



## Psychology

### 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 major 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.

**Related fields include** Anthropology, Sociology, Statistics, Biology, Urban Planning, Women’s Studies, Program in the Environment, Education, and Social Work.

### 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/modifying 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.

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## FROM SKILLS TO CAREER

Psychology majors 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 

### 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

 = Green Jobs

 = Further Study Required

For more career information, see O\*Net at [online.onetcenter.org](http://online.onetcenter.org)

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## 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 Intro Psych, a C- in Stats 250, plus 32 additional credit hours. To declare the Neuroscience major, students are referred to the Undergraduate Program in Neuroscience. To declare the Cognitive Science major, students are referred to the Weinberg Institute for Cognitive Science.

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

### Department of Psychology

1012 East Hall  
734-764-2580  
[lsa.umich.edu/psych](http://lsa.umich.edu/psych)

### Newnan Advising Center

1255 Angell Hall  
734-764-0332  
[lsa.umich.edu/advising](http://lsa.umich.edu/advising)

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## NEXT STEPS/RESOURCES

For a list of volunteering and service learning opportunities, go to: [lsa.umich.edu/psych/undergrad/resources/volunteer/](http://lsa.umich.edu/psych/undergrad/resources/volunteer/)

To learn about career and internship opportunities, along with career profiles of alumni, go to: <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/psych/undergraduate/careerexploration>

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

To identify internships or job opportunities, visit Career Center Connector: [careercenter.umich.edu/article/c3](http://careercenter.umich.edu/article/c3)

Maize Pages list hundreds of organizations for students to get involved in: [maizepages.umich.edu](http://maizepages.umich.edu)

On-campus jobs (work-study and non work-study jobs) are listed at: [studentemployment.umich.edu/JobX\\_Home.aspx](http://studentemployment.umich.edu/JobX_Home.aspx)

### The Career Center

3200 Student Activities Building  
734-764-7460  
[careercenter.umich.edu](http://careercenter.umich.edu)  
[facebook.com/careercenter.umich](https://facebook.com/careercenter.umich)  
[twitter.com/careercenter](https://twitter.com/careercenter)  
[linkedin.com/company/the-career-center-at-the-university-of-michigan](https://linkedin.com/company/the-career-center-at-the-university-of-michigan)

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