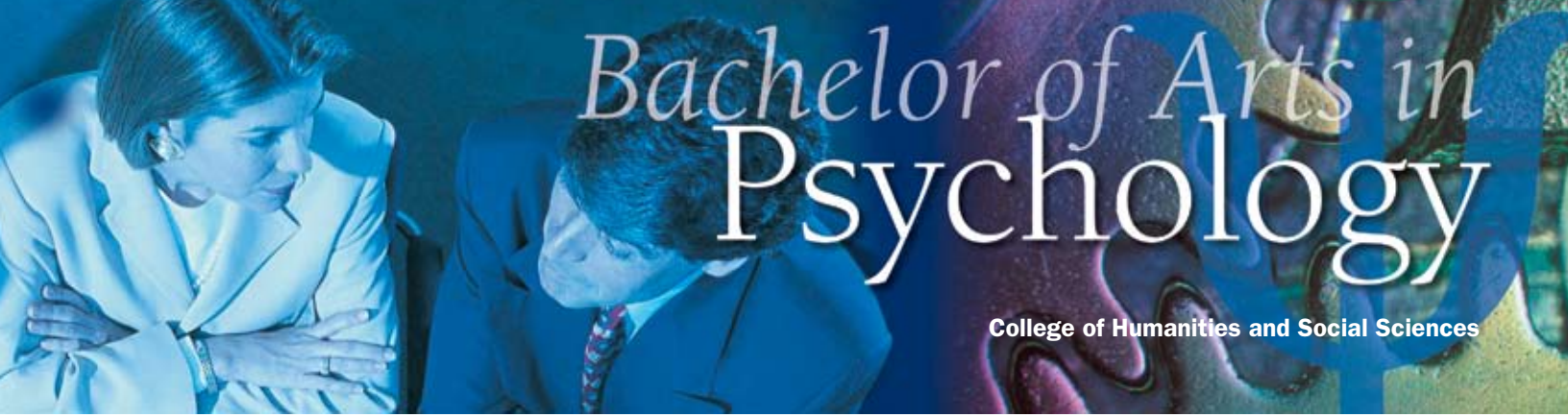

Why should I major in psychology at Cal State Fullerton?

A degree in psychology opens a fulfilling career path for individuals who want to learn more about human behavior and interaction. Psychology can be one of the most personally rewarding fields of study because it focuses on how we deal with one another and our environment. A psychology degree provides practical learning through courses concerned with improving our quality of life. Psychologists believe understanding human behavior is essential in our personal and professional fulfillment.

At Cal State Fullerton, a degree in psychology provides students with rigorous training in the analysis of human behavior from both theoretical and applied perspectives. In addition, the major offers:

Outstanding Faculty - The Department of Psychology faculty is composed of 21 full-time professors possessing doctorates in psychology from a variety of outstanding universities throughout the nation. Our faculty, many of whom are nationally recognized, provide outstanding instruction in psychology and often actively involve students in their research programs.

Flexible Scheduling - Students will find that it is possible to take courses during both day and evening hours to complete their major. Our faculty members are dedicated to assisting students with completing their program in psychology while also balancing career or family responsibilities.

Strong Support Services - The Department of Psychology has a long history of providing strong support to its students. This support includes The Department of Psychology Student Handbook; the Career Opportunities for Psychology Majors handbook; an Office of Undergraduate Advisement, staffed by faculty members and psychology graduate students; a Peer-Mentoring Program that offers free student tutorial services and outreach to new students; and an annual Career Day in Psychology.

What is a psychology degree?

Psychology majors are interested in understanding human behavior. The major provides a thorough background in critical thinking, communication and writing skills, and computer applications that are prized by employers.

CAL STATE FULLERTON

California State University, Fullerton
P.O. Box 6848, Fullerton, CA 92834-6848
The California State University

What are the career opportunities?

The degree in psychology provides a basis for careers in a variety of psychology-related occupations, including mental health agencies, hospitals, schools, business and public organizations. The major also prepares students for graduate training in fields such as clinical psychology; marriage and family therapy; social work; teaching; law; forensic psychology; school psychology; business and management; and public administration.

What are the program requirements?

All psychology majors complete a total of 41 units, including 6 units of psychology electives.

Lower Division (9 units)

Psychology 101 Introductory Psychology (3), *Psychology 201* Elementary Statistics (3), *Psychology 202* Research Methods in Psychology (3)

Upper Division (32 units)

Choose two of the following five lecture courses (6 units):

Psychology 302 Learning and Memory (3), *Psychology 303* Sensation and Perception (3), *Psychology 304* Comparative Animal Behavior (3), *Psychology 305* Cognitive Psychology (3), *Psychology 306* Biopsychology (3)

Choose one of the following laboratory courses (2 units):

Psychology 302L Lab in Learning and Memory (2), *Psychology 303L* Lab in Sensation and Perception (2), *Psychology 304L* Lab in Comparative Animal Behavior (2), *Psychology 305L* Lab in Cognitive Psychology (2), *Psychology 306L* Lab in Biopsychology (2)

Choose two of the following four courses (6 units):

Psychology 331 Psychology of Personality (3), *Psychology 341* Abnormal Psychology (3), *Psychology 351* Social Psychology (3), *Psychology 361* Developmental Psychology (3)

Choose one of the following four courses (3 units):

Psychology 311 Educational Psychology (3), *Psychology 317* Legal Psychology (3), *Psychology 362* Psychology of Aging (3), *Psychology 391* Industrial/Organizational Psychology (3)

Take each of the following three courses (9 units):

Psychology 300 Computer Applications in Psychology (3), *Psychology 461* Psychological Testing (3), *Psychology 495* Field Placement in Psychology (3)

Elective Courses (6 units)

With more than 25 psychology elective courses to choose from, students can focus their training in psychology at Cal State Fullerton to fit their interests. Three units of electives must be 400-level.

Second Language Graduation Requirement

Students in the Bachelor of Arts in American Studies program who enter Cal State Fullerton as first-time freshmen in fall 2006, or who enter a community college in fall 2006 with intent to transfer to Cal State Fullerton, will be required to show proficiency in a second language as a condition of graduation

with a bachelor's degree. (See "Graduation Requirements for the Bachelor's Degree" in the 2005-2007 University Catalog.)

What are special requirements in the major?

Each course counted toward the major must be completed with a grade of C or higher. No more than a total of three units of either Directed Empirical Research or Directed Library Research (Psychology 498 or 499) may be applied toward the major. No more than three units of field placement (Psychology 495) may be applied toward the major. A minimum of 21 units counted toward the psychology major must have been completed at CSUF. Psychology 496 (Student-to-Student Tutorial) may not be counted toward the major.

What units may I transfer from a community college?

A maximum of nine lower-division units of psychology courses may be applied toward the 41 units required for the psychology major. If these nine units were taken at a school other than CSUF (be that a community college or another four-year school) and are to be accepted as counting toward the psychology major or minor at Cal State Fullerton, the three courses must fit the CSUF catalog description requirements for Psychology 101, 201 and 202. Consult your college's articulation document and the university catalog for specifics, or visit the following website for the current articulation agreements: http://assist.org.

What are the requirements for the minor?

Students must complete 21 units in psychology to obtain a minor. Required courses include six units of lower-division and 15 units of upper-division psychology courses. Nine of these 21 units are chosen by the student as electives to meet specific interests. Please see the University Catalog for a complete description of the minor.

Do you offer a teaching credential program?

A major in psychology provides excellent undergraduate preparation for a career in teaching. The California State University System has traditionally trained many of our state's teachers. Plan on visiting the Center for Careers in Teaching, University Hall 178 (714) 278-7130, as soon as possible for guidance in planning your courses.

You might also want to know that only students with a GPA in the upper half of their major will be accepted into the credentialing program. For psychology majors at CSUF, that currently means maintaining a GPA at or above 2.73.

What special features and programs are available?

The Psychology Department offers a variety of internships in clinical or applied settings, such as health psychology, probation, clinical contexts, on-campus lab research, gerontology, management, marketing research, child or adolescent development, or in various service agencies. The Department's faculty has established a number of research centers within the department that serve as the basis for ongoing research projects. Many undergraduate students majoring in psychology work on research sponsored by these centers, allowing students to gain valuable training, experience and even publication credit.

The centers currently housed within Department of Psychology include the Decision Research Center, Developmental Research Center and Twin Studies Center. Please refer to the Research Centers" section in the University Catalog for a complete description of each.

What student activities are available?

Student involvement in the Department of Psychology is encouraged. When you declare a major or minor in psychology, you are automatically a member of the Psychology Department Student Association. This organization holds social events and functions for students and faculty, raises funds for group activities, and sponsors Psychology Career Day, held in April.

In addition, you will find two other psychology student organizations that require applications to join: The Cal State Fullerton Chapter of the American Psychological Society Student Caucus and Psi Chi, the national honor society in psychology. Application forms for both organizations are at the back of the Department of Psychology Student Handbook.

Another way to get involved is to join the group of students who serve as peer mentors to other psychology students. The psychology peer mentors have their own office, located in Humanities 515, or you can contact them at (714) 278-2582, or at http://psych.fullerton.edu/mentors. The peer mentors provide personal, academic and career services to interested high school students and Cal State Fullerton undergraduates majoring or minoring in psycology.

Who advises me?

Students with a major or minor in psychology may obtain academic advisement at the Richard McFarland Undergraduate Advisement Office, Humanities 507. Appointments are scheduled by signing up on a sheet posted outside the door of Humanities 507, or by calling (714) 278-3102.

How can I learn more?

For more information, visit the Department's website at http://psych.fullerton.edu for an introduction to faculty members and course descriptions. The Department office is located in Humanities 830M, (714) 278-3514. You can also write to us at: Department of Psychology, California State University, Fullerton, P.O. Box 6846, Fullerton, CA 92834-6846.