

COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGY & HEALTH PROMOTION

College of Arts Letters & Sciences

EMPHASIS OF PROGRAM

This program blends online coursework in community psychology and health promotion with internships and other applied learning experiences. Foundational coursework in psychology is coupled with upper division courses in positive psychology and health psychology, developmental psychology, ethics/writing, health promotion and diversity. The degree is multidisciplinary, focusing on: promotion of wellness and resilience, public health education, social action, cultural competency, ethical practice, and use of scientific inquiry to support the well-being of individuals and communities. An introductory course in community psychology orients students to relevant professions and provides support with overall career development.

Graduates of this program may find employment as health educators, program directors, consultants, community researchers, or with government agencies that promote public health and well-being. Students with this degree will also be well prepared for graduate programs in community psychology, mental health counseling, or public health.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Affordability! (no out-of-state tuition)
- Generous transfer scholarships available
- Emphasis on wellness and health promotion
- Interdisciplinary coursework
- All courses available online
- Easy transfer of previous psychology and health coursework
- Two supervised internship experiences
- Service learning options in several courses
- Available for both on-campus and distance students
- Individualized advising and career guidance
- Pathway to graduate study in psychology or public health

FACULTY

Our professors' first commitment is teaching. However, faculty are also engaged in research, civic engagement, university service, and community outreach. Dr. Christine Olson has a clinical background and is active in connecting students with service and internship opportunities. Dr. Corey Butler studies personality, political attitudes, and social networks. Dr. Scott Peterson has a background in experimental psychology and involves students in laboratory research projects. Dr. Benjamin Anderson has a background in cognitive neuroscience and conducts research on memory, attention, and self-regulated learning. Dr. Laura Koenig advises our Psi Chi honor society chapter and conducts research on religious, spirituality, and well-being.

ACTIVITIES

Community Psychology and Health Promotion majors may join the Psychology Club to get to know other students as well as faculty in an informal atmosphere. Psychology Club members are active with a variety of service, professional development, and social activities throughout the year. Upper level students with high grades may be eligible to join Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology. Students from both organizations regularly attend the Minnesota Undergraduate Psychology Conference in the spring. CPHP students interested in research have opportunities to work with professors on active research projects and present research at professional conferences.

PREPARATION

Community Psychology and Health Promotion majors need to have good oral and written communication skills, computer skills, library research skills, and mathematics skills. CPHP students are encouraged to take courses in biology, math, and other social sciences as well as in Psychology.

INTERNSHIP

Community Psychology and Health Promotion students work with a faculty advisor to locate internship experiences that fit their unique career development plans. Internships are supervised learning experiences that are intentionally structured to help make students competitive for entry-level positions and /or for admittance to graduate studies programs. Students have been able to locate internships in a wide variety of educational, allied health, government, not-for-profit and for-profit sectors. Internships may be completed during the academic year or summer time. A typical reality for CPHP majors completing internship experiences includes juggling numerous academic, job and family responsibilities, and we are intentional about trying to identify internship options that fit with the unique combination of demands on your time and energy.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Incoming students may be eligible for a number of leadership and academic scholarships through the SMSU Office of Admission. Freshmen who have completed a College Now Psychology course while in high school are eligible for the College Now Psychology Scholarship. Junior and senior Community Psychology and Health Promotion majors are eligible for the Psychology Scholarship. Junior and senior female CPHP majors are eligible for the Cowan Scholarship.

POTENTIAL CAREERS

- Community Health Promoter
- Health Promotion Specialist
- Public Health Educator
- Health Services Manager
- Social & Human Service Assistant
- Youth Services Specialist
- Prevention Specialist
- Health Educator
- Child Advocate
- Project Director
- Psychiatric Tech
- Mental Health Practitioner

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

- Psi Chi
- Psychology Club

For more information please contact: The Psychology Department at (507) 537-6224.



MINNESOTA STATE

Southwest Minnesota State University,
A member of Minnesota State

Southwest Minnesota State University is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music, the Minnesota Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board, the Council on Social Work Education, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, and The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.
SMSU is an affirmative action, equal opportunity educator and employer.