Psychology

Program Description

Psychology is a hub science with a humanistic core. What this means is that psychology lays at the crossroads of multiple disciplines and perspectives. While students of biology examine what it means to be human from a biological/evolutionary perspective, students of sociology and anthropology from a cultural perspective, students of philosophy from a philosophical perspective, students of literature from a deeply personal perspective, and students of religion (and philosophy) from a moral perspective, the student of Psychology realizes that a full understanding of what it means to be human can only be obtained by combining all of these perspectives. As a discipline, that is exactly what Psychology attempts to do.

While a major in Psychology is valuable because it brings one closer to unraveling the complexities of human nature, it is more than an intellectual pursuit. Those who study Psychology are well positioned to solve important practical problems and to help people. For example, psychologists attempt to empower individuals and families to battle mental illness, drug dependence and addiction, or meet the challenges of marriage and family, school and work. Psychologists work in business settings to design effective organizational structures, systems of reward and recognition, and to facilitate effective leadership, productivity, and employee well-being. Psychologists work in legal settings as jury consultants and expert witnesses. Still other psychologists work with athletes, artists, or business executives to facilitate performance and achievement.

The Psychology degree program at Dixie State University contributes to these potential outcomes in at least three ways. First, as a Psychology major you will be encouraged to embrace the value of a strong foundation in the liberal arts and sciences through the University's general education program. The general education courses you take provide an essential foundation for more focused study in psychology. Your general education courses will provide you with exposure to the multiple perspectives (biological, philosophical, etc.) that converge in Psychology. The general education program will also provide a foundation of essential academic and intellectual skills that will be further developed in Psychology, including critical thinking, effective communication, information literacy, and statistical literacy.

Second, as a Psychology major you will have significant freedom to explore multiple disciplines in-depth according to your own interests in Psychology. This allows you to deepen your foundation in the liberal arts and sciences by taking more advanced elective courses in the fine arts and humanities, literature, communication, the physical and natural sciences, the social and behavioral sciences, and business, among others.

Third, the Psychology degree requirements include a rigorous set of core courses that are essential to your development as a student of Psychology. Whatever your specific interests within Psychology, the core courses comprise what the faculty feel are an essential foundation to more advanced study and understanding. Our degree requirements also allow you to explore the depth and diversity of Psychology through upper-division course-work in the primary research areas which include social, developmental, biological, cognitive, clinical/counseling, and applied Psychology. You will receive exposure to and experience with all that Psychology, as an academic discipline and an applied science, has to offer.

Finally, as a Psychology major you will have multiple opportunities for hands-on experiences, close student-faculty relationships, and social engagement both informally and through membership in the Psychology Club. As a Psychology major you will find a faculty who are committed to the intellectual, professional, and personal development of every student, whatever their ultimate goals may be.

The Psychology Program at Dixie State University is committed to the following:

- Developing students who value the search for knowledge by means of scientific methods and research and providing students with the knowledge and skills to do so.
• Developing students who appreciate and understand that behavior results from a complex interaction between physiological systems, genetic influences, experiential and environmental factors and social forces.

• Developing students whose understanding of Psychology reflects an integration of a variety of theoretical perspectives.

• Developing students who understand the principles of Psychology within a broad liberal arts and science perspective.

• Developing students who appreciate the power of applied Psychology to foster physical, psychological, and communal well-being.

• Inspiring students to act ethically as scholars and as future practitioners of Psychology.

• Inspiring students to value and to use critical thinking as students, scholars, consumers of media, and targets of influence.

• Inspiring students to commit themselves to a lifetime pursuit of knowledge and understanding.

Course Prefix

• PSY

Degrees & Minors

• Bachelor of Arts in Psychology (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/psychology/bachelor_of_arts_in_psychology)

• Bachelor of Science in Psychology (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/psychology/bachelor_of_science_in_psychology)

• Bachelor of Arts/Science in Integrated Studies - Psychology Emphasis (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/psychology/bachelor_of_science_bachelor_of_arts_in_integrated_studies__psychology_emphasis)

• Minor in Health Psychology (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/minor_in_health_psychology)

• Minor in Psychology (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/minor_in_psychology)

Career Strategies

In addition to the required coursework for psychology, students can do the following to enhance their career opportunities:

• Develop academic research skills and experience

• Develop strong command of the APA writing style and good oral communication skills

• Maintain a high grade point average and consider pursuing an advanced degree

• Gain relevant experience through internships and related part-time employment

• Do volunteer work in programs such as Big Brother/Sister, Special Olympics, Senior Centers, etc.

• Learn to work well with people from diverse backgrounds

• Learn how to prepare grant applications

• Earn a minor in a complimentary major

Career Opportunities

A bachelor’s degree in psychology provides a broad, liberal arts background, which can “open doors” for graduates in seeking entry level employment in a variety of professional occupations such as business, sales, or social agencies. Students may wish to pursue graduate education in psychology, social work, counseling, academic advisement, or other related fields as a way increasing earning potential.

The advanced study of psychology includes many broad and diverse specialty areas, which can lead to careers primarily in education, healthcare, or private practice such as listed below:

• Academia (teaching and research)

• Clinical Psychologist

• Educational, Vocational, and School Counselor

• Marriage and Family Therapist

• Experimental Psychologist

• Industrial/Organizational Psychologist

• Forensic Psychologist

• Program Evaluator

• Sport Psychologist

• Human Factors Specialist

• Counseling Psychologist

• Substance Abuse and Behavioral Disorder Counselor
Job Outlook

The overall job growth expectations for the future are positive, but can vary by specificity and by educational level. Advanced degrees will increase job marketability and income.

Salary Range

Salaries will vary widely depending on factors such as level of education, specialty, and geographic location. On average this would be $48,000 to $68,000. For more information refer to the American Psychological Association (http://www.apa.org/careers/resources).