

PSYCHOLOGY

The Department of Psychology at West Chester University offers you educational opportunities in the scientific study of principles that govern the behavior and cognitive processes of humans and other animals, and the application of these principles for improving the well-being of both.

Our curriculum provides diverse educational opportunities, including psychological theory, research in laboratory and natural settings, and the ethical use of behavioral science principles in applied contexts. Our programs are designed to help you understand behavior in an increasingly complex and diverse society.

Career Opportunities

The bachelor of arts program in psychology is designed to prepare you simultaneously for advanced study as well as employment in psychology and psychology-related fields. Our curriculum not only provides you with a strong foundation in the essential areas of psychology, but it also affords you the flexibility to choose areas within psychology to explore at a deeper level. Embedded within our curriculum is a commitment to the development of critical thinking, technological, writing, and oral communication skills. Specifically, the bachelor's degree prepares you for graduate work in areas that focus on therapy, business and industry, college teaching, and research.

Graduates of the department have gained employment in several capacities. Examples of places of employment in the human services areas include Elwyn Institute, Devereux Foundation, and Moss Rehabilitation Hospital. Examples of employment related to research include the National Institutes of Health, Chester County Health Department, Temple University, and Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania. Finally, examples of employment in industry include Genesis Health Ventures, QVC, Lockheed Martin, Astra-Zeneca, and Novartis.

Graduates also have earned or are pursuing graduate degrees in psychology at a number of excellent universities.

Undergraduate Degrees

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. This general degree provides a liberal arts education that prepares you for postgraduate study in psychology and other fields, or for entry into the workforce. You should consult with your adviser regarding the best preparation for your specific career goals.

Minor

If you are a student in another major, you may, after consulting with a psychology faculty adviser, design a minor in psychology that is best suited to your own special interests and needs.

Special Study Opportunities

You will be given the opportunity to conduct special research projects in collaboration with faculty or independently under faculty supervision. You also may participate in a field experience placement at an educational or mental health facility under the joint direction of a faculty member and the staff psychologist of the field institution.

Typical Courses

Abnormal Psychology
Adult Development
Animal Behavior
Biopsychology
Cognitive Psychology
Industrial/Organizational Psychology
Infant, Child, and Adolescent Development
Personality
Psychology of Learning
Research Methods in Psychology
Social Psychology
Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences

The department also offers seminars each semester on special topics in the behavioral sciences that are not covered under existing, regularly scheduled courses. Recent seminars have dealt with cross-cultural psychology, forensic psychology and psychology at work.

Related Student Activities

Animal Behavior Club
Peer Mentor Program
Psi Chi (psychology honor society)
Psychology Club
Student Life Committee

Learn More

UNDERGRADUATE FACT SHEET

Facilities

The Department of Psychology building is equipped with faculty and administrative offices, human behavior observation rooms, conference and seminar rooms, a multimedia computer laboratory, and an animal behavior and behavioral neuroscience laboratory. You also will have access to the University's academic computing center with more than 300 PC's, located across the street in Anderson Hall.

Advanced Degrees

Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology

Master of Arts in General Psychology

Master of Arts in Industrial/Organizational Psychology

Post-Master's Letter of Completion in Clinical Mental Health in Preparation for Counseling Licensure

Faculty

The department faculty consists of approximately 21 permanent professionals, each of whom holds a doctoral degree. The faculty are committed to providing you with a balanced view of the discipline and, in keeping with the University's expanded definition of high-quality teaching, all faculty are active in research and scholarship. You can obtain a complete listing of the department faculty and their professional achievements and interests from the department website: <http://www.wcupa.edu/psych/>.

For More Information

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Undergraduate Catalog: http://www.wcupa.edu/_information/official.documents/undergrad.catalog/

About West Chester University

A comprehensive, public institution, West Chester University offers high-quality undergraduate and graduate degree programs in more than 100 subject areas, as well as certification and certificate programs. As one of the largest members of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, West Chester offers a full and rewarding educational experience as well as reasonable tuition.

With a rich heritage dating back to the 19th century, West Chester University was founded in 1871 as West Chester Normal School for the purpose of training teachers for the Commonwealth's newly established public schools. In 1960, West Chester State Teachers College expanded its programs to include liberal arts and graduate degrees and, as a result, dropped "Teachers" from its name. In 1983, West Chester State College became one of the 14 institutions in the State System of Higher Education. Along with its university status, the school acquired a new system of governance and the opportunity to expand its degree programs.

Today, more than 15,400 graduate and undergraduate students, along with 1,500 faculty and staff, study and work on the 406-acre campus. Situated in the Borough of West Chester, the campus is a picturesque mix of Gothic, Victorian, and modern architecture with pleasant, tree-shaded walks.

Strategically located at the center of the mid-Atlantic corridor between New York City and Washington, D.C., West Chester is just 25 miles west of Philadelphia and 17 miles north of Wilmington.

Information on Admission

Office of Admissions

Emil H. Messikomer Hall, 100 West Rosedale Ave.

West Chester University, West Chester, PA 19383

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