DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

College of the Sciences and Mathematics

Peoples Building
610-436-2945
Department of Psychology (http://www.wcupa.edu/psychology)

Sandra Kerr (skerr@wcupa.edu), Chairperson
Vanessa Johnson (vjohnson@wcupa.edu), Assistant Chairperson
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The B.A. in Psychology prepares students to understand variables such as heredity, learning, and the environment, which shape and change behavior. Careers are possible in clinics, guidance centers, industry, hospitals, schools, and government. The department prepares those students who wish to work immediately after they graduate from its undergraduate program by training them in the use of computers for statistical analysis, supervising their work in clinical and research settings that can later be translated to many business pursuits, and working with them as they learn to express themselves clearly in writing and in speech. The department also prepares students for specific careers within psychology, many of which require graduate study beyond the baccalaureate. These careers include teaching, research, and the delivery of clinical services.

Programs

Major in Psychology
• B.A. in Psychology (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/undergraduate/sciences-mathematics/psychology/psychology-ba)

Minor in Psychology
• Psychology (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/undergraduate/sciences-mathematics/psychology/psychology-minor)

Graduate Opportunities

See the graduate catalog for more information on the Psychology program. (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/graduate/sciences-mathematics/psychology)

Policies

• See undergraduate admissions information. (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/general-information/admissions-enrollment/undergraduate-admissions)
• See academic policies. (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures)

All undergraduate students are held to the academic policies and procedures outlined in the undergraduate catalog. Students are encouraged to review departmental handbooks for program tips, suggested course sequences, and explanations of procedures. When applicable, additional policies for specific department program(s) may be listed below.

Minimum Grade Requirement

All psychology majors and minors must earn a grade of C- or better in PSY 100 and all other PSY courses that fulfill departmental requirements. PSY courses used as general education free electives are exempt from this policy.

Faculty

Professors
Eleanor Brown (ebrown@wcupa.edu) (2005)
B.A., Haverford College; Ph.D., University of Delaware

Susan Gans (sgans@wcupa.edu) (1997)
B.A., New York University; M.A., Ph.D., University of Chicago

Lauri Hyers (lhyers@wcupa.edu) (2004)
B.A., Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University

Vanessa K. Johnson (vjohnson@wcupa.edu) (1999)
Assistant Chairperson, Psychology

B.S., University of Washington, Seattle; M.A., Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley

Sandra L. Kerr (skerr@wcupa.edu) (1994)
Chairperson, Psychology

B.A., Boston College; M.A., Ph.D., State University of New York at Stony Brook

V. Krishna Kumar (vkumar@wcupa.edu) (1977)
B.S., Osmania University (India); M.S., Indian Agricultural Research Institute; M.S., Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison

Deborah Mahlstedt (dmahlstedt@wcupa.edu) (1988)
B.S., State University of New York at Rockport; M.Ed., Ph.D., Temple University

Loretta Rieser-Danner (lrieser-danner@wcupa.edu) (1997)
B.S., Pennsylvania State University; Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin

Jasmin Tahmaseb-McConatha (jmconatha@wcupa.edu) (1990)
B.A., University of Utah; M.S., Jacksonville State University; Ph.D., University of Georgia

Thomas Treadwell (ttreadwell@wcupa.edu) (1968)
B.A., Morris Harvey College; M.S., University of Bridgeport Moreno Institute, New York (Certified Psychodramatist, T.E.P.); Ed.D, Temple University

Stefani Yogres (syorges@wcupa.edu) (1996)
Graduate Coordinator, Psychology

B.A., Hastings College; M.S., Ph.D., Purdue University

Deanne U. Zotter (dzotter@wcupa.edu) (1991)
B.A., Bloomsburg University; M.A., Ph.D., Kent State University

Associate Professors

Julian Azorlosa (jazorlosa@wcupa.edu) (2001)
B.A., M.A., Ph.D., University of Delaware

Angela Clarke (aclarke@wcupa.edu) (2007)
Graduate Coordinator, Psychology

B.S., M.A., Ph.D., University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Aaron S. Rundus (arundus@wcupa.edu) (2011)
B.A., University of South Florida; M.S., Ph.D., University of California, Davis

Geeta Shivde (gshivde@wcupa.edu) (2005)
B.A., Oberlin College; M.S., Ph.D., University of Oregon

Assistant Professors

Janet Chang (jchang@wcupa.edu) (2016)
B.A., Swarthmore College; M.A., Ph.D., University of California, Davis

Erin Michelle Hill (ehill@wcupa.edu) (2013)
B.A., Laurentian University; M.A., Carleton University; Ph.D., Auckland University of Technology

Farzin Irani (firani@wcupa.edu) (2014)
B.S., University of Toronto; M.S., Villanova University; Ph.D., Drexel University

Vipanchi Mishra (vmishra@wcupa.edu) (2014)
B.A., M.A., University of Delhi; M.S., University of Hartford; Ph.D., University at Albany, SUNY
Courses

PSY

PSY 100. Introduction to Psychology. 3 Credits.
Introduction to the scientific study of behavior. The multiple bases of human behavior with emphasis on the learning process. Basic concepts, principles, and methodology. Students may be required to become familiar with an ongoing research study in psychology as an out-of-class assignment.
Gen Ed Attribute: Behavioral and Social Science Distributive.
Distance education offering may be available.

PSY 120. Multicultural Psychology. 3 Credits.
A survey course that will examine how psychological theory and research can contribute to our understanding of structural inequalities associated with ethnicity, race, income, class, age, gender, sexual orientation, ability, and religion.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

PSY 200. Positive Psychology: The Science of Happiness and Well Being. 3 Credits.
Introduction to psychological perspectives that place an emphasis on positive emotional states including: happiness, joy, resilience, compassion, and forgiveness. We will examine a variety of topics and their relationship to subjective well being including: positive coping, optimism, interpersonal relationships, spirituality, creativity and achievement.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

PSY 210. Developmental Psychology: Lifespan. 3 Credits.
A survey of research findings and theoretical issues related to developmental processes from the prenatal phase to senescence. Majors are advised to take PSY 382 and/or PSY 384 rather than PSY 210.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 210 requires prerequisite of PSY 100.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

PSY 230. Introduction to Primatology. 3 Credits.
The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the taxonomy, distribution, morphology, and behavior of human beings’ closest living relatives, the nonhuman primates. In lectures, students will 1) become acquainted with the Order Primates as it is currently taxonomically understood and 2) learn the basic principles of behavioral ecology in general and how they relate to nonhuman primates in particular.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 230 requires prerequisite of PSY 100 or ANT 101 or BIO 100 or BIO 110 or permission from instructor.
Cross listed courses ANT 230, PSY 230.

PSY 245. Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences. 3 Credits.
Descriptive and inferential statistical concepts and techniques and their application to the collection, analysis, and interpretation of behavioral data. Computer-assisted computation procedures will be employed.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 245 requires prerequisite of MAT 103 or higher.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

PSY 246. Research Methods in Psychology. 3 Credits.
Critical examination of research methods in psychology, including experimental and quasi-experimental designs, correlational methods, and survey methods. Students will receive practical experience in the design, implementation, analysis, and interpretation of data, and in preparation of written reports for research projects.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 246 requires prerequisite of PSY 245.
Gen Ed Attribute: Writing Emphasis.
Distance education offering may be available.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

PSY 254. Social Psychology. 3 Credits.
The study of the ways in which the individual is affected by the actual, imagined, or implied presence of others. Topics include social influence, self and social group identity, interpersonal and intergroup relations, diversity, group behavior, violence, and prosocial behavior.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 254 requires prerequisite of PSY 100.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

PSY 255. Introduction to Biological Psychology. 3 Credits.
Basic concepts concerning the reciprocal relationship between behavior and biology will be introduced.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 255 requires prerequisite of PSY 100.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

PSY 257. Theories of Personality. 3 Credits.
A course in personality that examines the theories and writings of Freud, Jung, Adler, Fromm, Erikson, Rogers, and other major personality theorists.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 257 requires prerequisite of PSY 100.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

PSY 265. Industrial/Organizational Psychology. 3 Credits.
A basic course for psychology and business majors interested in the application of psychology to the workplace. The course includes a survey of the theory, research, and applications of the major topical areas of Industrial/Organizational Psychology. Topics may include work motivation, job satisfaction, performance appraisal, leadership, personnel selection, training and development, communication, psychological testing, and organization development.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 265 requires prerequisite of PSY 100.
Distance education offering may be available.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

PSY 266. Biological Psychology Laboratory. 3 Credits.
Laboratory exercises and experiments in basic biological psychology.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 266 requires prerequisites of PSY 100 and PSY 245 and PSY 246 and PSY 255.
Typically offered in Fall.

PSY 268. Drugs, Behavior and the Brain. 3 Credits.
A survey of how drugs affect the brain and behavior. Drugs that are used to treat psychological disorders and those used recreationally will be studied.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 268 requires a prerequisite of PSY 100.

PSY 280. Health Psychology. 3 Credits.
A study of the behavioral, biological, psychological and social factors involved in physical health and illness. Disease prevention, health behaviors, and psychosocial adjustment to illness will be explored.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 280 requires prerequisite of PSY 100.

PSY 327. Applied Behavior Analysis. 3 Credits.
A survey of the principles and practices employed in inducing behavioral changes in clinic, institution, agency, and school settings.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 327 requires prerequisite of PSY 100.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

PSY 335. Animal Behavior. 3 Credits.
The evolution and adaptiveness of behavior. Emphasis on physiological, genetic, and learning processes underlying animal behavior.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 335 requires prerequisites of PSY 100 or BIO 100 or BIO 110.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

PSY 336. Animal Behavior Laboratory. 3 Credits.
Laboratory exercises and experiments in the principles of animal behavior and comparative psychology.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 336 requires prerequisites of PSY 100 and PSY 245 and PSY 246 and co-requisite of PSY 335.
Typically offered in Fall.

PSY 350. Biopsychology of Emotion. 3 Credits.
This course will introduce students to the basic biological and sociocultural factors that contribute to the generation and regulation of emotion across the life span.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 350 requires prerequisite of PSY 100.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.
PSY 362. History and Systems of Psychology. 3 Credits.
An integrated overview of the history of psychology as well as the systems, theories, and fundamental issues with which psychologists have concerned themselves in the past, recent, and current stages of the science. PHL 101 recommended.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 362 requires prerequisite of PSY 100.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

PSY 363. Psychology of Learning. 3 Credits.
Basic laws and theories of learning.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 363 requires prerequisite of PSY 100.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

PSY 365. Psychology of Women. 3 Credits.
A study of the behavior and experience of women. Biological, cultural, interpersonal, and intrapersonal determinants of women’s actions, thoughts, and feelings will be explored.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 365 requires prerequisite of PSY 100.
Gen Ed Attribute: Writing Emphasis.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

PSY 366. Learning Laboratory. 3 Credits.
Laboratory exercises and experiments in the principles of Pavlovian and instrumental conditioning.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 366 requires prerequisites of PSY 100 and PSY 245 and PSY 246 and corequisite of PSY 363.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

PSY 375. Abnormal Psychology. 3 Credits.
A study of the description, etiology, and treatment of the spectrum of psychological disorders among different populations.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 375 requires prerequisite of PSY 100.
Distance education offering may be available.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

PSY 376. Social Psychology Laboratory. 3 Credits.
Electronic and/or laboratory exercises in social psychology.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 276 requires prerequisites of PSY 100 and PSY 254.
Gen Ed Attribute: Writing Emphasis.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

PSY 380. Body Image. 3 Credits.
This interactive workshop explores the development of body image, the effects of negative body image on mental health and well-being, the assessment of body image, and the prevention and treatment of body image disturbance. Special attention is given to gender, cultural, and racial differences in body image, the role of obesity, and body image disorders such as Eating Disorders and Body Dysmorphic Disorder.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

PSY 382. Infant, Child and Adolescent Development. 3 Credits.
Study of the normal child from conception to puberty. Emphasis on current theoretical issues involved in the effects of early experience and environment.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 382 requires prerequisite of PSY 100.
Typically offered in Spring.

PSY 384. Adult Development. 3 Credits.
Study of psychological development during the mature years up to and including death and dying.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 384 requires prerequisite of PSY 100.
Gen Ed Attribute: Writing Emphasis.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

PSY 390. Principles of Counseling and Psychotherapy. 3 Credits.
A review of theoretical assumptions underpinning various approaches to counseling and psychotherapy with particular reference to comparative outcome data.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 390 requires prerequisites of PSY 257 or PSY 375.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

PSY 400. Senior Seminar in Psychology. 3 Credits.
In-depth study of advanced topics in psychology. Students will prepare and present written and oral presentations describing and analyzing current issues in psychology.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 400 requires prerequisites of PSY 245 and PSY 246.
Distance education offering may be available.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

PSY 410. Research in Psychology. 1-3 Credits.
Special research projects, reports, and readings in psychology.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 410 requires prerequisite of PSY 100.
Consent: Permission of the Department required to add.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.
Repeatable for Credit.

PSY 413. Group Intervention I. 3 Credits.
This class is designed as an introductory course, integrating theory and practice of psychodrama as a psychotherapeutic modality. Emphasis is placed on understanding the basic psychodramatic and sociometric techniques from a theoretical perspective with emphasis placed on how to use these basic techniques in applied situations.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 413 requires a prerequisite of PSY 100.
Consent: Permission of the Department required to add.
Typically offered in Spring.

PSY 421. Issues in Autism: Diagnosis and Behavioral Treatments. 3 Credits.
Study of the assessment and treatment of children and adults with autism spectrum disorders, related disorders, and associated problems. Detailed coverage of current validated assessment and treatment practices, with emphasis on behavior analytic procedures. Instruction will occur via current books, periodicals, testing materials, videos, and play activities.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 421 requires a prerequisite of PSY 100; PSY 327 strongly recommended.
Typically offered in Spring.

PSY 430. Human Sexual Behavior. 3 Credits.
An intensive study of those variables under which human sexual behavior functions. Research from sociological and medical studies is integrated with psychological knowledge.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 430 requires prerequisite of PSY 100.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

PSY 441. Field Experience in Psychology I. 3 Credits.
A work-study program in an educational, business, or mental health facility under joint supervision of the instructor and the staff psychologist of the field institution. Permission of instructor required.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 441 requires prerequisite of PSY 100.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

PSY 442. Field Experience in Psychology II. 3 Credits.
Continuation of PSY 441.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

PSY 443. Psychology of Group Processes. 3 Credits.
An exploration of the dynamics of interpersonal behavior in small groups. Theory applied to practice in class. Permission of instructor recommended.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 443 requires prerequisite of PSY 100.
Typically offered in Spring.

PSY 445. Organizational Development. 3 Credits.
The study of human behavior in task group and organizational contexts. PSY 265 recommended.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 445 requires prerequisite of PSY 100.
Distance education offering may be available.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

PSY 447. Interpersonal Relationships within Groups. 3 Credits.
A study of processes and factors in establishing, maintaining, and terminating relationships via the use of group methods.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 447 requires prerequisite of PSY 100.
Consent: Permission of the Department required to add.
Typically offered in Spring.

PSY 448. Field Experience in Psychology III. 3 Credits.
A work-study program in a Head Start preschool program serving a population of children and families that are mostly low-income and of ethnic and racial minority backgrounds under joint supervision of the instructor and the staff of the field institution.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 448 requires a prerequisite of PSY 100 and 21 total hours of psychology courses or permission of instructor.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.
PSY 449. Field Experience in Psychology IV. 3 Credits.
A continuation of PSY 448.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 449 requires a prerequisite of PSY 448.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

PSY 464. Biopsychology Seminar. 3 Credits.
Anatomical, endocrinological, and physiological processes underlying behavior, including
motivation, emotion, learning, and memory. Special attention is given to the biological bases
and treatments of mental illness. PSY 100, or BIO 100 or 110 recommended.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 464 requires prerequisites of PSY 255 or BIO 100 or BIO 110.
Typically offered in Spring.

PSY 470. Sensory and Perceptual Processes. 3 Credits.
A study of how we process sensory information and perceive our environments.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 470 requires prerequisite of PSY 100.
Typically offered in Fall.

PSY 475. Cognitive Psychology. 3 Credits.
This course explores our scientific understanding of mental processes such as perception,
attention, language, memory, decision-making and problem-solving, from both basic science
and applied perspectives.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 475 requires prerequisite of PSY 100.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

PSY 476. Cognitive Laboratory. 3 Credits.
An experiential-learning course in which students learn first-hand how cognitive psychologists
measure human thought processes such as perception, attention, language, memory,
decision-making and problem-solving.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 476 requires prerequisites of PSY 245 and PSY 246, and a co-requisite
of PSY 475.
Gen Ed Attribute: Writing Emphasis.
Distance education offering may be available.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

PSY 481. Eating Disorders. 3 Credits.
An in-depth study of anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and other variants of disordered
eating.
Pre / Co requisites: PSY 481 requires prerequisites of PSY 257 or PSY 375.
Typically offered in Spring.

PSY 490. Topical Seminar in Psychology. 1-3 Credits.
Special topics in psychology not offered under existing, regularly offered courses. Consent of
instructor or chairperson recommended.
Repeatable for Credit.