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 Campus

- **Communication:**
  - Students will demonstrate effective writing for different purposes.
  - Students will exhibit effective presentation skills for different purposes.
  - Students will interact effectively with others.

- **Ethical & Social Responsibility in a Diverse World:**
  - Students will apply ethical standards to evaluate psychological science and practice.
  - Students will build and enhance interpersonal relationships.
  - Students will adopt values that build community at local, national, and global levels.

- **Knowledge Base:**
  - Students will describe key concepts, principles, and overarching themes in psychology.
  - Students will develop a working knowledge of psychology's content domains.
  - Students will describe applications of psychology.

- **Professional Development:**
  - Students will apply psychological content and skills to career goals.
  - Students will exhibit self-efficacy and self-regulation.
  - Students will refine project-management skills.
  - Students will enhance teamwork capacity.
  - Students will develop meaningful professional direction for life after graduation.

- **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.

- **Scientific Inquiry & Critical Thinking:**
  - Students will use scientific reasoning to interpret psychological phenomena.
  - Students will demonstrate psychology information literacy.
  - Students will engage in innovative and integrative thinking and problem solving.
  - Students will interpret, design, and conduct basic psychological research.
  - Students will incorporate sociocultural factors in scientific inquiry.

Fayette Campus

- **Human Behavior:** Students will connect specific human behaviors to the many broad areas of psychology.

- **Professional:** Students will relate applications of psychology to specific professions associate with psychology.

- **Research:** Students will describe and apply the steps of the scientific method.

- **Theory:** Students will summarize the scientific principles of psychology, including its history and major theoretical principles.

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.
  - 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.

- **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.

Lehigh Valley Campus

• Communication: Communicate effectively in writing using APA style correctly.

• Critical Thinking: All students will demonstrate critical thinking in the analysis, evaluation, and interpretation of information in the scientific literature and to distinguish the scientific literature from other sources.

• Cultural Diversity: All 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.

• Data Analysis: All students will demonstrate an ability to analyze and interpret quantitative psychological data using statistics, graphs, and data tables in Psych 301W.

• Knowledge: All students will demonstrate knowledge of major psychological concepts, theories, and empirical findings.

Mont Alto Campus

• Empathy Skills: Psychology majors will demonstrate a sense of empathy, the ability to understand someone else’s experience.

• Interpersonal Relationships: Psychology majors will build and enhance interpersonal relationships and adopt values that build community at local, national, and global levels by understanding that other sides of an argument.

• Preparation for Working with Diverse Experiences: Students will be prepared to work with individuals and families with different experiences from their own.

• Preparation for Working with Underrepresented Groups: Student will demonstrate a sense of preparation for working with underrepresented groups.

New Kensington Campus

• Career-Related Skills: Preparing students for careers upon graduation.

• 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.

• Experience Other Cultures: Students immerse themselves into another culture by attending an event (e.g., religious service) outside their own ethnic/religious/sexual orientation/SES group.

• Knowledge/Application: Demonstrate knowledge and application of major concepts and theories.

• Research Competence: Differentiate among the research methods.

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.