

PSYCHOLOGY

(413) 662-5453

Chairperson: Sharon Claffey, Ph.D.

Email: S.Claffey@mcla.edu

PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PSYCHOLOGY

BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS MINOR

PSYCHOLOGY MINOR

TEACHER LICENSURE

PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR PROGRAM

The Department of Psychology offers a four-year program leading to a Bachelor of Arts in psychology. Students study principles of human growth and development and the processes of learning, cognition and emotion. Particular attention is given to knowledge related to personality development, maladaptive behavior, social diversity and group interactions, and the biological bases of behavior. The major provides the foundation for careers in human services and counseling, in business and industry, and in working with children, adolescents and adults in schools or clinical settings. The major program also prepares students for graduate study in all areas of psychology, social work, business, education, and other related professions.

Students graduating with a degree in psychology will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the following areas of psychology:
Developmental, abnormal, social, and research and statistical methodology;
- Demonstrate competence in helping design empirical research;
- Demonstrate competence in using a statistical package to analyze data and to present those results in APA manuscript style;
- Communicate proficiently, both orally and in writing.

PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR

Requirements

Foundation Courses			7 cr
BIOL	150	Introduction to Biology	
PSYC	100	Introduction to Psychology	
Research Methodology			8 cr
PSYC	290	Research Methods and Statistics I	
PSYC	291	Research Methods and Statistics II	
Primary Content Domains			12 cr
(choose four courses, at least two must be 300 level)			
PSYC	210	Developmental Psychology	
PSYC	230	Social Psychology	
PSYC	270	Abnormal Psychology	
PSYC	310	Cognitive Psychology	
PSYC	316	Behavior Analysis	
PSYC	331	Biological Psychology	
Advanced Research and Methods (choose one course)			4 cr
PSYC	360	Measurement and Assessment	
PSYC	390	Research Design and Analysis	
PSYC	397	Research Seminar	
Upper Level Electives (choose at least two courses)			6 cr
PSYC	325	Environmental Psychology	
PSYC	332	Drugs and Human Behavior	
PSYC	335	Organizational Psychology	
PSYC	340	Psychology of Children with Special Needs	
PSYC	350	Theories of Personality	
PSYC	355	Human Sexuality	
PSYC	356	Psychology of Gender	
PSYC	357	Psychology of Women	
PSYC	369	Forensic Psychology Capstone	

PSYC	370	Human Communication and Perception	
PSYC	375	Health Psychology	
PSYC	376	Sport Psychology	
PSYC	380	Educational Psychology	
PSYC	386	Adolescent Development	
PSYC	387	Childhood Disorders	
PSYC	388	Adulthood and Aging	
PSYC	416	Research in Behavior Analysis	
PSYC	460	Human Behavior in Cross-Cultural Perspectives	
PSYC	516	Functional Assessment and Intervention	
PSYC	540	Internship	
Capstone Experience (Choose one course)			3 cr
PSYC	410	History of Psychology	
PSYC	499	Advanced Seminar	
PSYC	550	Senior Thesis	

TOTAL PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR REQUIREMENTS **40 cr**

Specific career objectives may be pursued by selecting additional upper-division elective courses. Selections are to be made in consultation with the academic advisor.

BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS MINOR PROGRAM

This minor prepares students for careers and/or graduate study in behavior analysis, which has widespread application in areas such as psychology, education, social work, and health and human services. In addition, the minor satisfies the current course work requirements for the Board of Certified Associate Behavior Analyst examination (BCABA).

BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS MINOR:**Experimental Analysis of Behavior Track Requirements**

PSYC	100	Introduction to Psychology	3 cr
PSYC	290	Psychological Research & Stats I	4 cr
PSYC	291	Psychological Research & Stats II	4 cr
PSYC	316	Behavior Analysis	3 cr
PSYC	416	Research in Behavior Analysis	3 cr
PSYC	516	Functional Assessment & Intervention	3 cr

TOTAL BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS MINOR: EXPERIMENTAL ANALYSIS OF BEHAVIOR TRACK REQUIREMENTS **20 cr****Behavior Analysis Minor: Applied Behavior Analysis Track Requirements:**

PSYC	100	Introduction to Psychology	3 cr
PSYC	208	Applied Developmental Psychology	3 cr
OR PSYC	210	Developmental Psychology	
PSYC	316	Behavior Analysis	3 cr
PSYC	387	Childhood Disorders	3 cr
PSYC	416	Research in Behavior Analysis	3 cr
PSYC	516	Functional Assessment & Intervention	3 cr

TOTAL BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS MINOR: APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS TRACK REQUIREMENTS **18 cr****BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS MINOR:****New England Center for Children Cooperative Program in Behavior Analysis Track Requirements:**

PSYC	100	Introduction to Psychology	3 cr
PSYC	316	Behavior Analysis	3 cr

The following courses are taken at the New England Center for Children:

PSYC	552	Advanced Learning	3 cr
PSYC	553	Functional Analysis & Treatment of Behavioral Disorders	3 cr
OR PSYC	554	Systematic Inquiry in Applied Research	
PSYC	555	Seminar & Practica in Clinical Practice	9 cr

**TOTAL BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS MINOR:
NEW ENGLAND CENTER FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM IN BEHAVIOR
ANALYSIS TRACK REQUIREMENTS** **21 cr**

PSYCHOLOGY MINOR PROGRAM

The psychology minor enables students to acquire a fundamental understanding of complex human behaviors.

PSYCHOLOGY MINOR

Requirements

PSYC	100	Introduction to Psychology	3 cr
PSYC	290	Psychological Research & Stats I	4 cr
PSYC	291	Psychological Research & Stats II	4 cr
Two of the following three courses:			6 cr
PSYC	210	Developmental Psychology	
PSYC	230	Social Psychology	
PSYC	270	Abnormal Psychology	

Two additional psychology courses at the 300-level or above **6 cr**

TOTAL PSYCHOLOGY MINOR REQUIREMENTS **23 cr**

TEACHER LICENSURE

Students majoring in psychology may opt to pursue initial teacher licensure as an early childhood teacher, or elementary teacher. These students will

complete the psychology major, education major and a licensure program in education.

SEMINARS, RESEARCH AND TOPICS COURSES, SENIOR THESIS AND INTERNSHIPS

Seminars offered at the 200, 300 and 400 levels allow students interested in advanced study or in pursuing graduate work in psychology or related fields to identify aspects of contemporary psychology of sufficient personal interest to support directed or independent scholarly work. Topic courses are offered to address special areas of psychology not included in the general curriculum. Students discovering such interests are encouraged to pursue them by enrolling in PSYC 397 Research Seminar, PSYC 391 Research Assistant, and PSYC 496 Research in Psychology and/or PSYC 500 Independent Study in Psychology. During the senior year, and with the approval of two faculty members, a student may then register for PSYC 550 Senior Thesis. Students are also encouraged to seek out internship in a wide variety of mental health and social services placements during their junior or senior year.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PSYC 100 Introduction to Psychology 3 cr

Introduces students to the science of psychology, presenting the basic principles of mental processes and behavior. To introduce the process of empirical investigation, research participation is required. Course attributes: CSS.

Prerequisite: None

PSYC 208 Applied Developmental Psychology 3 cr

Examines developmental theory and research from an applied perspective. Physical, cognitive, language, social and emotional development from early

and interpretation of basic research design and statistical analysis. A weekly lab introduces data analysis software applications.

Prerequisite: PSYC 100 and Tier I Quantitative Reasoning

PSYC 291 Psychological Research and Statistics II 4 cr

A continuation of PSYC 290, extending the nature of empirical investigation in psychology to specific research designs and statistical analyses. The course focuses on concepts, interpretation and applications of methodology and data analysis used by psychologists, including topics of ethics and APA style. Mastery of course material will be demonstrated by a completed research paper; weekly lab extends students' knowledge of statistical analysis software applications.

Prerequisite: Grade of C or better in PSYC 290

PSYC 299 Sophomore Seminar in Psychology 3 cr

Introduces and explores empirical research, theory and applications in selected areas of psychology. Emphasis will be placed on library research and class discussion. Critical reading and analysis skills will be assessed through several papers and presentations.

Prerequisite: PSYC 100

PSYC 310 Cognitive Psychology 3 cr

Studies knowing, learning, thinking and language. Topics include theories of cognition, language, attention, problem solving, memory, consciousness and creative thinking.

Prerequisite: PSYC 291

PSYC 316 Behavior Analysis 3 cr

Introduces the field of behavior analysis, examining behavior analytic history, philosophy, concepts and principles. Techniques and strategies inside and outside the laboratory will be discussed in detail. Students learn the basics of

Prerequisite: 200 level PSYC or SOCI or BADM course or completion of Tier II Self & Society domain

PSYC 340 Psychology of Children with Special Needs 3 cr

Examines the special needs of children, the methods used to determine these needs, and the procedures used to meet these needs. Course attributes: C&FS.

Prerequisite: PSYC 208 or PSYC 210

PSYC 350 Theories of Personality 3 cr

Examines classical and contemporary approaches to personality theory. Emphasizes application and empirical support for theoretical positions.

Prerequisite: PSYC 291

PSYC 355 Human Sexuality 3 cr

Examines the field of human sexuality from psychological, biological and sociological perspectives. In covering a wide range of contemporary topics, emphasis is on empirical, verifiable scientific information. Course attributes: C&FS, WMST.

Prerequisite: 200 level PSYC or SOCI course or completion of Tier II Self & Society domain

PSYC 356 Psychology of Gender 3 cr

Focuses on the similarities and differences between males and females, masculinity and femininity. Explores the origins and maintenance of gender stereotypes and their consequences. Course attributes: C&FS, WMST.

Prerequisite: 200 level PSYC or SOCI course or completion of Tier II Self & Society domain

PSYC 357 Psychology of Women 3 cr

Explores psychological and sociocultural issues concerning women in our society. Women's experiences will be covered in areas that are stereotypically

thought of as male-oriented as well as those more exclusive to females.

Course attributes: WMST.

Prerequisite: 200 level PSYC or SOCI course or completion of Tier II Self & Society domain

PSYC 360 Measurement and Assessment 4 cr

Introduces concepts related to psychological testing and measurement. Topics will include measurement theory, psychometric principles, ethics of measurement and assessment, and measurement design in different settings (government, clinical, educational, and/or industrial/organizational).

Mastery of course material determined by design, administration, interpretation and critique of assessments. Content identified by subtitle.

This course is repeatable for a maximum of 8 crs. Required laboratory.

Prerequisite: PSYC 291

PSYC 369 Forensic Psychology 3 cr

Explores psychological aspects of human behavior and sociocultural issues as applied to law and the legal system. The role of forensic psychology in the production and application of psychological knowledge will be discussed by examining a number of social issues. Although the focus is primarily on criminal and civil cases, a broad perspective of forensic psychology will be covered, allowing the work of social scientists, jurists, clinicians and judges to be viewed in a systemic context.

Prerequisite: Completion of Tier II Self & Society domain

PSYC 370 Human Communication and Perception 3 cr

Presents an information processing approach to how we perceive and communicate about the world. Also examines our acquisition and use of language, as well as societal influences on perception and thought.

Prerequisite: PSYC 291

PSYC 375 Health Psychology 3 cr

Studies health and illness within the conceptual and methodological context of psychology, epidemiology, development, neuroscience and behavioral medicine. Examines and contrasts medical, psychological, and alternative models of disease and wellness.

Prerequisite: 200 level PSYC course or completion of Tier II Science & Technology domain

PSYC 376 Sport Psychology 3 cr

Introduces students to the current research and theoretical perspectives related to various psychological and psychosocial components of exercise, sport participation and competition. Personality, motivation, social facilitation, anxiety, aggression and other factors that influence individuals and teams/groups are examined.

Prerequisite: Completion of Tier II Self & Society domain

PSYC 380 Educational Psychology 3 cr

Studies the conditions and theories of classroom learning. Scope: instructional objectives, task analysis, conditioning, concept and rule learning, problem solving, memory, transfer and motivation. Course attributes: C&FS.

Prerequisite: 200 level PSYC course, CCSS 269, or completion of Tier II Self & Society domain

PSYC 386 Adolescent Development 3 cr

Examines the cognitive, social, emotional and physical development of the adolescent from a psychological perspective. Psychological and social problems that may arise during adolescence are discussed. Course attributes: C&FS.

Prerequisite: One 200-level PSYC course

PSYC 387 Childhood Disorders**3 cr**

Examines the etiology and clinical characteristics of behavioral disorders in infancy through adolescence, including emotional disturbances, anxiety and conduct disorders, mental retardation and learning disabilities. Emphasis on theoretical perspectives, research, assessment, early intervention and prevention. Course attributes: C&FS.

Prerequisite: PSYC 208 or PSYC 210

PSYC 388 Adulthood and Aging**3 cr**

Examines cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development during adulthood from a psychological perspective. Studies the impact of an increased life span on society and concludes with a psychological examination of death and dying.

Prerequisite: One 200-level PSYC course

PSYC 390 Research Design and Analysis**4 cr**

Focuses on advanced methodology, data analysis and interpretation in psychological research. A research project is required. Required laboratory.

Prerequisite: PSYC 291

PSYC 391 Research Assistant in Psychology**1 to 3 cr**

Provides opportunities for students to assist faculty in conducting empirical research. Particular responsibilities may include data collection, statistical analyses and other activities involved in planning and conducting research in psychology. Amount of credit will be determined by the faculty supervisor in consultation with the student. The course may be repeated up to a maximum of six credits with all grades assigned as pass/fail. Enrollment requires permission of the instructor.

Prerequisite: 200-level PSYC course, instructor approval

PSYC 397 Research Seminar:

4 cr

Applies research design and practice to selected problems. Includes literature review, deriving and empirically testing hypotheses. Requirements involve preparation of laboratory and other research materials, recruitment of participants and collection, analysis, and interpretation of resulting data. Culminates in preparation and submission of a complete report of the research project. Content identified by subtitle. This course is repeatable for a maximum of 8 crs. Required laboratory.

Prerequisite: Instructor approval

PSYC 399 Honors Seminar in Psychology

3 cr

Surveys and critically examines selected areas and issues in psychology. Emphasizes multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches to the topics selected for study. Designed for junior and senior majors intending graduate study in psychology, the seminar requires students to develop a program of reading, give oral presentations and complete a literature review paper.

Prerequisite: PSYC 291

PSYC 410 History of Psychology

3 cr

Examines the development of psychology as a science, an academic discipline, and a profession. Includes a comparative analysis of major contemporary theories in psychology.

Prerequisite: PSYC 291 and completion of 9 upper-division credits in psychology

PSYC 416 Research in Behavior Analysis

3 cr

Participate in the design, implementation, analysis and dissemination of empirical research. Students will examine the strategies and rationale underlying within-subject designs through exposure to recently published articles from the behavior analytic literature. The relationship between

experimental and applied research will be examined closely. All students will prepare an APA-style manuscript describing their research project.

Prerequisite: PSYC 316

PSYC 440 Counseling Methods in Psychology 3 cr

Studies techniques applicable in the helping services and counseling. Theories of counseling and basic psychotherapy will be reviewed. Experiential sessions will demonstrate established theories.

Prerequisite: PSYC 270

PSYC 460 Human Behavior in Cross-Cultural Perspective 3 cr

Examines similarities and differences in human behavior across cultural contexts. Includes study of socialization practices, interpersonal behavior patterns, personality variables and cognitive processes.

Prerequisite: 200-level PSYC or SOCI course or completion of Tier II Self & Society domain

PSYC 470 Teaching Assistant in Psychology 1 to 3 cr

Provides the opportunity for students to assist a faculty member in the preparation and implementation of a psychology course. Particular responsibilities may include providing support with class activities and assisting students enrolled in the course. Amount of credit will be determined by the faculty supervisor in consultation with the student. The course is graded pass/fail. Enrollment requires permission of instructor.

Prerequisite: Instructor approval

PSYC 495 Special Topics in Psychology 3 cr

Explores one or more special topics in psychology. Topic will be specified when the course is offered.

Prerequisite: Junior/senior status and completion of Tier II Self & Society domain

PSYC 540 Psychology Internship 3 to 15 cr

Provides opportunities in a variety of public agencies and private organizations to gain practical experience and to develop skills in applying psychological theories, principles, methods and techniques to the management of problems of human development, thought, adjustment and behavior. Enrollment requires individual application and permission of the department.

Prerequisite: Junior/senior status, department approval

PSYC 550 Senior Thesis 3 cr

Requires completion of a formal thesis on a significant topic in psychology. Intended for senior psychology majors, a literature review and proposal, along with approval of two members of the psychology faculty, is required prior to enrollment in the thesis course.

Prerequisite: Senior PSYC major, department approval

PSYC 552 NECC: Advanced Learning 3 cr

Provides an overview of modern behavior analytic concepts and terminology. Beginning with an examination of the history and assumptions of modern behaviorism, students will learn the competencies of behavior analysis in relation to working with children with special needs. Requires acceptance and enrollment in MCLA-NECC cooperative program.

Prerequisite: Department approval

PSYC 553 NECC: Functional Analysis and Treatment of Behavior Disorders 3 cr

Covers the goals and strategies of behavioral assessment. Students will learn indirect, descriptive and experimental assessments. All students will perform a descriptive functional analysis and an analog functional analysis. Required acceptance and enrollment in MCLA-NECC cooperative program.

Prerequisite: Department approval

PSYC 554 NECC: Systematic Inquiry in Applied Research 3 cr

Students will read and discuss recently published articles in the field of Applied Behavior Analysis. Class sections will focus on student presentations and discussion of articles selected by the instructor. The goal is to further student knowledge and inquiry in applications of empirical research in applied behavior analysis. Requires acceptance and enrollment in MCLA-NECC cooperative program.

Prerequisite: Department approval

PSYC 555 NECC: Seminar and Practica in Clinical Practice 9 cr

Involves working with special needs children under the mentorship of a faculty advisor. Students complete readings and research related to their classroom experiences and write a paper on a topic chosen by the student and approved by the instructor. Each student is assigned teaching responsibilities under the supervision of a faculty mentor. Students participate in a weekly seminar designed to raise issues and discuss topics relevant to the practicum experience and assigned readings.

Prerequisite: Department approval, requires acceptance and enrollment in MCLA-NECC Cooperative Program