



PSYCHOLOGY

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Introduction to Psychology

Psychology is one of the youngest branches of science, yet it seeks to answer questions that have existed since the beginning of human history. How do humans think and feel? How do they act as individuals and in groups? What is normal behavior? What is abnormal? How do people change from the cradle to the grave?

The Department of Psychology aims to immerse students in the intellectually exciting processes of discovery and interpretation related to human behavior. This goal is met through opportunities to work closely with faculty in the classroom, research labs, and field settings. Close faculty mentoring of students is one of the department's defining characteristics.

Psychology majors study human and animal behavior, including social and emotional development in children; cognitive development and decline in adulthood; brain-behavior relationships; maternal behavior in rats; social and interpersonal relationships; personality, psychopathology, and positive psychology; self-regulation and goal-setting; visual perception and cognition; memory; trauma and resilience; language processing; face recognition; health disparities; and race, sex, gender, and identity issues.

Through the psychology major and minor, students gain an understanding of why people think, act, and feel the way they do. Psychology courses emphasize intellectual curiosity and cultivating the life of the mind.

Psychology as a Major

Psychological issues permeate everyday lives and the world at large. A major in psychology provides the knowledge and skill sets that graduates need in fields as diverse as clinical and counseling settings, business, law, politics, education, and medicine. The major covers a rigorous, interdisciplinary curriculum that integrates theoretical study, empirical investigation, and practical application.

Full-time faculty have expertise in areas including adulthood and aging, child development, clinical psychology, psycholinguistics, cognitive neuroscience, health psychology, neuroscience, trauma and resilience, emotion science, social psychology, and visual perception and cognition.

Research Opportunities

The development of an inquisitive mind that makes use of methods of critical and analytical inquiry is at the heart of the psychology major. Learning to ask good questions and get good answers is best cultivated through apprenticeship and independent research experiences conducted with faculty scholars in psychology. Richmond faculty members have active research programs that allow for undergraduate participation at all levels of the research enterprise.

Students explore topics in a variety of areas. Their research is supported by faculty grants, University-supported undergraduate research grants, and departmental research awards. Richmond students have a strong record of research accomplishments, as evidenced by presentation of their work at national and international conferences and in the publication of their work in top peer-reviewed journals, including *Assessment*, *Brain Research Bulletin*, *Cognition and Emotion*, *Current Research in Social Psychology*, *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*, *Nature*, *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, *Personality and Individual Differences*, *Proceedings of the Cognitive Science Society*, *Psychological Bulletin*, *Psychology and Aging*, *Journal of Gerontology*, *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology*, and *Stress*.

Recent Honors Research

Antonio Cardoso, "Individual differences in processing garden-path sentences: The role of obsessive compulsive personality traits"

Kayla Schiltz, Perceptions of Microaggressions and support for Black Lives Matter (BLM) and All Lives Matter (ALM)

Kacy Workman, "Using an Intersectionality Framework to Examine Disparities in the Steps to Kidney Transplantation in Patients with End Stage Renal Disease,"

Sophie Hardten, "Neural effects Other-race effect in Attention Blink"

Addi Mansini, Investigating the Relationship between Classroom Sense of Belonging, Friendship Quality, and Peer Victimization

Lindsay Everhart, "Do Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Initiatives Cause More Harm Than Good?: Extending Research to the Domain of LGBTQ+ Discrimination"

Janhavi Bhalerao, The effects of Effort Based Reward (EBR) training and chemogenetic activation of the lateral habenula on behavioral and neuroendocrine responses in stressful contexts.

Cameron McKendrick, Focus on Hyperfocus: How ADHD Symptoms Impact Difficulty with Disengagement and Inattention

Mamie Ziegler, What Does "Avoidance Mode" Feel Like? The Association Between Avoidance Awareness and Negative Affect in the Moment

Scholarship Awards

Each year, three or four students in psychology are selected to receive a generous research stipend provided by the John Neasmith Dickinson Memorial fund. The award is given to original proposals of outstanding merit to students who will conduct a yearlong research project in their senior year with a faculty mentor. In addition, three Cognitive Neuroscience fellowships are available through the support of the James S. McDonnell Foundation. These fellowships include a stipend to cover 8 hours of research per week during the academic year and a 10-week summer research fellowship for two consecutive years. The School of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Research Committee also supports several summer research fellowships for our majors that provide research and living stipends to pursue research projects during a 10-week period in the summer.

Internships

Internships are available across Greater Richmond for course credit during the academic year and summer. Students gain valuable hands-on experience that helps them determine more fully whether a particular career in psychology seems right for them. Internships are available in a variety of settings including clinical/mental health (for example, drug intervention programs, treatment centers for children, programs for the homeless, rehabilitation programs); health/development (hospitals, nursing home care, occupational and physical therapy); education (mainstream and special-needs classrooms in public and private schools); and in settings where industrial/organizational psychology can be studied (personnel, human resources, selection, training).

Graduate School Acceptances

Albany Medical School
Boston College
Boston University
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
College of William and Mary
Columbia University
Dartmouth College
Duke University
Emory University
Florida State University
Fordham University
George Mason University
George Washington University
James Madison University
Lehigh University
Loyola University
Meharry Medical College
New York University
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
Ohio State University
Pace University
Plymouth State University
Purdue University
San Diego State University
Simmons College
Stanford University
The State University of New York, Buffalo
University of Alabama
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of Chicago
University of Connecticut
University of Denver
University of Hartford
University of Illinois
University of Maryland
University of Minnesota
University of New Mexico
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
University of Pittsburgh School of Dental
Medicine
University of Richmond
University of South Carolina
University of Sydney, Australia
University of Tennessee
University of Texas, Dallas
University of Virginia
Vanderbilt University
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Tech
Vrije University
Wake Forest University

Recent Graduate Employment

Psychological Research (Virginia Commonwealth University, Penn State, Stanford University, Arizona State)
Education (Teach for America, College Board Corps, Advisory Board Company)
Financial/Business (One-South Realty Group; Capital One; JP Morgan & Chase Co; Deloitte Consulting LLP; Goldman Sachs)
User Experience (UX) Intern - InFlow Inc.
American Civil War Museum
Senior Experience Design Analyst at Avanade, New York
Clinical Research Coordinator at Center of Excellence in Eating and Weight Disorders at Mount Sinai
ABA Therapist at Recognizing Children's Gifts Behavioral Health Network
360 Program Supervisor at Intercept Health

Faculty

Jane M. Berry

Department Chair
Ph.D., Washington University in St. Louis
Areas of specialty: metacognitive aging; memory and metamemory in adulthood; perceptions and stereotypes of aging and Alzheimer's Disease; attitudes towards Black Lives Matter

Cindy M. Bukach

Ph.D., University of Victoria
Trawick Professorship in Psychology
Areas of specialty: face and object recognition in intact and impaired individuals, development and loss of perceptual expertise, the influence and dynamics of categorization, racial bias and other-race effects

Laura E. Knouse

Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Areas of specialty: Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in adults, self-regulated learning and metacognition, cognitive-behavioral intervention development and evaluation

Karen Kochel

Ph.D., Arizona State University
Areas of specialty: child, adolescent, and emerging adult development; peer and gender relationships and psychological adjustment in school; inclusive classroom communities

Kelly Lambert

Ph.D., University of Georgia
Trawick Professorship in Psychology
Areas of specialty: behavioral neuroscience, neurobiology of emotional resilience, experience-based neuroplasticity, laboratory and wild rat brains, raccoon problem-solving responses, parental responses, naturalistic observations of various primates

Matthew W. Lowder

Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Areas of specialty: psycholinguistics; lexical, semantic, and syntactic processing; eye movements during reading; individual differences in sentence processing; mechanisms of memory and attention that support language comprehension

Kristjen Lundberg

Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Areas of specialty: social psychology, intergroup relations, political psychology, implicit social cognition, prejudice, discrimination and inequality, quantitative methods

Camilla Nonterah

Ph.D., Virginia Commonwealth University
Areas of specialty: health psychology, psychosocial aspects of chronic illness, health disparities in organ transplantation, impact of race on mental and physical health

Janelle S. Peifer

Ph.D., University of Virginia
Areas of specialty: clinical psychology, college student development, identity and intercultural competence, trauma and resilience

Arryn Robbins

Ph.D., New Mexico State University
Areas of specialty: Visual attention and memory, eye movements during search, applied cognition, safety behavior, computational methods



OFFICE OF ADMISSION

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