

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

Mission: *The Department of Psychology seeks to enhance students' understanding of human nature proceeding from a Christian understanding of humans created in the image of God. The psychology major explores multiple perspectives of human nature, including cognitive, behavioral, biological, social-cultural, and spiritual. All students learn the skills necessary to conduct research and to evaluate carefully others' research, with the goal of increasing students' understanding of human nature. Students interested in counseling are introduced to basic theories and methods relevant to providing counseling services. The psychology major prepares students either to secure employment immediately following graduation or to continue on to pursue advanced study in psychology or counseling at the graduate level.*

Both a major and a minor in Psychology are offered through the Professional Studies Psychology Department. Courses are offered both on-ground and online.

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Apply principles of cognitive, behavioral, biological, socio-cultural, and spiritual perspectives on human nature to practical issues such as personal, social and/or organizational issues.
2. Apply core principles of empirical research, including research design, data analysis, and interpretation, to critically evaluate scholarly research.
3. Practice professional ethics (as defined by American Psychological Association), cultural competency, and citizenship with the focus on core principles of beneficence, responsibility, integrity, justice, and respect.
4. Develop oral and written products that demonstrate information literacy skills in established scientific format (APA).
5. Apply psychological knowledge, skills and values to various careers and/or postgraduate study.
6. Integrate Christian worldview with knowledge of psychology.

Programs

Major:

- Psychology B.A. (<https://catalog.vanguard.edu/archives/2020-2021/sobe/professional-studies/psychology/psychology-ba/>)

Minor:

- Human Development Minor (<https://catalog.vanguard.edu/archives/2020-2021/sobe/professional-studies/psychology/human-development-minor/>)

Courses

PSYD-220 Human Growth/Development 3 Credits

An exploration of human development across the lifespan (from conception through death). Examines human development through the biological, behavioral, cognitive, sociocultural, and spiritual perspectives. (meets Social Science requirement)

PSYD-265 Intro to Statistical Methods 3 Credits

A course in basic statistical concepts and methods of collecting, summarizing, presenting, and interpreting data in the behavioral sciences: including descriptive statistics (use of graphs and charts), normal distribution curve, measures of central tendency, deviation and dispersion, hypothesis testing, statistical fallacies, correlation and topics in probability. Students are advised to take Math 105 and Math 109 in preparation for this course.

PSYD-321 Adolescent Psychology 3 Credits

A study of the period of life from puberty to the emergence from the teens, emphasizing the physical, mental, emotional, social, spiritual, and personality development of the individual. Diversity issues are considered. (meets Social Science requirement)

Terms Typically Offered: Fall.

PSYD-340 Biological Psychology 3 Credits

A study of human behavior in terms of the nervous system and its control of the activity of the muscles, glands, and the biochemistry of the body, with special emphasis on perception, sensory and motor functions, motivation, emotion, learning, and memory. Neurological impairment and disorders are examined. (Replaces PSYD 439 Physiological Psychology and Cognition)

Prerequisite: MUST COMPLETE: PSYD-366 OR PSYC-103/103C

PSYD-352 Industrial/Organizational Psych 3 Credits

Investigate how general psychological knowledge from the areas of personality, assessment, cognitive, and social psychology can be applied and further developed in organizational contexts. Issues such as matching jobs and individuals, training, performance evaluation, stress, leadership, and development are discussed in the context of multilevel cultural influences, from organizational cultures to global business demands. (meets Social Science requirement)

Prerequisite: MUST COMPLETE: PSYC-103C

PSYD-366 Survey of Human Behavior 3 Credits

Surveys the fundamental concepts of human behavior and psychology from multiple perspectives, including biological processes in development and behavior, learning and memory, motivation, personality, psychological disorders, and social behavior.

PSYD-367 Writing and Research Skills 3 Credits

Designed to introduce students to the advanced skills needed for academic writing in the social sciences. Students will also be introduced to advanced academic research techniques. *This course must be passed with a "C" or better to fulfill requirements for graduation. A student receiving a "C-" or lower must retake the course to earn the required grade for graduation.

PSYD-368 Survey of Human Services 3 Credits

Explores the ways in which care is provided for the whole individual, surveying community resources and developing an understanding of the ways in which human services are carried out in various settings. Ethical issues in human services practice are also examined. Each student will identify an appropriate human service agency for a field practicum placement and will develop a plan to meet the requirements for Field Practicum.

Prerequisite: Must Complete PSYD-367 and PSYD-366 or PSYC-103/103C

PSYD-370 Childhood and Adolescence 3 Credits

Examines the physical, cognitive, social, emotional and spiritual development from infancy through adolescence, utilizing current research and developmental theories. Variations in family life across cultures, parenting styles and the role of peer groups are also examined.

Prerequisite: MUST COMPLETE: PSYD-366 or PSYC-103/103C

PSYD-372 Adulthood and Aging 3 Credits

Examines the physical, cognitive, social and emotional adjustments of adult life from adulthood through death. Focuses on the process of development rising from physical aging, continuing socialization and environmental changes involved in these life phases.

Prerequisite: MUST COMPLETE: PSYD-366 or PSYC-103C/103

PSYD-373 Psychology of the Family 3 Credits

Explores the institution of the family from a multigenerational developmental perspective. Psychological, socio-cultural, and spiritual perspectives are also explored. Students will be introduced to family systems theory as a method of understanding family dynamics and to theoretical orientations of family therapy.

Prerequisite: MUST COMPLETE: PSYD-366 or PSYC-103/103C

PSYD-375 Understanding Research Design 3 Credits

Provides an introduction to research design, including purposes and procedures of descriptive, quasi-experimental, and experimental research. Literature review strategies and writing of APA-style research papers will be covered.

Prerequisite: MUST COMPLETE: PSYD-265, PSYD 367 and PSYD-366 or PSYC-103C

PSYD-420 Behavior Modification 3 Credits

Examines the applications of cognitive and learning theories to a broad range of problems and settings, including child rearing, education, psychotherapy, and industrial settings. Integration of theological aspects of therapy is also addressed.

PSYD-432 Social/Cultural Psychology 3 Credits

Examines interpersonal behavior as it is influenced by social processes, culture, face-to-face interactions, and personality characteristics. Among the topics covered are interpersonal and group behavior in relationship to social values, diversity issues, norms, attitudes, roles, and social needs.

Prerequisite: MUST COMPLETE: PSYD-366 AND PSYD-367

PSYD-434 Group Dynamics 3 Credits

Introduces students to various types of groups used in clinical settings and to the theoretical orientations commonly utilized in group practice. The stages of group work, leadership skills, and work with special populations are explored. Students are introduced to ethical issues, and multicultural issues that apply to group work.

Prerequisite: MUST COMPLETE: PSYD-366 or PSYC-103C/103

PSYD-436 Abnormal Psychology 3 Credits

Studies deviations in human behavior from socio-cultural, spiritual, emotional, cognitive and behavioral perspectives with regard to description, patterns of development, measurement, symptoms, systems of classification, and treatment methods.

Prerequisite: PSYD-366 PSYC-103 or PSYC-103C;

PSYD-449 Cognitive Psychology 3 Credits

Addresses the study of human cognitive processes including perception, memory, problem solving, thinking, and hemispheric specialization. Cognitive aspects of psychological and learning disorders are also addressed.

PSYD-460 Field Practicum 3 Credits

Students apply concepts learned in the major as a student intern/volunteer at a human services agency or research facility. All practicum sites must be approved by the Field Practicum Coordinator for the PS Psychology major prior to beginning the practicum. Students accrue hours over the course of the program; hours must be completed by the start date of the course. Students will accrue a minimum of 90 hours for 3 units of course credit. Coursework includes a written and oral presentation.

Prerequisite: MUST COMPLETE: PSYD-366 or PSYC-103/103C

PSYD-462 Counseling Theories 3 Credits

Studies the various theoretical approaches to counseling, the personhood of the counselor, and ethical issues in clinical practice. Major counseling theories are introduced by covering key concepts, the nature of the therapeutic relationship, and techniques associated with each theory. The worldview underlying each theory is examined as it relates to a Christian worldview, and the integration of biblical principles in counseling theories is introduced.

PSYD-465 Field Education for Psy Majors 1-5 Credits

Students apply concepts learned in the major as a student intern/volunteer at a human services agency or research facility. This course allows students to earn credit for additional field experience beyond PSYD 460; 30 hours of field experience will be required for each credit hour. Students may register for from 1-5 units of credit.

Pre- or Co-Requisite: PSYD-460

PSYD-470 Special Topic: 1-3 Credits

Study of a special topic in psychology. May be repeated for credit.

PSYD-477 Psychology and Christianity 3 Credits

Examines human nature from the perspective of psychology and Christian belief. The major approaches to the integration of psychology and Christianity will be examined, utilizing a range of issues such as the relationship between mind, body, and soul; the nature of human freedom; Christian prayer; conversion; the relationships between people's attitudes and their behavior; and contemporary Christian counseling and pastoral care.

Prerequisite: MUST COMPLETE: PSYD-367 and PSYD-366 or PSYC-103/103C