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
  • 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

• Students will demonstrate knowledge and competence in helping, leadership, and administrative human service skills.

• Students will demonstrate professional written communication skills through their mastery of APA format.
New Kensington Campus

- **Career-Related Skills:** Understanding what careers graduates of the program may engage upon graduation. Preparing students for careers upon graduation.
- **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.
- **Thinking Skills:** Applying knowledge learned through writing assignments in PSYCH 221, 238, 256, 301, 404, 424, and 484.

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.