS, PH.D.
Assistant Professor

CHRISTINA J. TAYLOR, PH.D.
Associate Professor

ALBERT WAKIN, M.S., CAGS
Instructor

DEIRDRE YEATER, PH.D.
Assistant Professor

Major In Psychology

The major in Psychology requires the completion of 38 credits.

REQUIRED COURSES

PS 110 Introduction to Psychology
PS 111 Thinking Critically about Psychological Science
Electives Three Psychology electives
PS 301 Research Design & Analysis I
PS 302 Research Design & Analysis II (4 credits)
PS 335 Human and Animal Learning
PS 351 Brain and Behavior
PS 380 Advanced Psychological Research (4 credits)
PS 382 Systems and Theories of Psychology
PS 396/7/8 Capstone Experience in Psychology (one course)

Minor In Psychology

The minor in Psychology requires the completion of the following 18 credits.

REQUIRED COURSES FOR MINOR

PS 110 Introduction to Psychology
PS 111 Thinking Critically about Psychological Science
PS 382 Systems and Theories of Psychology
Electives Three Psychology electives

**Associate in Arts General Studies**

**EMPHASIS REQUIREMENTS - PSYCHOLOGY (18 CREDITS)**

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**Course Descriptions**

† Elective Core Course

**PSCC103 The Human Community: The Individual and Society**
3 CR
This course is the third of four courses in Sacred Heart University’s Common Core Curriculum, The Human Journey. This course will address the four fundamental questions of human meaning and value that serve as the unifying frame for all the courses in The Human Journey. This particular course engages students in a study of the relationship between psychology – the science of human behavior and mental processes and the Catholic intellectual tradition – which is characterized by rigorous intellectual inquiry and an openness to scientific ideas. This course aims to help us understand ourselves as human persons, as well as to understand the social and physical environments in which we live.

‡PS 110 Introduction to Psychology
3 CR
Introduction to psychology as the science of behavior, focusing on the physiological, cognitive, learning, sociocultural and psychodynamic bases of behavior. Note: Students planning to major in Psychology must achieve a C+ or better in this course before moving on to PS 111.

‡PS 111 Thinking Critically about Psychological Science
3 CR
This course is designed to help students develop the critical thinking skills necessary to understand psychology as the science of human behavior. Note: Students must achieve a C+ or better in this course before moving on to any of the 300-level courses in Psychology.
Prerequisite: C+ or better in PS 110

‡PS 211 Human Sexuality
3 CR
An in-depth analysis of issues relating to human sexuality, including historical perspectives and their significance, research evaluation, gender identity, communication, sexual response and sexual dysfunction and its treatment.
Prerequisite: PS 110

‡PS 212 Abnormal Psychology
3 CR
Examines various mental disorders, such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, brain damage, retardation, sexual deviations.
Prerequisite: PS 110

‡PS 215 Social Psychology: Interpersonal Factors
3 CR
Explores how people are affected by the persons around them. Topics include: person perception, first impressions, interpersonal attraction, nonverbal communication, romantic love, prejudice, stereotyping, aggression, conformity, obedience and environmental influences on behavior.
Prerequisite: PS 110
†PS 220 Drugs: Use and Abuse in Contemporary Society
3 CR
Examines the nature of drug use, legal and illegal, in contemporary society. Emphasis is on behavioral and physiological effects of psychoactive substances, addictions, rehabilitation strategies and ethical issues.
Prerequisite: PS 110

†PS 222 Sports Psychology
3 CR
Provides information on and facilitates understanding of individual sport behavior. Emphasis is on the psychological constructs and concepts that relate to and help explain the phenomena of sports performance.
Prerequisite: PS 110

†PS 224/PO 319 Political Psychology
3 CR
Themes and concepts related to the expanding field of political psychology. Topics include the media, nationalism, extremism and security. Psychology of leadership examined through case studies.
Prerequisite: PS 110

†PS 233 Introduction to Clinical Psychology
3 CR
Provides an understanding of basic principles and tools used in clinical practice to implement behavioral interventions. Students are expected to master some of the elemental principles of cognitive-behavioral therapy and to demonstrate the applicability of these principles to their own experience.
Prerequisite: PS 110

†PS 241 Psychology of Personality
3 CR
Explores scientific perspectives on personality including trait, biological, Freudian, neo-Freudian, social learning and humanistic.
Prerequisite: PS 110

†PS 252 Child Development Psychology
3 CR
Traces development from conception through childhood, including basic concepts and theories as applied to psychological processes of perception, cognition, social interactions, affective and moral development.
Prerequisite: PS 110

†PS 255 Industrial and Organizational Psychology
3 CR
Explores theories and methods involved in application of the psychological principles in work settings. Emphasis is on understanding theory, research, learning methods and techniques used in practice.
Prerequisite: PS 110

†PS 256 Consumer Psychology
3 CR
Examines psychological, social and behavioral processes involved in consumer behavior, with a special emphasis on ethical issues.
Prerequisite: PS 110

†PS 273 Adolescent Development
3 CR
An in-depth study of developmental and behavioral issues in adolescence. Emphasis is on adjustment to adolescent roles, the search for self-identity and healthy and unhealthy personality development.
Prerequisite: PS 110

†PS 274 Adult Development
3 CR
Considers various psychological issues and developmental tasks of adulthood and middle age, psychological characteristics of the elderly and the psychology of death and dying.
Prerequisite: PS 110
†PS 275 Psychology of Women  
3 CR  
Surveys and examines current research and theories about women and gender. Topics include: gender-role stereotypes, attitudes toward women, gender-role socialization, women and work, sexuality, marriage, love and the biology of women.  
Prerequisite: PS 110

†PS 285 Psychological Counseling I  
3 CR  
Deals with the fundamental principles of counseling and involves the study of several different theoretical approaches, including client-centered and rational-emotive.  
Prerequisite: PS 110

PS 286 Psychological Counseling II  
3 CR  
Manifests further dimensions of the helping relationship and the approaches of reality, cognitive and Gestalt therapy. Audiotapes of students' counseling efforts are critiqued in class.  
Prerequisite: PS 285

†PS 295 Health Psychology  
3 CR  
Focuses on the relationship between attitudes and personality factors and health. Emphasis is on stress management and behavioral change methods for health improvement and maintenance.  
Prerequisite: PS 110

PS 299 Special Topics in Psychology  
3 CR  
Designates new or occasional courses that may or may not become part of the department's permanent offerings. Courses capitalize on a timely topic, a faculty member's particular interest, an experimental alternative to existing courses, etc.  
Prerequisites established by the department as appropriate for the specific course. Course title is shown on the student's transcript. Consult the current course schedule for available topics and current prerequisites.

PS 301 Research Design & Analysis I  
3 CR  
Students learn how to do primary quantitative research in psychology and to apply basic statistical principles to data collected using the scientific method. Emphasis is on descriptive, correlational and other nonexperimental designs.  
Prerequisites: PS 111 with a C+ or better, MA 131 plus one additional college-level mathematics course with an average of C+ or better across both mathematics courses with neither grade below C

PS 302 Research Design & Analysis II  
4 CR  
Students continue to learn how to do primary quantitative research in psychology and to apply basic statistical principles to data collected using the scientific method. Emphasis is on hypothesis testing in experimental and quasi-experimental designs, with special consideration given to the control of extraneous variables.  
Prerequisite: PS 301, with at least a C+

PS 313 Abnormal Psychology in Film  
3 CR  
Study of the diagnosis, causes and treatment of the major psychological disorders through examination of their portrayal in popular films.  
Prerequisite: PS 111 with a C+ or better

PS 331 Psychological Tests and Measurements  
3 CR  
Examines principles, theories, applications and ethics of psychological tests used for clinical, educational, industrial or legal purposes. Specific tests and issues unique to their use and abuse are presented.
Prerequisite: PS 111 with a C+ or better

**PS 335 Human and Animal Learning**  
3 CR  
Explores theories of learning from their historical origin to the present and focuses on how these theories can be applied to the “real world.” Students will gain insight into the factors that influence their own behavior, as well as the behavior of others.  
Prerequisite: PS 111 with a C+ or better or BI 111/113

**PS 350/BI 205 Essentials of Neuroscience**  
3 CR  
Introduces students to the field of neuroscience, which combines biology and psychology into a single area of study. Topics range from the cellular and molecular physiology of neurons to issues of human language, cognition, mental illness and drug use.  
Prerequisites: PS 111 with a C+ or better or BI 111/113

**PS 351 Brain and Behavior**  
3 CR  
Examines the molecular and molar views of the nervous and endocrine systems and emphasizes the roles of these systems in behavior.  
Prerequisite: PS 111 with a C+ or better or BI 111/113

**PS 352 Hormones and Behavior**  
3 CR  
This course examines the hormonal mediation of various behaviors, including play, aggression, parenting and cognitive functioning.  
Prerequisite: PS 111 with a C+ or better or BI 111/113

**PS 353 Psychopharmacology**  
3 CR  
This course presents current data and theories in psychopharmacology and drug abuse research. Basic principles of pharmacology, neurotransmission and drug use are covered.  
Prerequisite: PS 111 with a C+ or better or BI 111/113

**PS 380 Advanced Psychological Research**  
4 CR  
Covers research techniques and literature in a particular area of psychology. Laboratory work is included.  
Prerequisite: PS 302 with a C+ or better

**PS 382 Systems and Theories of Psychology**  
3 CR  
An historical survey of theoretical formulations and systems in psychology. Evaluates structuralism, functionalism, behaviorism, Gestalt psychology, psychoanalysis and humanistic and cognitive orientation.  
Prerequisites: PS 111 with a C+ or better, Senior Psychology majors or minors or departmental permission

**PS 389 Advanced Special Topics**  
3 CR  
Designates new or occasional upper-level courses that may or may not become part of the department’s permanent offerings. Courses capitalize on a timely topic, reflect a faculty member’s particular interest or offer an alternative to existing courses.  
Prerequisite: PS 111 with a C+ or better

**PS 390–395 Psychological Research**  
1–6 CR  
Research in the basic areas of scientific psychology performed under the supervision of participating faculty. By special arrangement with faculty member.

**PS 396 Capstone: Psychology Internship**  
3 CR  
A senior course which integrates theory
and practice with supervised placement in agencies, schools and/or institutions. Seminars focus on career assessment, personal growth and work skills.
Prerequisite: Senior Psychology major standing

**PS 397 Capstone: Psychological Research**
3 CR
A senior course in which students conduct research under the supervision of a faculty member. Course may involve a review and discussion of relevant literature in a seminar format and/or data collection in a laboratory setting. Intended for students who are planning to go to graduate school in Psychology.
Prerequisite: Permission of department

**PS 398 Capstone: Practicum Project**
3 CR
A senior course in which students participate in a community service and/or research project to learn a set of practical skills and apply this knowledge to their other Psychology courses in a career-related setting.
Prerequisite: Senior Psychology major standing
Note: The department may allow other courses to substitute for PS 396, PS 397 or PS 398, provided the course meets certain criteria and is approved by the chair.