

Psychology - BA

What are the goals of the program?

- The program curriculum emphasizes psychological theory and research methods for the social sciences and is very much geared towards the goal of preparing students for graduate school.

What makes the program special or unique?

- The psychology program has developed a 4-year scaffolding (one level building upon the next) sequence of courses, beginning with PSY101/PSY102 during the freshman year, which introduces students to both the study and profession of psychology. Sophomore psychology students register for PSY297/PSY298, which provides an intensive focus on the research and analytical skills necessary for the successful pursuit of a graduate degree in psychology. Junior psychology students begin formally developing a research project in PSY397, and then continue the project's development, implementation, analysis and presentation in PSY497/PSY498 during their senior year.

What can students expect in their day-to day classroom environment?

- Psychology students get a mix of experiential/active learning and theory-based lecture.

Are there special requirements? Internships, travel?

- Psychology students must complete either PSY497/PSY498 (Senior Honors Capstone I & II), or PSY496 (Senior Capstone), and one additional upper-level psychology elective. Students who have decided to pursue a graduate degree in psychology often choose PSY497/PSY498 for the continued preparation for the rigors of graduate school.

What types of careers can someone expect?

- A person with a bachelor's degree in psychology will find ready access to a number of entry-level jobs in the helping professions, such as working as a case-manager, addictions counselor, etc. However, if these are the careers a student is interested in, Human Services would be a better option.

Is graduate school popular after this major?

- The majority of psychology students intends to and does in fact pursue graduate school, often at the master's level in areas such as counseling psychology or social work, or at the doctoral level in clinical or social psychology.

What type of student generally is attracted to this program... paint a picture...?

- Students who enjoy pondering and learning about human behavior, emotion, and motivation and those who enjoy learning various theories about the intricacies of human psychological development and the methods of evaluating human behavior will find psychology to be a perfect fit. Additionally, students who often find themselves drawn to books or movies about abnormal and/or deviant human behavior and those who want/intend to go to graduate school will enjoy the focus of the program.

What are some faculty accomplishments we can highlight?

- Faculty in the psychology program collectively have decades of experience, including research grants and publications in the areas of addictions, organizational psychology, and psychological resilience.

Who should NOT attend this program?

- Students who want to work as counselors (e.g., "helping people") would be better off in Human Services, as psychology programs, whether at Hilbert or elsewhere, focus on research and theory, not counseling techniques.