

Psychology

Contact Information

Website: www.uis.edu/psychology/

Email: psy@uis.edu

Office Phone: (217) 206-6696

Office Location: UHB 3144

- Clinical/Counseling Psychology Concentration
- Developmental Psychology Concentration
- Educational Psychology Concentration
- Experimental Psychology Concentration
- Individualized Concentration
- Psychology Minor

Career Development

The Psychology Department emphasizes career development activities designed to enhance students' graduate school and employment opportunities. Students are encouraged to participate in internships that develop important skills through practical field experience.

Internship placements have included mental health centers, community service organizations, schools, child development centers, and research positions at a local medical school. Psychology Department faculty are active scholars who are committed to engaging students in research. Students are encouraged to be research assistants on faculty projects and also conduct their own studies. Our students routinely present their work at regional and national conferences such as the Midwestern Psychological Association and American Psychological Association. The department also offers career development opportunities like mock interviews and workshops for getting into graduate school to support students' career goals and aspirations.

Departmental Goals and Objectives

The Psychology Department's curriculum is designed to provide students with an understanding of the complexity of human behavior based on scientific theories and research. Students will be exposed to a variety of specialty areas in psychology that will develop knowledge and skills appropriate for graduate study in psychology and pre-professional programs (e.g., pre-law, pre-medicine) as well as many entry-level positions in business, health and mental health care, state government, and education. The curriculum includes five concentrations that help students focus relevant course work on specific educational and career goals. UIS graduates have been accepted into a variety of graduate programs that include clinical/counseling psychology, school psychology, neuropsychology, and medical and law school. Graduates are also employed in social service positions as mental health technicians and family case managers, in managerial positions in business and human resources, at Memorial Health System, and the State of Illinois.

The Bachelor's Degree

The Psychology Department offers five concentrations.

- Clinical/Counseling Psychology Concentration
- Developmental Psychology Concentration
- Educational Psychology Concentration

- Experimental Psychology Concentration
- Individualized Concentration

Advising

All psychology majors and minors should consult with the department academic advisor before registering for courses. The academic advisor helps students with course scheduling, petitions, and appeals. Psychology faculty members can help with graduate school advising, career counseling, and internship and research opportunities.

Assessment of Learning within the Discipline

All psychology majors are required to complete, at program entry and exit, an assessment exam designed to evaluate scientific critical thinking skills, as well as a broad range of content knowledge and skill application within the discipline. PSY 301 is a non-credit course used to provide students with information about the Psychology Department and major at UIS and track assessment exam completion at entry. Students must register for PSY 301 during their first semester of enrollment as psychology majors. Students who do not complete the entrance assessment will not be allowed to register for PSY 471 until the assessment exam has been completed. Students will complete the assessment exam a second time as part of the required, credit-bearing, capstone course PSY 471. Exit assessment exam scores are used for Psychology Department curriculum review and planning, and do not impact progress toward graduation.

Degree Requirements

All psychology majors and minors must successfully complete PSY 101 (or its equivalent) with a grade of C or better (grades of C- or lower will not be accepted). This course should be completed prior to taking other psychology courses. Students who achieve scores of 4 and above on the Advanced Placement Psychology Examination will receive advanced placement credit for PSY 101. Students who achieve a score of 50 or higher on the Introductory Psychology CLEP test will receive CLEP credit for PSY 101.

In addition to PSY 101, all psychology majors are required to take a minimum of 36 hours in psychology. Eight of these hours must be PSY 302 (or its equivalent) and PSY 471. It is strongly recommended that PSY 302 be taken during the first semester and that PSY 471 be taken during the final semester. The additional 28 hours will vary depending on the concentration students select. All psychology majors must declare their concentration by completing a Change of Curriculum form and submitting it to Records and Registration. Only two courses taken to complete the major can be cross-listed with other departments.

Ethical Conduct

The Psychology Department adheres to the UIS Academic Integrity Policy.

Grading Policy

Psychology majors and minors must earn a grade of C or better in all psychology courses to use them for completion of degree requirements (grades of C- or lower will not be accepted).

Program Learning Outcomes

The UIS Psychology Department follows the American Psychological Association's guidelines for the Undergraduate Psychology Major suggested learning goals and outcomes.

Goal 1 - Content Knowledge and Applications.

Goal 2 - Scientific Inquiry and Critical Thinking.

Goal 3 - Values in Psychological Science.

Goal 4 - Communication, Psychological Literacy, and Technology Skills.

Goal 5 - Personal and Professional Development.

Transfer Policy

Students must take at least 16 hours of psychology credit from UIS. Courses taken from another institution may be transferred if a student has earned a grade of C or better (grades of C- or lower will not be accepted) and the courses have been completed within the past six years. This applies to any upper division (300-400 level) psychology courses. The following lower division (100-200 level) courses that are equivalent to Abnormal Psychology, Lifespan Development, or Psychology of Addiction may also be transferred to reduce the total number of credit hours required for the psychology major. An introductory psychology course may be transferred to fulfill the foundation course requirement for the major, but this course will not reduce the 36 hours required for the major.

Minors

- Psychology Minor

Online

Students admitted into the online Psychology B.A. program are required to complete the Individualized Concentration. The Individualized Concentration is intended to give students the greatest flexibility in obtaining a general background in psychology.

- Individualized Concentration