FROM STUDY TO SKILLS

All academic programs offered at the UM help students develop valuable transferable skills. Psychology is the application of scientific methods to study how humans act, think, or feel. As a Psychology student, you will gain an appreciation of human diversity, of the complexity of human and animal behavior, and of the value of the empirical approach to understanding complex problems. As a Psychology concentrator you will therefore develop skills in critical analysis, accurate problem definition, and interpretation of data. Because psychology draws from the biological and social sciences, you may want to combine your study in psychology with course work in related fields.


SKILLS AND ABILITIES

**Research Skills**
- Framing a research question
- Developing theories/ideas
- Gathering information
- Observing people/data/things
- Clarifying goals/problems
- Summarizing results
- Synthesizing conclusions

**Analytical Skills**
- Defining problem areas
- Creating a system to analyze data
- Organizing and analyzing data
- Offering new perspectives
- Developing new solutions for recurring problems
- Evaluating theory and evidence
- Comparing/contrasting ideas and information

**Interpersonal Skills**
- Analyzing/modify behavior
- Counseling
- Motivating
- Perceiving and understanding individual differences
- Fostering group dynamics
- Exhibiting empathy towards others
- Identifying and understanding needs

**Communication Skills**
- Influencing and persuading groups/people
- Informing/explaining ideas
- Mediating/negotiating conflicts
- Writing clearly
- Presenting complex ideas and information effectively

BUILDING YOUR SKILLS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Employers seek out individuals who can demonstrate excellent verbal and written communication skills, teamwork and interpersonal skills, initiative, and a strong work ethic. The Psychology Department provides numerous ways for undergraduates to develop these skills, for instance through extensive research opportunities. Student organizations and campus employment offer further ways to add to the skills you are developing in your classes. Other options include study abroad, off-campus employment, or volunteering in the community, for instance through service learning opportunities and the Ginsberg Center. Finally, a summer internship may be the best way of all to test out a career field and develop marketable skills.
FROM SKILLS TO CAREER

Psychology concentrators develop both general and technical skills applicable to a wide range of careers. For example, developed interpersonal skills may be equally useful whether working as a clinical psychologist, a corporate recruiter, or a rehabilitation worker. Many concentrators go on to graduate or professional school. The list below is a sample of careers undertaken by Psychology graduates.

Research Skills
- Experimental psychology researcher
- Clinical psychology researcher
- Consumer researcher
- Consumer psychologist
- Research associate
- Research scientist
- Market researcher
- Advertising account manager
- Biomedical laboratory technician

Analytical Skills
- Criminologist
- Child development specialist
- Neuropsychologist
- Curriculum designer
- Statistical report writer
- Community planning specialist
- Policy analyst
- Job analyst
- Field health officer
- Health policy planner
- Environmental psychologist
- Industrial psychologist
- Occupational health psychologist
- Human factor engineer/ergonomist
- Organizational psychologist

= Green Jobs
| = Further Study Required

Interpersonal Skills
- Caseworker
- Day care center administrator
- Training specialist
- Probation/parole officer
- Youth counselor
- Psychiatric social worker
- Psychotherapist
- Volunteer services coordinator
- Rehabilitation worker
- College student affairs administrator
- Affirmative action officer
- Community organizer
- Employment recruiter
- Human resource manager

= Labor relations coordinator
- Relocation worker
- On-line customer service representative
- Fundraiser/development officer

Communication Skills
- K-12 teacher
- College professor
- Technical writer
- Media director
- Public opinion survey worker
- Employment counselor
- Social media blogger

For more career information, see O*Net at online.onetcenter.org

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

The Psychology Department offers two different majors: Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience (BCN); and Psychology. To major in BCN or Psychology, students need at least a C in four prerequisites: an intro psych class, 2 breadth group courses, and a statistics class, plus 24 additional credit hours. To declare the Neuroscience major, students are referred to the Biology Department.

For more information visit the LSA Bulletin or the Department website.

Department of Psychology
1343 East Hall
734-764-2580
lsa.umich.edu/psych

Newnan Advising Center
1255 Angell Hall
734-764-0332
lsa.umich.edu/advising

NEXT STEPS/RESOURCES

For a list of volunteering and service learning opportunities, go to: http://www.lsa.umich.edu/psych/undergraduate/currentstudents/studentresources

To learn about career and internship opportunities, along with career profiles of alumni, go to: lsa.umich.edu/psych/undergrad/page.asp?id=8

To begin connecting to professionals in fields that interest you, create your own LinkedIn account: careercenter.umich.edu/article/getting-started-linkedin

The Career Guide series was developed by the University of Michigan Career Center, Division of Student Affairs, in cooperation with the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. ©2011 Regents of the University of Michigan