



SMSU PSYCHOLOGY

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 exciting four years at Southwest Minnesota State.

FACULTY

Our professors' first commitment is teaching. However, faculty are also engaged in research, civic engagement, university service, and global studies. For example, Dr. Bill Pavot's research on happiness and well-being has been recognized nationally. Dr. Christine Olson is active in connecting students with service and internship opportunities. Dr. Corey Butler studies personality, political attitudes, and social networks. Dr. Scott Peterson has recently presented his research on gender differences in science attitudes at the American Psychological Association annual convention. Dr. Cheryl McConnaughey draws from a wealth of previous corporate leadership experience as she teaches in the area of industrial/organizational psychology.

FACILITIES

Classes are held in the Social Science Building and are conveniently located near faculty offices. Meeting rooms, social interaction labs, and club rooms are also available in this building. Students may do online research and data analysis with the computer in the Psychology Club room, at the various computer laboratories across campus, or in the SMSU Library.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The psychology faculty at Southwest Minnesota State encourage students to pursue master's or doctoral degrees in psychology. The program is also an excellent choice for students who are not interested in post-graduate education. Because psychology majors can think, 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 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 Dr. McConnaughey, in her role as SMSU Global Studies Coordinator, is able to assist students exploring these possibilities.

"Studying at Southwest Minnesota State University was one of the best choices I ever made, and it definitely exceeded my expectations. The Psychology department was the perfect fit for me, and the faculty members were extremely knowledgeable and supportive throughout my education and beyond."

Elodie Steffen, Class of 2009



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 National 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 conferences. Psychology students regularly present research at the annual SMSU Undergraduate Research Conference.

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 100 hour internship.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Mental health
- Business
- Casework
- Child care
- Career services
- Gerontology
- Health Services
- Marketing
- Public relations
- Management
- Law enforcement

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 psychology majors are eligible for the Psychology Scholarship. Junior and senior female psychology majors are eligible for the Cowan Scholarship.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- Psi Chi
- Psychology Club

"My most memorable and rewarding academic experiences came about because of the relationships that I was able to build with my psychology professors. I will never forget the projects and activities, inside and outside of the classroom, that I collaborated on with my professors, and I was challenged and inspired as I got to take classes in areas that each professor specializes in."

Miriam Schultz, Class of 2008



81.8%
OF SMSU
PSYCHOLOGY
GRADUATES
FOUND JOBS!

\$40,611*
Starting Salary

*taken from the
National Association of Colleges &
Employers, Spring 2011

For more career information go to
Mustangjobs.com and click on
"Choosing a Career/Major"

FRESHMAN ADMISSION PROCESS

- Complete Application
- \$20 Non-refundable Application Fee
- Official High School Transcript(s)
- ACT or SAT-Test Scores

FRESHMAN ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Rank in the upper half of graduating class
or
- Score a composite of 21 or above on the ACT or
990 on the SAT

LIBERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Liberal Education Program (LEP) at Southwest Minnesota State University provides students with the opportunity to obtain a solid, general education across the fundamental domains of human knowledge. When empowered with these ideas, facts, skills, and values, students can understand and effectively participate in the affairs of the community, nation, and wider world. The Liberal Education Program is built upon ten Student Learning Outcomes which were developed by the faculty to represent the foundation of higher education.



For more information please contact: The Psychology Department at (507) 537-7248