

Stern College for Women

Psychology Major

I. Mission Statement

The core requirements of the psychology major are designed to provide a broad foundation across the spectrum of subject areas in psychology. Additional required courses selected from Learning, Psychobiology, and Emotion (Group 1) and Abnormal Psychology, Clinical Psychology, and Tests and Measurements (Group 2) provide greater depth in the two major subdivisions of psychology. Students select from a range of elective courses to gain greater expertise in areas that will best prepare them for graduate school programs in psychology or related career options, for example, the health related fields of Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Speech Therapy, or Medical School. A common thread among the various courses is an emphasis on the scientific foundation and empirical basis of psychological principles and their application to understanding the individual, her development, and her behavior in a social context. Writing skills are highlighted in much of the coursework, and students are encouraged to expand their learning outside of the classroom by participating in research and/or clinical experiences with, or sponsored by psychology faculty.

II. Goals & Objectives

1. Psychology majors will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the basic content and central concepts in the major areas of Psychology
 - a. A student will be able to describe or define the critical psychosocial elements in each stage of development from infancy to older adulthood.
 - b. A student will be able to identify, explain, or describe specific psychological and behavioral functioning in terms of the underlying neurological structures and/or processes
 - c. A student will be able to define or describe the critical components of attention and memory and explain how they interact in normal and impaired cognitive functioning
 - d. A student will be able to define or describe the different theories of personality and show how these theories explain normal and abnormal behavior
2. Psychology majors will demonstrate knowledge of research methodology and its application to the science of psychology
 - a. A student will be able to distinguish different modes of psychological inquiry including empirical (experimental, quasi experimental), and non-experimental

approaches and compare with respect to their respective strengths and weaknesses.

- b. A student will be able to design or conduct a research study that includes a rationale for the experimental hypothesis based on empirical data, experimental design, and may include data analysis, and interpretation of results
- c. A student will be able to read, summarize, and evaluate a research article with respect to the logic of the introduction leading up to the hypothesis of the study, and with respect to its methodology, statistical analysis and conclusions.
- d. A student will be able to write a research or review paper in APA format that provides an integrated synthesis of relevant information pertaining to a specific research question or theoretical topic.