

Psychology

In the College of Sciences

OFFICE: Life Sciences 110

TELEPHONE: 619-594-5358

UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING OFFICE: Life Sciences 03

TELEPHONE: 619-594-5412 / FAX: 619-594-1332

<http://www.psychology.sdsu.edu>

Faculty

Emeritus: Alf, Borges, Bryson, Defran, Dicken, Fenson, Franzini, Gallo, Graham, Grossberg, Harari, Hillix, Hunrichs, Karen, Kass, Koppman, Leckart, Lee, Lynn, McCordick, McDonald, Mollenaer, O'Day, Penn, Plotnik, Psomas, Radlow, Rodin, Rosenbaum, Sattler, Schulte, Scollay, Segal, Smith, Spinetta, Stevens

Chair: Murphy

Undergraduate Adviser: Ulloa

Professors: Atkins, Cronan, Dunn (IVC), Graf, Hornbeck, Klonoff, Litrownik, Malcarne, Marlin, Marshall, Martin, Matt, McGivern, Murphy, Price (Joseph), Prislis, Reed, Reilly, Riley, Saccuzzo, Sallis, Scott

Associate Professors: Amir, Castañeda (IVC), Conte, Friend, Gallo, Hattrup, Mattson Weller, Mueller, Price (Judy), Roesch, Thomas, Twenge, Velasquez, Yeh

Assistant Professors: Brassler, Cordero (IVC), Devos, Ehrhart, Gilbert, Kath, Marx, Moses, Weersing

Offered by the Department

Doctor of Philosophy degree in clinical psychology.

Master of Arts degree in psychology.

Master of Science degree in psychology.

Major in psychology with the B.A. degree in liberal arts and sciences.

Minor in psychology.

The Major

What is psychology? Psychology is the scientific discipline that studies human behavior and mental processes: how human beings develop, learn, think and feel. Psychologists study the relative influences of heredity and experience throughout the life span in a wide variety of environments, including the laboratory, home, school, workplace, jury room, hospital and hospice. Faculty of the Department of Psychology at SDSU focus on a number of areas of psychology. Among these are:

- the effects of prenatal environments, including the influence of hormones and drugs on brain development and later functioning,
- the effects of childhood experience on social-emotional and cognitive development,
- the functioning of adults and the elderly in response to biological and environmental challenges,
- the normal processes of learning, memory and cognition,
- the effectiveness of behavioral and cognitive intervention procedures for enhancing physical and mental well-being.

What do psychology graduates do? The majority of students who graduate with a B.A. in psychology enter the job market and find employment in a broad range of settings, including business, state and local government agencies, and health-care services. Because the B.A. in psychology provides a liberal arts education as opposed to technical training, psychology majors will need to acquire job-specific experience or expect additional on-the-job training.

Does the B.A. in psychology prepare students for graduate work in applied areas? Students who have maintained strong academic records in psychology often enter masters degree programs in counseling: Clinical Social Work; Marriage, Family and Child Counseling; and School Psychology. Others pursue graduate work in a number of related fields including Program Evaluation, Industrial and

Organizational Psychology, Public Health, Social Ecology, Education, Program Development, Criminal Justice, Law, Administrative Social Work, Human Resource Development, and Medicine.

What is the Ph.D. in psychology? Graduate work which leads to the Ph.D. trains one to be a scientific psychologist, to study human behavior and mental processes, and to teach at the university. The Ph.D. in clinical psychology also includes supervised training in clinical practice. The time commitment for earning a Ph.D. degree is considerable, and these programs are highly competitive. Only a small percentage of psychology graduates will in fact go on to earn the Ph.D. in psychology.

Impacted Program

The psychology major is an impacted program. To be admitted to the psychology major, students must meet the following criteria:

- a. Complete the following nine units: Psychology 101, 270, and Biology 100 (or Biology 201A). Complete an additional three units from the following courses: Psychology 201, 211, 230, 260, 271. The required 12 units must be completed with a grade of C or higher. With the exception of Psychology 201, these courses cannot be taken for credit/no credit (Cr/NC).
- b. Have a cumulative GPA of 2.40 or higher.

To complete the major, students must fulfill the degree requirements for the major described in the catalog in effect at the time they are accepted into the premajor at SDSU (assuming continuous enrollment).

Advising

All students planning to major in psychology are urged to make an appointment at the Psychology Undergraduate Advising Office (Life Sciences 03) during their first semester of residence at SDSU. Students who plan to transfer as psychology majors should make an appointment before registering. The Advising Office is open year round and the telephone number is 619-594-5412.

Major Academic Plans (MAPs)

Visit <http://www.sdsu.edu/mymap> for the recommended courses needed to fulfill your major requirements. The MAPs Web site was created to help students navigate the course requirements for their majors and to identify which General Education course will also fulfill a major preparation course requirement.

Psychology Major

With the B.A. Degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences

(Major Code: 20011)

All candidates for a degree in liberal arts and sciences must complete the graduation requirements listed in the section of this catalog on "Graduation Requirements." No more than 50 units in psychology courses can apply to the degree.

A minor is not required for this major. However, depending on career goals, students may wish to consider minors in areas such as biology, business, public administration, recreation, social work, statistics, and others.

General Requirements for the Major

Preparation for the Major. Psychology 101, 201, 211, 230, 260, 270, 271, and Biology 100 (or Biology 201A). (20 units). With the exception of Psychology 201, these prerequisite courses may not be taken Cr/NC. The minimum grade in each class is C or higher. **NOTE:** Psychology majors may use Psychology 270 to satisfy Mathematics/

PSY

Quantitative Reasoning General Education requirement. *NOTE ALSO:* A college level statistics course will be accepted from another department in lieu of Psychology 270.

Language Requirement. Competency (successfully completing the third college semester or fifth college quarter) is required in one foreign language to fulfill the graduation requirement. Refer to section of catalog on "Graduation Requirements." Psychology majors are urged to discuss scheduling the language requirement with an adviser in the Psychology Undergraduate Advising Office.

Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement. Passing the Writing Proficiency Assessment with a score of 10 or above or completing one of the approved upper division writing courses (W) with a grade of C (2.0) or better. See "Graduation Requirements" section for a complete listing of requirements.

The Major. Methods. All majors must complete Psychology 301 or 410 or both. Psychology 301 is suitable for most psychology majors, including those planning to enter the job market after graduation, those undecided about career plans, and those planning to pursue graduate work in related fields such as counseling.

Students planning to pursue graduate work in psychology should take psychology 370 and 410 as early as possible. *Note:* Students enrolling in these courses must have earned a B or better in Psychology 270 or its equivalent. Students unsure of their statistical or computer competence may wish to take Psychology 301 before enrolling in Psychology 370 or 410.

Breadth. All majors must complete 12 units selected from a list of content courses covering areas of biological, developmental, abnormal, social, personality, cognitive, and sensation/perception.

Requirements for the Major. A minimum of 31 upper division units in psychology to include Psychology 301 or 410 and 12 units, including at least three units from each of the following groups. The remaining three units are selected from Group II or Group III.

Group I. One of the following:

Psychology 340 or 344.

Group II. At least one of the following:

Psychology 319;

Psychology 331 or 332;

Psychology 333 or 350.

Group III. At least one of the following:

Psychology 360 or 361 or 362;

Psychology 380;

Psychology 388.

Recommendations for Electives

Employment with the B.A. Electives should be selected in accord with general career goals. Students interested in health and human services may take courses that focus on psychological health and well-being or issues related to child development. Those interested in business may take courses that focus on industrial, organizational and consumer issues or that emphasize computer skills, measurement, data analysis, or some combination of these.

Masters programs in counseling. At SDSU, a Master of Science degree in Counseling is offered by the College of Education and a Master of Social Work degree is offered by the College of Health and Human Services. For these programs students have considerable latitude in the selection of psychology electives, but it is important to develop an appropriate profile of volunteer or work experience.

Graduate programs in psychology. Most masters or doctoral programs in psychology require students to have strong research profiles. SDSU psychology majors can accomplish this by completing Psychology 370, 410, and becoming involved as early as possible in faculty-sponsored research.

Psychology Minor

The minor in psychology consists of 19-21 units selected from one of the following areas:

Industrial/Organizational: Psychology 101, 270, and 271 or equivalent; 12 units of upper division psychology to include Psychology 319, 320, 321, and 340. Students with credit in Management 350 or Public Administration 340 may not enroll in Psychology 321, but may select another upper division psychology course. (19 units)

Personality and Social: Psychology 101, 230 and 211 or 260; 12 units of upper division psychology courses of which nine must be selected from Psychology 331 or 332 or 333, 340, 350 and 351. (21 units)

Courses in the minor may not be counted toward the major, but may be used to satisfy preparation for the major and general education requirements, if applicable. A minimum of six upper division units must be completed in residence at San Diego State University.