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.