

# Psychology

## **Psychology is the scientific study of behavior. . .**

The goals of psychology as a science are to measure and describe behavior, to predict and control it, and to understand and explain it. Therefore, the pursuit of psychology as a science and a profession allows one to apply the knowledge, abilities, and skills acquired through psychology to almost any area in which the behavior of people is a concern. The bachelor's degree with a major in psychology is an area of liberal study which contributes to the understanding of behavior and requires the development of cognitive and analytical skills that are valuable to a person whatever he/she does in life. The undergraduate major gives the student an opportunity to learn about the principles and theories of human and animal behavior and emphasizes the scientific aspect of psychology. The student studies motivation, physiological bases of behavior, learning, personality development, origins of deviant behavior, and biological, intellectual, and social development. In addition, the student learns methods for investigating and describing behavior as well as making critical appraisals and understanding some of the ways in which psychology is applied to everyday life.

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## **What you can do with a degree in Psychology. . .**

Many graduates go on to graduate school in psychology or related disciplines. Many also pursue careers in law or medicine. The department's most recent survey of graduates found the most frequent employment settings were human health service (hospital, mental health agency, nursing home), educational settings, or nonprofit organizations.

## **Program Options. . .**

Students may select either the BS or the BA in Psychology. In addition, students may choose to declare an "emphasis", although there is no requirement to do so. There are five emphasis areas: developmental psychology, educational psychology, biological and physiological psychology, clinical science, and social and cultural psychology.

## **Unique characteristics of UND's Psychology program. . .**

Students have many opportunities to assist in the extensive and diverse research programs led by department faculty. As a result of these opportunities, students in the Psychology Department frequently have their names associated with research publications and presentations. In addition, there are many opportunities to gain practical experience in the community, either through cooperative education or volunteer experience. The Psychology Department is also the home of the INPSYDE program, a nationally known project with the goal of facilitating the entry of American Indian students into doctoral programs in clinical psychology.

## **Getting in. . .**

There are no requirements, either in terms of specific courses or in terms of grade point average, for becoming a psychology major. Students need only declare their intention to become a psychology major by contacting the College of Arts and Sciences.

**Information continued on reverse side. . .**

## Psychology continued. . .

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### It's A Fact. . .

- Research facilities are located in Corwin-Larimore Hall, Robertson-Sayre Hall, Starcher Hall (animal), and the Northern Plains Center for Behavior Research. The department computer center was recently updated and remodeled.
- Opportunities exist for students to serve as a research or teaching assistant. A student travel and conference fund provides support for students to attend professional conferences.
- There is a small fee when a student enrolls in Psychology 405; in 2008-2009 it was \$18.
- Average class size: entry-level courses, about 150; sophomore-junior courses, about 75; senior courses, about 25.
- 23 full time faculty and several adjunct faculty who are psychologists from the community serve the department.
- There are currently about 375 Psychology majors and about 150 students minoring in Psychology.
- The first major in Psychology was offered at UND in 1918.
- Both the Student Psychological Association and Psi Chi (honor society in Psychology) are active on campus.
- Each year the department hosts its own regional conference.
- 90% of our courses are taught by full time, Ph.D.-level faculty.
- The Department leads UND in producing undergraduate Honors theses.
- Our BA and BS programs are now fully available online; course fees of \$50 per credit are charged for 300 -and 400-level online courses.
- The University of North Dakota is offering more online courses and degree programs than ever before to provide you with additional flexibility. Please visit [www.distance.und.edu](http://www.distance.und.edu) for more information or call toll free at 800-342-8230 or 701-777-3044.
- Prominent alums of the program are:
  - A former member UND Foundation Board
  - President of Dakota State University, SD
  - Director of Clinical Training, University of South Dakota
  - Research Scientist, USDA Nutrition Laboratory, Grand Forks
  - Professor, Mayo Clinic Medical School
  - Executive Director, Cambridge Center for Behavioral Studies
  - A Hall of Fame professional basketball coach

### In Addition. . .

- All of our faculty have published original research and all faculty teach at the undergraduate level. Psychology received UND's outstanding research department award for 2008.
- Our faculty specialize in many cutting edge topics, including why people commit suicide, cognitive changes related to pesticide exposure, and the factors that underlie pathological gambling.
- All faculty serve as advisors for undergraduate students and we have a designated undergraduate program director. Students will find our faculty very accommodating and helpful.
- Students can earn course credit for volunteer and practical experiences, as well as for serving as research assistants for the faculty and graduate students of the department.
- The UND Psychology department is the nation's leader in training American Indian clinical psychologists.

### For more information. . .

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*UND Department of Psychology  
Corwin-Larimore Hall Room 215  
319 Harvard Street Stop 8380  
Grand Forks ND 58202-8380  
(701) 777-3451  
[www.und.edu/dept/underpsy](http://www.und.edu/dept/underpsy)*