DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

Promoting Healthy Minds and Society through Psychological Science

The Psychology Department discovers the fundamental principles underlying human behavior and how one can change behavior in ways that enhance our lives and society. Our undergraduate and graduate instructional programs train science-minded students to enter the workforce, and to create new leadership for a better world.

Education

Undergraduate Program

Psychology is among the top departments in undergraduate teaching at the UW. In 2015-2016, the Department had nearly 11,990 course enrollments and continues to be the leading department offering faculty-supervised undergraduate research. Our students also gain hands-on experience via faculty-supervised undergraduate teaching opportunities and numerous community-based volunteer and internship positions. Well over 1,000 undergraduates participated in research, peer teaching, and community-based field work. The diversity of interests and backgrounds of our students and the percentage of underrepresented minority students in our major exceeds that of the University as a whole.

The Department offers both Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts degrees, as well as a range of general education courses. The B.S. program—which prepares students for doctoral programs in psychology and careers in teaching, research, or clinical practice—emphasizes laboratory research and statistics. The B.A. program provides a more general background in psychology and prepares students for a wide range of graduate studies and a diversity of career pathways. Our courses are also popular with non-majors. In 2015-2016, 3,377 students were enrolled in Psychology 101 (Introduction to Psychology), making it the most popular course on campus. We continue to increase non-major course offerings to provide greater opportunities for all UW students to study psychology.

Special programs and services for undergraduates include our departmental Honors Program, Writing Center, Statistics and Methods Lab, Undergraduate Study Center, and advising support in the areas of academic planning, career, and graduate school preparation.

Graduate Program

The department’s Clinical Psychology Graduate Training Program has been ranked in the top ten programs in the nation for the past 10 years, according to the U.S. News and World Report. Overall, our Graduate Training Program ranks 14th in the nation (U.S. News and World Report, March 2016).

Our graduate program offers not only traditional doctoral education and research training in the subfields of animal behavior, behavioral neuroscience, clinical psychology, cognition/perception, developmental, quantitative, and social/personality psychology, but strong emphasis is placed on interdisciplinary approaches to most effectively address society’s most pressing challenges. A quantitative minor and a diversity science specialization are also available to students. Our Ph.D. graduates go on to prestigious and highly competitive postdoctoral positions in academia and industry, clinical internships, or faculty positions.

STUDENTS (Spring 2016)

937 Undergraduate majors
101 Graduate students
50 Clinical; 51 Non-Clinical

DEGREES AWARDED (2015-2016)

475 Bachelor degrees
7 Master of Science degrees
18 PhD degrees

UNDERGRADUATE HONORS (2015-2016)

20 Undergraduates presented their honors research at a poster session
16 Mary Gates Research Scholars
6 Ronald E. McNair Scholars
2 Psychology Honors Research Awards
1 Gonfalonier banner carrier for College of Arts & Sciences Natural Sciences Division at Commencement Ceremony
3 Guthrie Prize Winners

GRADUATE STUDENT HONORS (2015-2016)

101 journal articles published
5 book chapters published
96 presented posters
7 presented papers
8 conference talks
27 professional honors or awards
28 year-long fellowships
28 research grants received
Research

The strong success of our research programs places Psychology Department research among the top three departments in the College of Arts and Sciences in terms of grant and contract awards (over $10 million.) Current research initiatives seek to:

Promote social equality by understanding how prejudice and bias develop and can be changed; discovering new approaches that reveal implicit bias, inequalities, disparities; and solving social justice issues;

Optimize human potential by increasing one's resilience: in young children and adults; to address mental health disparities; in vulnerable conditions; and with new and innovative intervention; and

Understanding behavior through brain science to enhance communication; make better decisions; and improve learning and emotional stability.

Community Relations

The Psychology Department is committed to shortening the gap between our research discoveries and their impact on society. Our evidence-based research has created innovative therapies that help annually many thousands of individuals, couples, and families. We share our work through our annual Allen L. Edwards Public Lecture Series, which highlights our research initiatives through lectures from our faculty as well as related experts from around the world. The lectures are free to the public and can be viewed online at UWTV.org.

We also partner with the community to translate research findings into practices that improve the social, emotional, and cognitive development of children, individuals, and communities. We do this by partnering on PTSD therapies with the VA and local refugee communities; collaborating with local social services organizations to provide services (i.e. Sound Mental Health); providing mindfulness and parenting workshops at our Center for Child and Family Well-being; and offering special public lectures in collaboration with the Evergreen School.

The Department further serves individuals in the local community through our Psychological Services and Training Center, Center for Child and Family Well-being, Behavioral Research and Therapy Clinic, Center for Anxiety & Traumatic Stress, Center for the Science of Social Connection, and the LEARN Clinic. Psychology faculty members also provide targeted workshops in schools, companies, and community organizations. They participate in K-12 education via the UW in the High School program, and local science fairs. Faculty also provide expert witness services in the legal system.