



Psychology

College of Liberal Studies

The undergraduate program in psychology at UW-La Crosse provides an excellent grounding in the discipline of psychology. We offer courses in several important sub fields within psychology including developmental, educational, experimental, social, clinical, counseling, and cross-cultural. The Psychology major is one of the largest majors on campus. There are approximately 550 majors and 250 minors. Graduating seniors report high levels of employment and approximately 30% of psychology undergraduates go on to graduate school. The major provides a strong grounding in both the liberal arts and the scientific method. Psychology students are particularly encouraged to pursue fieldwork, internships and/or research experience. In recent years, several students have presented their independent research projects at regional conferences. Overall, psychology is a solid liberal arts major that allows students a variety of career opportunities.

Undergraduate Programs

Major:

- Psychology*

Minor:

- Psychology*

Multidisciplinary Programs:

- At-Risk Child and Youth Care
Minor
- Gerontology Emphasis
**Teacher certification in Broadfield
Social Studies available*

Department Features

Majors and Minors

The department is in the College of Liberal Studies and offers both a BA and a BS major in psychology. Additionally, minors are available for students from the colleges of Science and Health, Liberal Studies, and Business Administration.

Facilities

Facilities include an experimental laboratory, research and testing rooms and a computer laboratory with statistical software available.

Faculty

The department has 22 full-time faculty—21 of whom hold doctorates. The faculty represent a variety of psychology related fields including experimental, educational,

developmental, social, school, cross-cultural, clinical, and counseling. The training of the faculty spans both the basic and applied nature of psychology theory, research and practice. The research interests of the faculty vary and faculty are highly encouraged to involve undergraduates in their research. Additionally, senior level students have the opportunity to serve as teaching assistants.

Connections to other Disciplines

The department encourages students to take courses in other departments and/or pursue minors or emphases. The following is a list of some of the more popular programs to combine with psychology: sociology (including the minor in criminal justice), political science, public administration, communication studies (several emphases of interest including interpersonal communication, advocacy and communication criticism, and organizational and professional communication), women, gender and sexuality studies, environmental studies, ethnic and minority studies, at-risk child and youth care, and Spanish.

Student Clubs

There are two active student clubs, the Psychology Club (open to all interested students) and Psi Chi (an honors association for psychology majors).

Dual Degree Option

The dual degree program is designed to allow a student to complete a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in occupational therapy in 5.5 years of schooling (plus summers). The dual degree exists to reduce the overall number of credits students take if they are accepted into the graduate program. It does not guarantee admission. Any student with fewer than 60 credits with a GPA of 3.00 or above is eligible to declare the dual degree. The sooner a student starts the program the more course flexibility he/she will have. More information is available through the occupational therapy program.

Sample Courses

- General Psychology
- Experimental Psychology and Research Methods
- Developmental Psychology
- Abnormal Psychology
- Social Psychology
- Theories of Personality
- Biopsychology courses
- Internship and Research Opportunities

Career Opportunities

Community and Social Services

- Social Worker
- Program Director
- Volunteer Coordinator

Human Resources

- Employee Development
- Training Coordinator
- Claims Administrator

Residential Care

- For Developmentally Delayed
- For Delinquents
- For the Elderly

Management & Business

- Banking
- Customer Service
- Sales
- Public Relations

Restaurant & Hotel

Student Affairs/Services

- Alumni Development Work
- Student Activities/Housing

Probation/Parole/Law Enforcement:

- Corrections Officer
- Juvenile Intake Worker
- Parole Officer

Education

- Child Care Worker
- Peace Corps
- Teacher's Aide

Scientific Research

- Marketing Research
- Opinion Survey Researcher

Further Education

- Graduate study in psychology including applied programs at a master's level such as school psychology, social work, marriage and family counseling, community psychology, and industrial/organizational psychology.
- Students also pursue either basic or applied doctoral level programs in a variety of psychology-related fields.
- Psychology is also a good background (when combined with other coursework) for a variety of other graduate programs including sociology, counseling and guidance, educational psychology, law, medicine, occupational and physical therapy, and education.

Occupational Outlook

In order to be a "psychologist", an advanced degree is required. However, there are many careers available to students with bachelor level degrees. The growth in jobs with a BA/BS in psychology is moderate; it is strong in most fields requiring a graduate degree. Although psychology majors tend to make less money upon graduation than other majors do, their earnings are similar to other liberal arts majors. Additionally, the difference tends to be mainly attributable to the fact that many psychology majors work in human service fields that tend to pay less. Psychology majors are strongly encouraged to consider a wide variety of career options with the degrees and not narrow their interests to careers that appear to be directly psychology related. The department offers a pass/no pass 1-credit course (PSY 200 "Orientation to the Psychology Major") that enables students to explore their career interests and opportunities.

Professional Associations

The two primary professional organizations are listed below – both offer student memberships.

American Psychological Association
www.apa.org

American Psychological Society
www.psychologicalscience.org

Psychology Department
335 Graff Main Hall
(608) 785-8440
www.uwlax.edu/psychology/
Dr. Betsy Morgan, Chair