

PSYCHOLOGY, B.A. (UNIVERSITY COLLEGE)

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: Beaver, Brandywine, Fayette, Greater Allegheny, Hazleton, Lehigh Valley, Mont Alto, New Kensington, Schuylkill, Scranton, York

Program Learning Objectives

Beaver and Scranton Campuses

- **Foundational Knowledge:** Students will demonstrate knowledge of major psychological concepts, theories, and empirical findings.
- **Application:** Students will demonstrate the ability to apply psychological concepts and theories to research and real-life situations.
- **Critical and Creative Thinking:** Students will use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.
- **Scientific Literature:** Students will demonstrate critical thinking in the analysis, evaluation, and interpretation of information in the scientific literature to distinguish the scientific literature from other sources.
- **Communication:** Students will communicate effectively (in writing and/or orally) the results of a project or internship.
- **Research Writing:** Students will demonstrate the ability to effectively extract central points and summarize psychological research literature and to write in the format of psychological research.
- **Research Methods:** Students will differentiate among the research methods used in psychology and apply the designs in evaluation or development of a research study.
- **Analysis:** Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze and interpret quantitative psychological data using statistics, graphs, and data tables.
- **Culture Diversity:** Students will show evidence of knowledge and appreciation for cultural diversity and relativity in human experience and for the complexity of human behavior and interactions.
- **Ethics:** Students will demonstrate knowledge, and the application of, basic principles of scientific and professional ethics.
- **Professionalism:** Students will demonstrate sensitivity to ethical concerns and professionalism (including cultural considerations) in settings where applications of psychology and/or psychological research occur.
- **Professional Options:** Students will demonstrate knowledge of professional options and required training for careers in the major subfields of psychology.
- **Career Options:** Students will demonstrate the ability to identify personally-relevant career options to implement their psychological knowledge, skills, and values in occupational pursuits in a variety of settings.

Brandywine, Greater Allegheny, and Hazleton Campuses

- **Career-Related Skills:**
 - Students will demonstrate knowledge of professional options and required training for careers in the major subfields of psychology demonstrate the ability to identify personally-relevant career options to implement their psychological knowledge, skills, and values in occupational pursuits in a variety of settings.
- **Communication Skills:**

- Students will communicate effectively (in writing and/or orally) the results of a project or internship.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to effectively extract central points and summarize psychological research literature and to write in the format of psychological research.

- **Content Knowledge:**

- Students will demonstrate knowledge of major psychological concepts, theories, and empirical findings.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to apply psychological concepts and theories to research and real life situations.

- **Diversity and Ethical Considerations:**

- Students will show evidence of knowledge and appreciation for cultural diversity and relativity in human experience and for the complexity of human behavior and interactions.
- Students will demonstrate knowledge, and the application of, basic principles of scientific and professional ethics.
- Students will demonstrate sensitivity to ethical concerns and professionalism (including cultural considerations) in settings where applications of psychology and/or psychological research occur.

- **Research Skills:**

- Students will differentiate among the research methods used in psychology and apply the designs in evaluation or development of a research study.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze and interpret quantitative psychological data using statistics, graphs, and data tables.

- **Thinking Skills:**

- Students will use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.
- Students will demonstrate critical thinking in the analysis, evaluation, and interpretation of information in the scientific literature to distinguish the scientific literature from other sources.

Schuylkill Campus

- **Ability to prepare presentations in APA style:**

- Ability to prepare papers that review past research on behavioral topics
- Ability to prepare research reports in APA style
- Ability to prepare conference presentations

- **Understanding ethics and application in psychology:**

- Understanding of ethical guidelines for research and applied psychologists
- Ability to apply psychological theories in community organizations

- **Understanding of basic behavioral research methods:**

- Understanding basic research methods for psychology and their limitations
- Ability to design basic research projects to study predictors of behavior
- Understanding basic statistics to analyze behavioral data
- Ability to search Library databases for research on behavioral topics

- **Understanding of the variety of behavior problems and treatment options:**

- Understanding of DSM diagnostic terminology for behavior problems
- Understanding of variety of treatment approaches for behavior problems
- **Understanding of the variety of theories to explain human behavior:**
 - Understanding of variety of psychological theories to explain behavior
 - Understanding of the impact of diversity on human behavior

York Campus

- **Critical Thinking:** Use critical thinking to solve problems & distinguish scientific from non-scientific.
- **Data Analysis and Problem Solving:** Demonstrate the ability to analyze and interpret quantitative and qualitative data.
- **Effective Communication:** Demonstrate competence in comprehending, reading, writing, and orally communicating research.
- **Ethical Awareness:** Demonstrate knowledge and the application of professional ethics.
- **Knowledge/Application:** Demonstrate knowledge and application of major concepts and theories.
- **Research Competence:** Differentiate among the research methods.