
PSYCHOLOGY (PSY)

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Psychology is the scientific study of the behavior of individuals. As a science, psychology works to discover the causes of behavior and to determine how and why individuals act the way they do. People who become psychologists apply the findings of scientific psychology to improve human welfare in schools, in clinical settings, and/or in the workplace. Psychologists are uniquely suited to address societal issues by finding ways of addressing human problems, by developing knowledge and technology, and by educating people to be productive citizens and effective professionals.

The Department of Psychology at Averett University provides students with an understanding of psychology that enables them to meet the challenges of their personal and professional lives. We develop students who are professionally competent, sensitive to cultural and individual differences, ethical, self-directed, and prepared to pursue their career goals. In addition to learning the facts and theories of psychology, our students contribute to the field through participation in professional activities, both in research and in the application of psychological findings to promote human welfare in the community.

The psychology curriculum develops students who are able to think critically and analytically about problems, to apply knowledge to implement solutions, and to utilize the technical skills essential to success in contemporary society. Graduates of our program are prepared for graduate education in psychology or related fields and for careers in community agencies or in any profession where an understanding of human behavior is an asset.

Students must attain at least a 2.00 grade point average in the major in order to graduate.

Requirements for a Major in Psychology:

The Psychology Department offers a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science degree to the student who completes the following courses in addition to the general education requirements:

	Semester Hours
Introductory level course (3-4 hours)	
PSY 110, Psychology as a Social Science.....	3
or PSY 120, Psychology as a Natural Science.....	4
Survey courses (12 hours)	
PSY 200, Effective Behavior	3
PSY 323, Learning.....	3
Two additional courses chosen from outside of the student's chosen area of concentration.....	6
Methods courses (13 hours)	
MTH 160, Introduction to Statistics.....	3
PSY 288, Computing in Psychology.....	2
PSY 333, Research Practicum I.....	2
PSY 334, Research Practicum II.....	3
PSY 338, Research Design.....	3
Integrated senior year experience (6 - 9 hours)	
PSY 445, History and Systems	3
PSY 446, Senior Seminar in Psychology.....	3
PSY 465, Senior Research (optional).....	3

Areas of concentration (12 hours)

Students must complete four courses selected from at least one of the following areas of concentration:

Psychology: Biological Psychology	
PSY 205, Developmental Psychology.....	3
PSY 315, Physiological Psychology.....	3
PSY 387, Sensation and Perception.....	3
PSY 395, Animal Behavior.....	3
Psychology: Counseling and Clinical	
PSY 305, Abnormal Psychology.....	3
PSY 309, Personality Theory.....	3
PSY 325, Helping Relations.....	3
PSY 466, Psychological Measurements.....	3
Psychology: Cognitive Science	
PSY 232, Designing User-centered Web Sites.....	3
PSY 332, Evaluating Web Site Usability.....	3
PSY 373, Memory and Cognition.....	3
PSY 387, Sensation and Perception.....	3
Psychology: Industrial/Organizational	
POS 325, Perspectives on Leadership.....	3
PSY 412, Industrial/Organizational Psychology.....	3
BSA 445, Seminar in Managerial Skills Development.....	3
PSY 466, Psychological Measurements.....	3
	Total 45-49

Sample Four-Year Course Sequence:

Psychology: Biological Psychology

Freshman Year:

- PSY 110 Psychology as a Social Science (fall and spring)
- and/or
- PSY 120, Psychology as a Natural Science (fall and spring)
- PSY Elective (200 level)

Sophomore Year:

- MTH 160, Introduction to Statistics (fall and spring)
- PSY 200, Effective Behavior (spring)
- PSY 205, Developmental Psychology (fall, spring, and summer)

Junior Year:

- PSY 288, Computing in Psychology (fall)
- PSY 333, Research Practicum I (fall)
- PSY 338, Research Design (fall)
- PSY 323, Learning (fall)
- PSY 315, Physiological Psychology
- PSY 333, Research Practicum I
- PSY 334, Research Practicum II (spring)
- PSY 373, Memory and Cognition

Senior Year:

- PSY 445, History and Systems (fall)
- PSY 465, Senior Research (enroll in fall only)
- PSY 387, Sensation and Perception PSY 395, Animal Behavior
- PSY 446, Senior Seminar in Psychology (spring)

Sample Four-Year Course Sequence:

Psychology: Counseling and Clinical

Freshman Year:

- PSY 110 Psychology as a Social Science (fall and spring)
- and/or
- PSY 120, Psychology as a Natural Science (fall and spring)
- PSY Elective (200 level or above)

Sophomore Year:

- MTH 160, Introduction to Statistics (fall and spring)
- PSY 200, Effective Behavior PSY Elective

Junior Year:

- PSY 288, Computing in Psychology (fall)
- PSY 323, Learning (fall)
- PSY 333, Research Practicum I (fall)
- PSY 338, Research Design (fall)
- PSY 325, Helping Relations (fall)
- PSY 305, Abnormal Psychology (fall)
- PSY 309, Personality Theory (spring)
- PSY 334, Research Practicum II (spring)
- PSY 373, Memory and Cognition

Senior Year:

- PSY 425, Field Education in Psychology
- PSY 445, History and Systems (fall)
- PSY 465, Senior Research (fall)
- PSY 446, Senior Seminar in Psychology (spring)
- PSY 466, Psychological Measurements (spring)

Sample Four-Year Course Sequence:

Psychology: Cognitive Science

Freshman Year:

- PSY 110 Psychology as a Social Science (fall and spring)
- and/or
- PSY 120, Psychology as a Natural Science (fall and spring)
- PSY Elective (200 level or above)
- PSY 232, Designing User-centered Web Sites (fall)

Sophomore Year:

- MTH 160, Introduction to Statistics (fall and spring)
- PSY 200, Effective Behavior

Junior Year:

PSY 288, Computing in Psychology (fall)
PSY 323, Learning (fall)
PSY 333, Research Practicum I (fall)
PSY 338, Research Design (fall)
PSY 373, Memory and Cognition
PSY 332, Evaluating Web Site Usability (spring)
PSY 334, Research Practicum II (spring)
PSY Elective (300-400 level)

Senior Year:

PSY 445, History and Systems (fall)
PSY 465, Senior Research (enroll in fall only)
PSY 446, Senior Seminar in Psychology (spring)
PSY 387, Sensation and Perception

Sample Four-Year Course Sequence:

Psychology: Industrial/Organizational

Freshman Year:

PSY 110 Psychology as a Social Science (fall and spring)
and/or
PSY 120, Psychology as a Natural Science (fall and spring)
PSY Elective (200 level or above)

Sophomore Year:

MTH 160, Introduction to Statistics (fall and spring)
PSY 200, Effective Behavior
PSY Elective

Junior Year:

PSY 288, Computing in Psychology (fall)
PSY 323, Learning (fall)
PSY 333, Research Practicum I (fall)
PSY 338, Research Design (fall)
PSY 334, Research Practicum II (spring)
PSY 466, Psychological Measurements
PSY 375, Memory and cognition

Senior Year:

PSY 445, History and Systems (fall)
PSY 465, Senior Research (enroll in fall only)
PSY 466, Psychological Measurements
PSY 446, Senior Seminar in Psychology (spring)
PSY 412, Industrial/Organizational Psychology
BSA 445, Seminar in Managerial Skills Development

Human-Computer Interaction Program

Averett University offers a HCI program for students choosing as their primary major either art, computer science, computer information systems, or psychology. The program is administered by the department of psychology in consultation with an advisory committee composed of faculty members drawn from each of the contributing departments. The program is described on pages 162.

Minor

The student who elects a minor in Psychology must complete 18 semester hours of psychology courses, including at least 9 semester hours at the 300 level or above.

Students must maintain a grade point average of at least 2.00 in the minor.

Course Descriptions

- 110 Psychology as a Social Science (3)
A survey of major problem areas in psychology emphasizing the application of psychological principles to the improvement of the human situation. Students are encouraged to analyze human problems and everyday behavior to discover how psychology can explain and improve these situations. This course may be used to satisfy 3 semester hours of the Social Sciences portion of General Education requirements.
- 120 Psychology as a Natural Science and Lab (4)
A survey of major problem areas in psychology emphasizing the scientific process involved in gaining new knowledge. Students study the classic experiments in psychology and participate in the research process by conducting weekly laboratory exercises. The data generated by these exercises then serve as the basis for exploring naturalistic explanations of the behavior. This course may be used to satisfy 4 semester hours of the Natural Sciences portion of General Education requirements.
- 200 Effective Behavior (3)
An applied course with a central focus on the area of personal adjustment. Working from the assumption that individuals encounter a variety of problems in life, and must work effectively with others, the course examines issues of personality and social adjustment, stress and coping, interpersonal relationships, and behavior in groups.
- 205 Developmental Psychology (3)
A survey of the theories and research pertaining to human development across the life-span. Special attention is given to the changes in cognitive and social behavior during development and to factors responsible for these changes.
- 210 Human Sexuality (3)
A course utilizing reports, discussion, and lectures to explore the biological, social, and personal aspects of human sexual identity and behavior.
- 219 Social Psychology (3)
An examination of the ways in which behavior, feelings, and thoughts are affected by others through their physical presence and interaction with us, through the media, or through the environmental changes they make. Students study various theories of social behavior, learn about classic experiments in social psychology and their interpretations, and apply the discoveries in social psychology to human problems.
- 232 Designing User-centered Web Sites (3)
This course introduces the area of human factors known as human-computer interaction design. The course uses a modification of the case method in which successful computer environments are explored by the student in hands-on exercises, and features of the environments are used to illustrate underlying psychological principles. Primary emphasis is placed on the design of effective web sites. Students critique web sites and other user environments and use principles from the diverse areas of design, sensation and perception, cognitive science, cognitive development, and ergonomics to recommend improvements. Neither programming or previous experience with computers nor a background in psychology is assumed, but a general familiarity with computers and their typical uses would be beneficial.
- 288 Computing in Psychology (2)
A practical introduction to computer use in the field of psychology. Students learn computer applications for collecting, filing, retrieving, calculating and graphing data. Corequisite: PSY 333.

- 305 Abnormal Psychology (3)
A study of the concepts of normal and abnormal behavior. Emphasis is on the causes and patterns of expression of maladaptive behavior throughout the life span, as well as the problems in assessment and intervention.
- 309 Personality Theory (3)
A comparative survey of the major theories of personality with emphasis on different theorists' models for understanding and predicting human behavior.
- 315 Physiological Psychology (3)
A study of the physiological events that underlie behavior. Students learn the physiology of individual cells in the nervous system, neurotransmitters, the general structure of the nervous system, and brain structures and physiological processes underlying psychologically important behaviors.
- 323 Learning (3)
An introduction to the principles of learning fundamental to the analysis and interpretation of human conduct in the clinic, the classroom, the workplace, and social situations. The course acquaints students with the structure of behavioral science and serves as a tool for lifetime analysis of human behavior.
- 325 Helping Relations (3)
An experience which provides the foundation for understanding the helping process. Students develop an understanding of the nature of the helping/therapeutic relationship and develop and practice basic interpersonal communication skills that are the core of the helping process. Prerequisite: PSY 200 and permission of instructor
- 332 Evaluating Web Site Usability (3)
A study of techniques available for evaluating the relative usability of various interface designs with an emphasis on assuring effective web-site design. Traditional experimental methods are covered and compared with discount usability testing methods and other methods such as usability inspection (heuristic evaluation, cognitive walkthroughs, surveys, focus groups, and field testing.) Wherever possible, the course provides hands-on testing opportunities as the best way to learn and compare the effectiveness of these methodologies.
- 333 Research Practicum I (2)
Fundamental skills required for the ethical conduct of research are introduced. Students develop competence through direct experience to accurately observe behavior and develop detailed narratives of their observations, to operate computer systems that automatically record data and control experimental events, to electronically store and retrieve data, to analyze findings and to graphically present the results of those analyses. Students write an APA-style research report summarizing their findings and conclusions. Finally, students develop a proposal for original, presentation-quality research to be conducted in a subsequent semester. Co-requisite: PSY 288 and 338.
- 334 Research Practicum II (3)
A practicum in which students conduct a literature review, design and conduct original research either in a laboratory or community setting, and present their findings in an APA-style report and in a poster session open to the college community. Pre-requisite: PSY 333 and permission of the instructor
- 338 Research Design (3)
A study of the methods of research in psychology. Students learn typical research designs and statistical procedures encountered in psychology, gain experience in analyzing and interpreting data, and learn to prepare APA-style research reports. Learning takes place in the context of the major content areas of experimental psychology. Co-requisites: PSY 288, PSY 333. Recommended: MTH 160.

- 373 Memory and Cognition (3)
 An examination of cognitive psychology as an approach to the study of psychology and a study of the major issues and problems considered by cognitive psychologists. Attention is given to the history and perspective of cognitive psychology, as well as to theories and data pertaining to information processing, memory and representation of knowledge, language, and problem solving. This course is strongly recommended for students planning to pursue graduate studies in psychology.
- 387 Sensation and Perception (3)
 A study of the behavior and physiological approaches to the study of sensory systems and the perceptions they stimulate. The visual system is emphasized.
- 395 Animal Behavior (3)
 A study of the behavior of animals emphasizing role of evolutionary processes in the development of species-typical behavior.
- 412 Industrial/Organizational Psychology (3)
 A study of the fundamental psychological principles and methods used in industrial/organizational psychology. Topics considered include: job analysis, personnel selection and training, performance appraisal, work motivations and attitudes, and organizations and behavior. Cross-listed with BSA 326.
- 425 Field Education in Psychology (3)
 A supervised experience in a community mental health agency. Open to selected students with at least a 2.0 grade point average. Permission of instructor required.
- 445 History and Systems (3)
 A systematic overview of the development of the discipline of psychology from its philosophical origins through contemporary laboratory-based theories. Attention is given to the major attempts at theory development in psychology. Prerequisite: PSY 323.
- 446 Senior Seminar in Psychology (3)
 A seminar in which senior psychology students bring together their diverse perspectives about the nature of psychology for an integrating experience. Students will demonstrate their critical and analytic abilities and their command of the facts and theories of psychology through presentations of their significant works to psychology faculty and fellow students. Prerequisite: PSY 334 and 445
- 465 Senior Research (3)
 An independent study in which the student conducts an original research project. This course is open to senior psychology majors who submit an approved research proposal to the instructor. Prerequisites: PSY 334 and permission of instructor
- 466 Psychological Measurements (3)
 An introduction to the theories and practice of psychological test construction, interpretation, and use. This course develops skills in evaluating tests, interpreting test results, understanding test manuals. Recommended: MTH 160