

PSYCHOLOGY

College of Arts Letters & Sciences

EMPHASIS OF PROGRAM

Students in the Psychology Program at Southwest Minnesota State University develop an understanding of the major approaches, methods, and principles which psychologists use to explore human thought and behavior. Psychology majors learn how to apply psychological research and theory so they can use this knowledge in a variety of areas, from industry to mental health. The Psychology Minor is a valuable addition to students in other programs, such as social work, education, pre-law, pre-medicine, pre-physical therapy, and business administration. Regardless of whether you are interested in getting a job right out of college or going on to graduate school, you will receive a strong foundation in psychology. Personal attention combined with rigorous training yield a rich and rewarding experience at Southwest Minnesota State. Students interested in a completely online experience may want to consider the Community Psychology & Health Promotion major.

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 teaches courses in statistics and developmental psychology. Dr. Benjamin Anderson has a background in neuroscience and coordinates our CollegeNow psychology classes being taught in high schools around the state of Minnesota. Dr. Laura Koenig's research examines religiousness and spirituality, personality traits, and well-being.

FACILITIES

Most classes are held in the Social Science building and conveniently located near faculty offices. Meeting rooms, social interaction labs, and club rooms are also available in this building. Computers for doing online coursework or research and data analysis are available in the Social Science Research & Computer Lab, various computer laboratories across campus, and in the SMSU Library.

ACTIVITIES

Psychology majors may join the Psychology Club to get to know other students as well as faculty in an informal atmosphere. Students who earn a G.P.A. of 3.0 or higher in psychology are eligible for Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology. Students from both organizations frequently attend the Midwestern Psychological Association conference in Chicago in the spring. Some psychology majors work with their professors on research projects and present research at this or other professional conferences. Psychology students regularly present their course-related research at the annual SMSU Undergraduate Research Conference.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The psychology faculty at Southwest Minnesota State encourage students to pursue master's or doctoral degrees in psychology. But the program is also an excellent choice for students who are not interested in graduate-level education. Because psychology majors can think critically, write, do research, and solve applied problems, they are well prepared for entry-level employment in mental health agencies, business and industry, casework, child care, human relations, gerontology, health services, marketing and public relations, probation and parole, sales, and technical writing. To assist students with their interests in these diverse subfields of psychology, students are advised to enroll early in Psychology Seminar, a professional development course. They may also take advantage of a variety of internship and volunteer opportunities in the Southwest Minnesota region. Pursuing international study is another great way to better discern one's career interests, and students majoring in psychology have regularly taken advantage of international studies opportunities through various cross-cultural education programs.

PREPARATION

Psychology majors need to have good oral and written communication skills, computer skills, library research skills, and mathematics skills. Psychology students are encouraged to take courses in biology, math, and other social sciences as well as in psychology. All psychology majors are required to take statistics, research methods, and a 120 hour internship.

SCHOLARSHIPS

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

POTENTIAL CAREERS

- Mental Health
- Business
- Casework
- Child Care
- Career Services
- Gerontology
- Health Services
- Marketing
- Public Relations
- Management
- Court Services

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