

Psychology

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The Department of Psychology offers a program of study that is designed to prepare students for both advanced and applied work in the professional and scientific areas of psychology and related fields including health, business, law, education, and human services. Students receive broad training in the science and application of psychological methods and principles, as well as opportunities to gain knowledge and hands-on experience in specialized areas.

In addition to a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology, the Department offers an Addiction Specialist Training Certificate, a double major in concert with the Sociology Department, a minor in Psychology, research and internship experience, and the Psychology Scholars Program. The Addiction Specialist Training Certificate provides training in the intrapersonal and family dynamics of chemical dependency; the process of rehabilitative treatment systems; and counseling skills and theories. These are useful skills for students who are specifically interested in working with people with substance abuse problems, as well as for students interested in a variety of counseling- and business-related careers.

Beginning as early as the first-year/sophomore year, students who meet the requirements may opt to enroll in Directed Research, which involves assisting faculty and senior Psychology majors in the conduct of their research. Students who meet the requirements are also encouraged to complete original research, or a Research Thesis, in the junior and senior year, and to present the results of their research at a professional conference. Research Thesis is recommended for students who plan to pursue advanced study, especially in the more research-oriented fields of psychology and at the doctoral level.

Students may also wish to take advantage of the Department's seminar courses. The seminar courses are one component of our Psychology Scholars Program, but the courses are available to all intellectually motivated students. The seminars provide students an opportunity to engage in small group discussion of scholarly readings on advanced topics and to enhance their skills in critical thinking, analytical reading, and written and oral expression.

The Department evaluates the academic achievement and preparation of students in a variety of ways, including the completion of at least one internship experience, a poster presentation of original research, and a capstone course in the junior or senior year that involves a critical analysis of research on a topic of the student's choice.

Finally, the Department attempts to accommodate students who seek a broad background in psychology but whose career interests are in areas such as business, law, and medicine. Students with these or other interests may be allowed to substitute some of the required courses in psychology with courses from other areas that meet their special needs. Students who wish to request these changes must receive written approval from the Department Chairperson.

Psychology Learning Objectives

- Students will develop written communication skills that enable them to communicate effectively and in a professional manner.
- Students will develop the oral communication skills that are needed to make professional presentations that are appropriate to the audience.

- Students will develop technological skills that enable them to locate sources, conduct statistical analyses, and construct effective graphs and written documents. Students will also be able to use email, Blackboard, Excel and PowerPoint

- Students will have an understanding of the major ethical issues associated with psychological research, application, and professional behavior.

- Students will be prepared for employment and graduate study in psychology-related areas; they will be familiar with the variety of career and graduate school options.

Requirements for the Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology (29-31 credits)

(Also see Core Curriculum requirements.)

The required courses and internship within the major provide a breadth of knowledge about the various fields of psychology. The courses also provide a background in scientific research methodology as applied in psychology.

The required course work for the Psychology Major is as follows:

PY 100	Introduction to Psychology	3*
PY 203	Statistics I	3*
PY 204	Statistics II	3
PY 243	Abnormal Psychology	3
PY 260	Social Psychology	3
PY 308	Cognitive Psychology	
	or	
PY 309	Learning	3
PY 331	Biological Psychology	3
PY 341	Research Methods in Psychology	4
PY 382	Psychological Assessment	3
PY 390	History and Systems of Psychology	3
PY 401	Capstone: Research Review and Analysis	3**
PY 550	Psychology Internship	1-3

* *Introduction to Psychology and Statistics I are three-credit courses that count toward fulfilling the Social Sciences Core requirements.*

** *Students who maintain a 3.5 grade point average in all courses taken in the Psychology Department may elect to conduct an empirically based research study, in place of PY 401, by enrolling in PY 405 (Research Thesis I) in the spring semester of the junior year.*

In addition to the required courses, students are encouraged to take elective courses within the Psychology Department and to choose Core Curriculum courses that will best prepare them for their future careers. The Department assumes that entering students have basic computer skills (i.e., the ability to use word processing and spreadsheet applications). If this is an area of weakness, the student is advised to take an introductory computer science course.

Requirements for Minor in Psychology (18 credits)

All students desiring a minor in psychology must complete 18 credits within the department. The requirements are as follows:

PY 100	Introduction to Psychology	3
PY 243	Abnormal Psychology	3
PY 260	Social Psychology	3
	One course from the following:	3
PY 308	Cognitive Psychology	
PY 309	Learning	
PY 331	Biological Psychology	
PY 390	History and Systems of Psychology	
	Any Two courses offered by the department:	6

Psychology-Sociology Double Major

The Psychology and Sociology departments offer a collaborative program designed to facilitate students' completion of majors in both psychology and sociology. The program consolidates some course requirements in order to facilitate students' completion of the two majors. Specific course requirements vary depend-

ing on whether psychology or sociology is the student's first or second major. See the chairperson of the Psychology or Sociology Department for specific requirements.

Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology Education with a minor in Secondary Education (31-32 credits)
(See Core Curriculum requirements.)

The Psychology Education Major with a minor in Secondary Education prepares students to pursue teacher certification in Social Science at the secondary level (grades 7-12). Teachers certified in Social Science are eligible to teach psychology, sociology, and anthropology at the secondary level only. Students interested in pursuing early childhood, elementary, or K-12 certification should not complete the Psychology Education major. The Psychology Education Major is an option only for students who intend to complete the requirements for a minor in Secondary Education. (See the Education Department for the specific requirements of each certification.)

Students who complete the Psychology Education Major should be aware that the major may not provide sufficient background in statistics and research methodology for pursuing advanced study in psychology. Students who wish to obtain teaching certification and also prepare for graduate study in psychology should consider taking Statistics II (PY 204) and Research Methods in Psychology (PY 341). Course requirements for the Psychology Education major are below. In addition to meeting the requirements of the Psychology Department and the Core Curriculum, students must complete all of the requirements for certification. See information provided under the Education Department to determine those requirements.

PY 100	Introduction to Psychology	3*
PY 115	Educational Psychology	3*
PY 201	Applied Statistics and Research Methods	3
PY 214	Adolescent Development	3
PY 260	Social Psychology	3
PY 290	Psychology and Education for Exceptional Students	3
PY 331	Biological Psychology	3
PY 381	Educational Testing	3
ED 100	Foundations of Education	3
ED 205	Strategies and Techniques of Instruction	2
One of the following three courses:		3
PY 308	Cognitive Psychology	
PY 309	Learning	
PY 378	Seminar: Cognitive Psychology	
One of the following three courses:		3
PY 243	Abnormal Psychology	
PY 244	Personality Theories	
PY 374	Seminar in Personality Theories	
One of the following two courses:		2-3
ED 400	Field Experience II: Pre-Student Teaching Practicum	
PY 401	Capstone: Research Review and Analysis	

* Introduction to Psychology, Educational Psychology, and Foundations of Education are three-credit courses that fulfill the Social Sciences core requirements.

Addiction Specialist Training Certificate

The Addiction Specialist Training Program is designed to provide the background knowledge necessary for students to develop the skills to help people with substance abuse problems. The program covers areas such as mood-altering chemicals, counseling theories and philosophies, legal rights of clients, and the development of specific treatment skills including intake, orientation, treatment planning, case management, crisis intervention, client advising, referral, documentation, consultation, and case presentation. Employment opportunities for addiction treatment or prevention exist in addiction treatment centers, hospitals, out-

patient treatment facilities, rehabilitation centers, halfway houses, and correctional facilities such as prisons and juvenile detention centers.

The certificate requires 24 credits (or 18 additional credits for Psychology majors). At least 12 credits must be earned at Saint Vincent College. The curriculum is based on the assumption that the student has had Introduction to Psychology or an equivalent course. Required Courses:

SO 105	Chemical Dependency
PY 214	Adolescent Development
PY 219	Introduction to Counseling
PY 251	Family Systems
PY 252	Rehabilitative Treatment Systems
PY 280	Interpersonal and Group Processes
Choose two courses from the following electives:	
SO 204	Deviance
PY 243	Abnormal Psychology
PY 382	Psychological Assessment

Upon completion of the program, Saint Vincent College will award an Addiction Specialist Training Certificate as a credential of achievement. The 300 clock hours of instruction in the addiction field may also be applied toward fulfilling the Pennsylvania Chemical Abuse Certification Board (PCACB) instructional requirements for state certification (see www.pacertboard.org). Twenty-five clock hours of approved instruction can be applied toward the 50 hour recertification requirements of the PCACB.

The Psychology Scholars Program

The Psychology Scholars Program is designed to provide high quality students with an intensive education in the science of psychology. Through the program, students receive the educational background for admittance to and success in graduate school. The program is rooted in the liberal arts tradition and places strong emphasis on the reading and analysis of scholarly work, class discussion, and written assignments. Interested students apply for admittance to the program in the spring semester of their sophomore year. Applications and admission criteria are available in the Psychology Department Office. Completion of the Psychology Scholars Program is recognized on the student's transcript.

In addition to completing the requirements of the Psychology major, students in the Psychology Scholars Program fulfill the following requirements:*

- Participants complete a research thesis (PY 405 and PY 406)
- Participants complete three seminar courses offered in the department. Seminar courses emphasize the reading of primary source material, class discussion, and written assignments.
- Participants attend a regional or national psychology conference in the junior or senior year
- Participants present their research at a psychology conference; they apply for an A. J. Palumbo Student Research Grant to fund their travel, if applicable
- Participants maintain a 3.67 GPA in psychology courses and a 3.50 overall GPA

*Students not admitted to the Psychology Scholars Program are eligible to participate in any of the above activities if the student meets the requirements of the particular activity. Students who fulfill all requirements of the Psychology Scholars Program receive special recognition as a Psychology Scholar.

Typical First-Year Schedule

Fall Semester

PY 100	Introduction to Psychology – First Year Seminar	4
EL 102	Language and Rhetoric	3
	or	
TH 119	Exploring Religious Meaning	3
	Intermediate Modern or Classical Language	3
	Mathematics	3
	History, Fine Arts, Philosophy, or Social Science	3

Spring Semester

PY 260	Social Psychology	3
PY 243	Abnormal Psychology	3
TH 119	Exploring Religious Meaning	3
or		
EL 102	Language and Rhetoric	3
Intermediate Modern or Classical Language		3
History, Fine Arts, Philosophy, or Social Science		3

Course Descriptions

PY 100 Introduction to Psychology

Introduction to the field of psychology—the scientific study of mind, body, and behavior. Topics are chosen by the instructor and may include research methods, biological bases of behavior, personality, learning, memory, social behavior, development, and behavior disorders. Offered both semesters. Three credits.

PY 115 Educational Psychology

This course is designed to introduce students to areas of psychology relevant to educational settings. The primary focus of the course is on psychological theory and research and their application to applied educational settings. Topics include learning and motivation; students' social, cognitive, and emotional development; the construction and use of tests; and methods of classroom management. Offered both semesters. Three credits.

PY 201 Applied Statistics and Research Methods

This course is designed primarily for Psychology Education majors and Elementary Instruction majors and provides students with a basic understanding of statistical concepts and methods of inquiry as they are used in the field of education. Topics include measures of central tendency and dispersion, properties of the normal curve, statistical significance, sampling, correlation, and significance tests. Students are also introduced to critical evaluation of psychological and educational research, the social and political implications of statistical data, and basic quantitative and qualitative research designs applicable to the teaching profession. Although students are required to master statistical and research concepts, primary emphasis is placed on practical applications in educational settings. Offered every spring. Three credits.

PY 203 Statistics I

This first course in statistics introduces students to some of the basic statistical procedures that are most commonly used in the social sciences, including measures of central tendency and variability, correlation and regression analysis, probability, logic of hypothesis testing, and t tests. Students also learn to perform statistical analyses on the computer using SPSS. Prerequisite: Successful completion of MA 099 or a math placement of MA 104. Offered every fall. Three credits.

PY 204 Statistics II

A continuation of the first course in statistics, this course introduces more advanced procedures including analysis of variance and multiple regression. Nonparametric statistical tests such as the chi-square test are also covered. As in the first course in statistics, computer application using SPSS is further developed. Prerequisite: PY 201 or PY 203 or equivalent course. Offered every spring. Three credits.

PY 212 Child Development

Examines human physical, cognitive, moral, and social development from conception to adolescence. Specific topics include prenatal development, temperament, intelligence, attachment,

and disciplinary techniques. Early childhood observation activity included. Prerequisite: PY 100 or PY 115. Offered fall semester. Three credits.

PY 214 Adolescent Development

Examines biological, cognitive, emotional, moral, and social development during the second decade of life. Topics include puberty, changing peer and parental relationships, school transitions, sexuality, and drug use. Prerequisite: PY 100 or PY 115. Offered spring semester. Three credits.

PY 216 Psychology of Adult Development

This course focuses on the dynamic processes of growth and development in adulthood. Such issues as self-concept, intimacy, marriage, sex roles, work, love, friendship, and the family are examined. Prerequisite: PY 100. Offered every spring. Three credits.

PY 219 Introduction to Counseling

This course provides an introduction to the skills, methods, and procedures of counseling and psychotherapy, including effective interaction and communication between therapist and client and the development of student self-awareness and self-assessment. The course also provides an overview of the major theoretical models of individual and family therapy, including psychodynamic, cognitive-behavioral, Gestalt, and humanistic-existential models. Prerequisite: PY 100. Three credits.

PY 220 The Search for Meaning: Psychology of Religion

This course is designed to assist students to believe developmentally and meaningfully in themselves and in their God during our Post-Modern era. An existential phenomenological approach will address contemporary issues: humans' search for meaning, 21st century interpretations of religion and spirituality, evil, humans' experience of God and the Spirit, social justice, and love and human sexuality. Three credits.

PY 243 Abnormal Psychology

This course provides an introduction to psychological disorders. All major disorders are discussed in terms of specific symptoms, as well as the impact of the disorder on the individual's life. Etiology and treatment are also studied. Special emphasis is placed on understanding the diagnostic system used in developing a diagnosis. Prerequisite: PY 100. Offered every spring. Three credits.

PY 244 Theories of Personality

This course examines the development of the normal personality from a variety of theoretical perspectives (e.g., psychodynamic, social-learning, humanistic-existential). Special attention is given to the current status of the major theories of personality. The research methods employed within the various theoretical frameworks are critically reviewed. Prerequisite: PY 100. Three credits.

PY 251 Family Systems

This course examines the major family systems theories, their assessment techniques, and associated therapies. Emphasis is placed on the features of a functional and dysfunctional family system. Separated/divorced, substance abusing, sexually abusing, and violent family systems and their dynamics are studied in detail. Prerequisite: PY 100 or PY 115. Offered fall semester. Three credits.

PY 252 Rehabilitative Treatment Systems

This pre-professional course introduces students to rehabilitative treatment systems currently used by chemical dependency programs. Topics include case management and treatment planning with various populations (e.g., youth, families), ethical and legal

issues, the role of family and workplace in treatment, and community resources. Prerequisites: SO 105 plus either PY 219 or PY 251. Offered fall semester. Three credits.

PY 260 Social Psychology

An introduction to both classic and contemporary social psychological research and theories. Topics include research methods, the self as a social construction, perceiving social others, persuasion, and aggressive and altruistic behavior. Prerequisites: PY 100 or SO 101. Offered every spring. Three credits.

PY 270 Industrial-Organizational Psychology

An introduction to the psychological and sociological perspectives of the behavior of individuals in organizations with a particular emphasis on industrial settings. Issues of how organizations function are supplemented with issues of how to work with organizations. Topics include motivating and supervising employees, group behavior, leadership, organizational climates, organizational development and theories, selecting employees, and interactions between workers and machines. Prerequisite: PY 100. Offered spring semester. Three credits.

PY 280 Interpersonal and Group Processes

This experiential-learning course is designed to introduce the art and skill of interpersonal communication and the organization and dynamics of groups to students interested in business management and in human services (e.g., psychology, education, and social work). This is primarily a skill-based course that emphasizes learning and practicing skills in active listening, open communication, problem-solving, and conflict management. The weekly format of the course includes a theory session followed by an experiential-learning laboratory. Enrollment is limited due to the nature of the experiential laboratory. Offered spring semester. Three credits.

PY 290 Psychology and Education for Exceptional Students

This course examines the characteristics of exceptional individuals and effective educational strategies for their inclusion in the regular classroom setting. All areas of exceptionality and the gifted and talented are included. Other topics include the legal bases for education of the exceptional, techniques for identification and assessment, adaptation of curriculum and materials, the use of technology, available educational and community resources for positive intervention for students and their families, and current developments in the field. A number of observations of and interactions with exceptional students within both regular and special education settings is a requirement of the course. Prerequisite: PY 115. Offered every semester. Three credits.

PY 300 Directed Research

Students assist faculty and senior psychology majors with their various research projects. Depending on the status of the research at the time of enrollment, students might read the literature, assist in the development of research ideas, design empirical studies, collect, enter, and analyze data, and contribute to the preparation of manuscripts. P/F only. Prerequisites: Permission of instructor; recommended A- or higher in PY 203. Offered every semester. May be repeated. One credit.

PY 308 Cognitive Psychology

An analysis of human cognition, including such topics as attention, perception, pattern recognition, memory, language production and comprehension, problem solving, creativity, and artificial intelligence. Prerequisite: PY 100 or PY 115; recommended PY 201 or PY 203. Three credits.

PY 309 Learning

An overview of how and why human behavior changes in

response to the environment. Although animal models of learning are discussed, emphasis is placed on how animal models help us understand the complexity of human behavior. Topics include Pavlovian and operant learning, stimulus control, biological preparedness, reinforcement contingencies, behavior modification, and token economies. Prerequisite: PY 100 and PY 201 or PY 203. Offered fall semester. Three credits.

PY 320 Forensic Psychology

A survey of topics in forensic psychology, a specialized subfield involving the interface between psychology and law. Topics include forensic assessment, civil competence, eyewitness testimony, criminal responsibility, psychology of criminal behavior, criminal profiling, jury issues, expert witness issues, police issues, and career paths in forensic psychology. Prerequisite: PY 100; recommended PY 243. Three credits.

PY 331 Biological Psychology

This course introduces students to the ways in which behaviors are based on biological processes occurring within our bodies. The major topics of the course include an introduction to the functioning of the nervous and hormonal systems, sensory processes, the effects of drugs on behavior, motivation and emotion, learning and memory, and biological bases for psychological disorders. Prerequisite: PY 100. Offered both semesters. Three credits.

PY 341 Research Methods in Psychology

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the various tactics of performing research within the field of psychology. Although the emphasis is on psychological research methods, the procedures developed are applicable to all areas of scientific research—social, biological and physical. Course work includes hands-on experience conducting psychological research, analyzing data, and reporting results. Prerequisites: Either PY 203 and PY 204 or PY 201. Offered both semesters. Four credits.

PY 350 Independent Study

May be repeated. Variable credit.

PY 370 Seminar: Ethical Issues in Psychology

This upper division seminar course examines the prominent professional and ethical issues in psychology. Issues primarily surround work with patients; however, research and teaching issues are also covered. This is a seminar course in which students read and discuss articles from scholarly journals. Prerequisite: Instructor's permission and junior or senior psychology major. Offered fall semester. Three credits.

PY 371 Seminar: Collaborative Research on a Special Topic

Students read and discuss primary sources on a topic selected by the instructor and then collectively design a research project. The final paper for the course is a collaborative research proposal with pilot data and preliminary analyses. Completion of the entire project is expected to yield a publication-quality manuscript or a professional conference presentation. Students interested in continuing their involvement in the research beyond PY 371 may do so through PY 300 Directed Research. Prerequisites: PY 100, PY 203, and Instructor's permission. Other prerequisites may be recommended depending on the semester's topic. Three credits.

PY 374 Seminar: Personality Theories

This upper division seminar course examines the major theories of personality. Students read and discuss articles from scholarly journals, as well as selected original works from prominent personality theorists. Topics include psychoanalysis, behaviorism, humanism, and trait theories, in addition to disorders of personality. Prerequisite: Junior or senior psychology major. Offered spring semester. Three credits.

PY 378 Seminar: Cognitive Psychology

In this upper division seminar course, students read and discuss articles from scholarly journals and complete laboratory demonstrations. The course examines special topics in the field of cognitive psychology such as memory errors, divided attention, and problem solving. Prerequisite: PY 100 and junior or senior status. Offered spring semester. Three credits.

PY 381 Educational Testing

This course is designed for Psychology Education majors and Elementary Instruction majors and provides an overview of psychological and educational testing of preschool and school age children and youth. Topics include the history, issues, and problems of psychological and educational assessment; test design and evaluation; an overview of tests of intelligence, academic achievement, interests, and aptitude; ecological assessment of classroom behavior; and a review of ethical issues. Consideration will be given to assessing the needs of exceptional children and ways of critically reviewing such assessment for purposes of educational decision-making. Prerequisite: PY 201 or PY 203. Offered fall semester. Fee. Three credits.

PY 382 Psychological Assessment

This course provides an introduction to the field of psychological assessment. Assessment includes a variety of psychological tests and other approaches designed to gain a better understanding of the human person. Includes personality and intellectual testing, as well as standardization and construction. Prerequisite: PY 203. Offered fall semester. Fee. Three credits.

PY 390 History and Systems of Psychology

An examination of the major systems and trends in the history of psychology. Special attention is given to the various schools of philosophical thought that preceded the emergence of psychology as a science. Although the contributions of particular psychologists are considered, the primary emphasis is on the major systems or schools of thought that have influenced the development of psychology as a science. Prerequisite: Twelve previous credits in psychology. Offered spring semester. Three credits.

PY 401 Capstone: Research Review and Analysis

In this capstone course required for Psychology majors, students write a literature review and an analysis of a topic in the field of psychology. Students identify and examine primary sources and use these sources to develop a critical analysis of the topic area. (Psychology majors completing PY 405 and 406 are exempt.) Prerequisite: PY 341. Offered both semesters. Three credits.

PY 405 Capstone: Research Thesis I

Junior psychology majors design an empirical study and submit an APA-style research proposal and IRB application. Students conduct an extensive review of the literature, synthesize existing theory and research to build a rationale for their study, develop specific hypotheses, devise appropriate methodology and statistics, and obtain or construct supporting materials. Prerequisites: PY 341, 3.5 Psychology GPA, and authorization by the Department Chair. Offered spring semester. Three credits.

PY 406 Capstone: Research Thesis II

In this follow-up to Research Thesis I, students conduct the empirical study that they designed in PY 405. Students recruit participants; collect, analyze, and interpret data; compose the results, discussion, tables, and figures; and revise all earlier portions of the paper to produce an empirically based APA-style research thesis. Prerequisite: PY 405. Offered fall semester. Three credits.

PY 550 Cooperative Education—Psychology Internship

Students engage in professional work experience in the community that complements and strengthens academic learning. The number of credits earned and the academic requirements are variable, depending on the duration of the experience. Students may or may not receive monetary compensation depending on the organization. Students must receive approval from the faculty internship advisor and complete all paper work with the Career Center before registering for or beginning the internship. May be repeated. Offered both semesters. Variable credit.