

PSYCHOLOGY

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www.mcla.edu/psyc/ (<http://www.mcla.edu/psyc/>)

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Psychology Major

The Department of Psychology offers a four-year program leading to a Bachelor of Arts in psychology. Students study principles of human growth and development and the processes of learning, cognition and emotion. Particular attention is given to knowledge related to personality development, maladaptive behavior, social diversity and group interactions, and the biological bases of behavior. The major provides the foundation for careers in human services and counseling, in business and industry, and in working with children, adolescents and adults in schools or clinical settings. The major program also prepares students for graduate study in all areas of psychology, social work, business, education, and other related professions.

Students graduating with a major in Psychology will be able to:

- Develop knowledge base of content domains, themes, and applications of psychology
- Demonstrate competence in interpreting, designing, and conducting psychological research
- Demonstrate competence in applying ethical standards to evaluation of psychological science and to multiple social issues
- Communicate proficiently for a variety of purposes, both orally and in writing
- Develop career goals through application of psychological knowledge and refinement of self-regulation and teamwork capacity

Seminars, Research and Topics Courses, Senior Thesis and Internships

Seminars offered at the 200, 300 and 400 levels allow students interested in advanced study or in pursuing graduate work in psychology or related fields to identify aspects of contemporary psychology of sufficient personal interest to support directed or independent scholarly work. Topic courses are offered to address special areas of psychology not included in the general curriculum. Students discovering such interests are encouraged to pursue them by enrolling in PSYC 397 Research Seminar, PSYC 391 Research Assistant in Psychology, and PSYC 496 Research in Psychology and/or PSYC 500 Independent Study. During the senior year, and with departmental approval, a student may then register for PSYC 550 Senior Thesis. Students are also encouraged to seek out an internship in a wide variety of mental health and social services placements during their junior or senior year.

Psychology Programs

- Behavior Analysis Minor (For Non-Psychology Majors) (<https://catalog.mcla.edu/undergraduate/academic-programs-study/psychology/behavior-analysis-minor/>)
- Psychology - Behavior Analysis Concentration, B.A. (<https://catalog.mcla.edu/undergraduate/academic-programs-study/psychology/psychology-behavior-analysis-concentration-ba/>)
- Psychology Minor (<https://catalog.mcla.edu/undergraduate/academic-programs-study/psychology/psychology-minor/>)

- Psychology, B.A. (<https://catalog.mcla.edu/undergraduate/academic-programs-study/psychology/psychology-ba/>)

Psychology Courses

- PSYC 100 Introduction to Psychology** 3 cr
Introduces students to the science of psychology, presenting the basic principles of mental processes and behavior and the process of empirical investigation.
Attributes: Core Self & Society (CSS)
- PSYC 101 Introductory Seminar in Psychology** 1 cr
Introduces new psychology majors to the scientific basis of psychology through interactions with faculty, student mentors, and community professionals. Explores unique opportunities within the major and the college (research, internships, study away/abroad). Students will create a psychology major portfolio and will begin to document their learning and engagement with the discipline. Required for all MCLA psychology majors.
Prerequisite: PSYC Major
- PSYC 208 Applied Developmental Psychology** 3 cr
Examines developmental theory and research from an applied perspective. Physical, cognitive, language, social and emotional development from early childhood through adolescence will be covered with an emphasis on application. (Students cannot receive credit for both PSYC 208 and PSYC 210).
Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or any Self and Society course
Attributes: Child & Family Studies Minor (C&FS)
- PSYC 208H Honors: Applied Developmental Psychology** 3 cr
Examines developmental theory and research from an applied perspective. Physical, cognitive, language, social and emotional development from early childhood through adolescence will be covered with an emphasis on application.
Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or any Self and Society course,
Attributes: Honors Program (HONR)
- PSYC 210 Development Across the Lifespan** 3 cr
Introduces core concepts of developmental psychology across the lifespan, from prenatal influences on development to how we grapple with death. Emphasis is placed on theory relating to the developmental aspects of cognition, language, personality, emotions, and social relationships. (Students cannot receive credit for both PSYC 210 and PSYC 208).
Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or any Self and Society course
- PSYC 230 Social Psychology** 3 cr
Examines human social behavior emphasizing environmental and situational factors. Theoretical and applied issues are considered within selected topics. (Psychology majors cannot receive core Self & Society credit for PSYC 230).
Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or any Self and Society course
Attributes: Core Self & Society (CSS), Leadership Minor (LDRS)
- PSYC 270 Abnormal Psychology** 3 cr
Examines theoretical perspectives of maladaptive behavior and the concepts of stress, coping, normality and abnormality. Emphasis on assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of psychological disorders of childhood, adolescence and adulthood.
Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or any Self & Society course

<p>PSYC 290 Psychological Research and Statistics I 4 cr</p> <p>Introduces the nature of empirical investigation in psychology and the role of data analysis in psychological research. Students learn the value of research methodology as applied to the field of psychology with a focus on concepts and interpretation of basic research design and statistical analysis. A weekly lab introduces data analysis software applications.</p> <p>Prerequisite: PSYC 100 and Tier I Quantitative Reasoning Corequisite: PSYC 290L</p>	<p>PSYC 335 Organizational Psychology 3 cr</p> <p>Emphasizes the application of psychological theory and techniques to the management of behavior in structured organizations. Focuses on the concepts of motivation, leadership, and interpersonal and group process.</p> <p>Prerequisite: 200 level PSYC or SOCI or BADM course or completion of Tier II Self & Society domain Attributes: Leadership Minor (LDRS)</p>
<p>PSYC 291 Psychological Research and Statistics II 4 cr</p> <p>A continuation of PSYC 290, extending the nature of empirical investigation in psychology to specific research designs and statistical analyses. The course focuses on concepts, interpretation and applications of methodology and data analysis used by psychologists, including topics of ethics and APA style. Mastery of course material will be demonstrated by a completed research paper; weekly lab extends students' knowledge of statistical analysis software applications.</p> <p>Prerequisite: Grade of C or better in PSYC 290 Corequisite: PSYC 291L</p>	<p>PSYC 340 Psychology of Children with Special Needs 3 cr</p> <p>Examines the special needs of children, the methods used to determine these needs, and the procedures used to meet these needs.</p> <p>Prerequisite: PSYC 208 or PSYC 210 Attributes: Child & Family Studies Minor (C&FS)</p>
<p>PSYC 301 Psychology Professional Seminar 1 cr</p> <p>Provides junior and senior psychology majors with an opportunity to reflect on their past work in the major. Explores opportunities and interests in preparation for careers and graduate study in the field. Students will work with the instructor and other professionals to develop and implement strategies for success after MCLA. Required for all MCLA psychology majors.</p> <p>Prerequisite: PSYC 101, junior status, PSYC Major</p>	<p>PSYC 350 Theories of Personality 3 cr</p> <p>Examines classical and contemporary approaches to personality theory. Emphasizes application and empirical support for theoretical positions.</p> <p>Prerequisite: PSYC 270 and junior status</p>
<p>PSYC 310 Cognitive Psychology 3 cr</p> <p>Studies knowing, learning, thinking and language. Topics include theories of cognition, language, attention, problem solving, memory, consciousness and creative thinking.</p> <p>Prerequisite: PSYC 291</p>	<p>PSYC 355 Human Sexuality 3 cr</p> <p>Examines the field of human sexuality from psychological, biological and sociological perspectives. In covering a wide range of contemporary topics, emphasis is on empirical, verifiable scientific information.</p> <p>Prerequisite: 200 level PSYC or SOCI course or completion of Tier II Self & Society domain Attributes: Child & Family Studies Minor (C&FS), Women Gender Sexuality Studies (WMST)</p>
<p>PSYC 316 Behavior Analysis 3 cr</p> <p>Introduces the field of behavior analysis, examining behavior analytic history, philosophy, concepts and principles. Techniques and strategies inside and outside the laboratory will be discussed in detail. Students learn the basics of data-based approaches to behavior treatment. Concepts will be illustrated during discussion of a wide variety of behavior problems associated with developmental disabilities, substance abuse, physical fitness and academic delays.</p> <p>Prerequisite: PSYC 100</p>	<p>PSYC 356 Psychology of Gender 3 cr</p> <p>Focuses on the similarities and differences between males and females, masculinity and femininity. Explores the origins and maintenance of gender stereotypes and their consequences.</p> <p>Prerequisite: 200 level PSYC or SOCI course or completion of Tier II Self & Society domain Attributes: Child & Family Studies Minor (C&FS), Women Gender Sexuality Studies (WMST)</p>
<p>PSYC 331 Biological Psychology 3 cr</p> <p>Examines the relationships between brain function and behavior using concepts from psychology and biology. Topics include motivation and emotion, learning and memory, sensory systems and perception, language disabilities and mental disorders.</p> <p>Prerequisite: PSYC 291</p>	<p>PSYC 357 Psychology of Women 3 cr</p> <p>Explores psychological and sociocultural issues concerning women in our society. Women's experiences will be covered in areas that are stereotypically thought of as male-oriented as well as those more exclusive to females.</p> <p>Prerequisite: 200 level PSYC or SOCI course or completion of Tier II Self & Society domain Attributes: Women Gender Sexuality Studies (WMST)</p>
<p>PSYC 332 Drugs and Human Behavior 3 cr</p> <p>Examines the use and abuse of drugs from biological, psychological and cultural points of view. Addresses contemporary efforts in education, prevention and treatment of abuse.</p> <p>Prerequisite: One 200-level PSYC course or completion of Self and Society domain</p>	<p>PSYC 360 Qualitative and Mixed-Methods Research 4 cr</p> <p>Introduces approaches to qualitative and mixed-methods forms of inquiry utilized in psychological research, such as Phenomenological, Grounded Theory, and narrative research approaches. Topics may include verbal reports, naturalistic observation, interview, and case analysis.</p> <p>Prerequisite: PSYC 291 Corequisite: PSYC 360L Repeatable: Maximum of 8 credits</p>
	<p>PSYC 376 Sport Psychology 3 cr</p> <p>Introduces students to the current research and theoretical perspectives related to various psychological and psychosocial components of exercise, sport participation and competition. Personality, motivation, social facilitation, anxiety, aggression and other factors that influence individuals and teams/groups are examined.</p> <p>Prerequisite: Completion of Tier II Self & Society domain</p>

<p>PSYC 380 Educational Psychology 3 cr</p> <p>Introduces foundational concepts in classroom teaching, learning, and student motivation and well-being from an educational psychology perspective. Evidence-based instructional approaches for supporting successful learning and development are examined. Students read and critique educational research and develop their own practical classroom applications.</p> <p>Prerequisite: PSYC 208 or PSYC 210</p> <p>Attributes: Child & Family Studies Minor (C&FS)</p>	<p>PSYC 416 Research in Behavior Analysis 4 cr</p> <p>Participate in the design, implementation, analysis and dissemination of empirical research. Students will examine the strategies and rationale underlying within-subject designs through exposure to recently published articles from the behavior analytic literature. The relationship between experimental and applied research will be examined closely. All students will prepare an APA-style manuscript describing their research project.</p> <p>Prerequisite: PSYC 316</p> <p>Corequisite: PSYC 416L</p>
<p>PSYC 386 Adolescent Development 3 cr</p> <p>Examines the cognitive, social, emotional and physical development of the adolescent from a psychological perspective. Psychological and social problems that may arise during adolescence are discussed.</p> <p>Prerequisite: One 200-level PSYC course</p> <p>Attributes: Child & Family Studies Minor (C&FS)</p>	<p>PSYC 440 Counseling Methods in Psychology 3 cr</p> <p>Studies techniques applicable in the helping services and counseling. Theories of counseling and basic psychotherapy will be reviewed. Experiential sessions will demonstrate established theories.</p> <p>Prerequisite: PSYC 270</p>
<p>PSYC 387 Childhood Disorders 3 cr</p> <p>Examines the etiology and clinical characteristics of behavioral disorders in infancy through adolescence, including emotional disturbances, anxiety and conduct disorders, mental retardation and learning disabilities. Emphasis on theoretical perspectives, research, assessment, early intervention and prevention.</p> <p>Prerequisite: PSYC 208 or PSYC 210</p> <p>Attributes: Child & Family Studies Minor (C&FS)</p>	<p>PSYC 470 Teaching Assistant in Psychology 1-3 cr</p> <p>Provides the opportunity for students to assist a faculty member in the preparation and implementation of a psychology course. Particular responsibilities may include providing support with class activities and assisting students enrolled in the course. Amount of credit will be determined by the faculty supervisor in consultation with the student. The course is graded pass/fail. Enrollment requires permission of instructor.</p> <p>Prerequisite: Instructor approval</p> <p>Repeatable: Maximum of 6 credits</p>
<p>PSYC 390 Research Design and Analysis 4 cr</p> <p>Focuses on advanced methodology, data analysis and interpretation in psychological research. A research project is required.</p> <p>Prerequisite: PSYC 291</p> <p>Corequisite: PSYC 390L</p>	<p>PSYC 495 Special Topics in Psychology 3 cr</p> <p>Explores one or more special topics in psychology. Topic will be specified when the course is offered.</p> <p>Prerequisite: Junior/senior status and completion of Tier II Self & Society domain</p> <p>Repeatable: Unlimited Credits</p>
<p>PSYC 391 Research Assistant in Psychology 1-3 cr</p> <p>Provides opportunities for students to assist faculty in conducting empirical research. Particular responsibilities may include data collection, statistical analyses and other activities involved in planning and conducting research in psychology. Amount of credit will be determined by the faculty supervisor in consultation with the student. The course may be repeated up to a maximum of six credits with all grades assigned as pass/fail. Enrollment requires permission of the instructor.</p> <p>Prerequisite: 200-level PSYC course, instructor approval</p> <p>Repeatable: Maximum of 6 credits</p>	<p>PSYC 496 Research in Psychology 3 cr</p> <p>For junior and senior psychology majors who choose to conduct psychological research independently in a specific area. The research will be carried out under the direction of the faculty supervisor and will require a substantive scholarly report of the research. The course may be repeated for credit with the permission of a faculty member. The course is graded pass/fail. Enrollment requires permission of the instructor.</p> <p>Prerequisite: Instructor approval</p> <p>Repeatable: Unlimited Credits</p>
<p>PSYC 397 Research Seminar: 4 cr</p> <p>Applies research design and practice to selected problems. Includes literature review, deriving and empirically testing hypotheses. Requirements involve preparation of laboratory and other research materials, recruitment of participants and collection, analysis, and interpretation of resulting data. Culminates in preparation and submission of a complete report of the research project. Content identified by subtitle. This course is repeatable for a maximum of 8 crs.</p> <p>Prerequisite: Instructor approval</p> <p>Corequisite: PSYC 397L</p> <p>Repeatable: Maximum of 8 credits</p>	<p>PSYC 499 Advanced Seminar in Psychology 3 cr</p> <p>An intensive examination of a selected topic in psychology. Mastery of the seminar material will be assessed by the completion of an APA-style paper.</p> <p>Prerequisite: PSYC 291 and completion of 9 upper-division credits in PSYC</p> <p>Repeatable: Unlimited Credits</p>
<p>PSYC 410 History of Psychology 3 cr</p> <p>Examines the development of psychology as a science, an academic discipline, and a profession. Includes a comparative analysis of major contemporary theories in psychology.</p> <p>Prerequisite: PSYC 291 and completion of 9 upper-division credits in psychology</p>	<p>PSYC 500 Independent Study 1-3 cr</p> <p>Open to juniors and seniors who wish to read in a given area or to study a topic in depth. Written reports and frequent conferences with the advisor are required. Enrollment requires individual application and permission of the department.</p> <p>Prerequisite: Junior/senior status, department approval</p> <p>Repeatable: Maximum of 12 credits</p>

- PSYC 506 NECC: Evidence-Based Teaching** 3 cr
Provides students with a comprehensive review of empirically-supported behavioral teaching procedures for individuals with autism and related disabilities. Topics will focus on teaching skills in a variety of content areas such as language, social, and self-help. Procedures for teaching these include, match-to-sample discrimination training, task analysis, as well as prompting procedures including prompt fading and video modeling.
Prerequisite: Department approval
- PSYC 516 Functional Assessment and Intervention** 3 cr
Receive an intensive overview of behavioral assessment strategies designed to determine the environmental factors that influence behavior problems. Examples from recent literature will be examined in depth with a focus on applications to educational and other settings. All students will conduct three simulated functional assessments and behavior plans.
Prerequisite: PSYC 316
- PSYC 518 Ethics and Professional Issues in Behavior Analysis** 3 cr
Designed to familiarize students with the ethical principles of behavior analysis and the historical contexts in which they developed. We will examine ethics as they apply to research, clinical practice, and the role of the behavior analyst in society.
Prerequisite: PSYC 316
- PSYC 540 Psychology Internship** 3-15 cr
Provides opportunities in a variety of public agencies and private organizations to gain practical experience and to develop skills in applying psychological theories, principles, methods and techniques to the management of problems of human development, thought, adjustment and behavior. Enrollment requires individual application and permission of the department.
Prerequisite: Junior/senior status, department approval
Repeatable: Maximum of 15 credits
- PSYC 550 Senior Thesis** 3 cr
Requires completion of a formal thesis on a significant topic in psychology. Intended for senior psychology majors, a literature review and proposal, along with approval of two members of the psychology faculty, is required prior to enrollment in the thesis course.
Prerequisite: Senior PSYC major, department approval
- PSYC 552 NECC: Principles of Behavior Analysis** 3 cr
Orients students to the concepts, processes, and scientific principles of behavior on which the field of applied behavior analysis was founded. Topics of study will include the history and defining features of applied behavior analysis as well as the role of basic principles in producing socially meaningful behavior socially meaningful behavior change (positive and negative reinforcement, punishment, discriminative control of behavior, and motivating operations).
Prerequisite: Department approval
- PSYC 553 NECC: Behavior Assessment** 3 cr
Provides an introduction to key concepts, methods, and ethical considerations associated with behavioral assessment. Course objectives will include teaching students to distinguish between idiographic and norm-referenced assessment approaches to conduct pertinent behavioral assessments (preference assessments, functional assessments, and skills assessments), and to incorporate assessment outcomes with treatment selection and design in accordance with contemporary best practices.
Prerequisite: Department approval
- PSYC 554 NECC: Methods of Evaluation** 3 cr
Equips students with skills needed to confirm the clinical efficacy of interventions by subjecting them to experimental evaluation using single subject designs. Students will learn to develop valid and reliable systems for measuring behavior, to display data using popular and accessible graphing software, and to assess for orderly changes in behavior through visual inspection and interpretation of graphic data.
Prerequisite: Department approval
- PSYC 555 NECC: Seminar and Practica in Clinical Practice** 9 cr
Involves students working with special needs children under the mentorship of a faculty advisor. Students complete readings and research related to their classroom experiences and write a paper on a topic chosen by the student and approved by the instructor. Each student is assigned teaching responsibilities under the supervision of a faculty mentor. Students participate in a weekly seminar designed to raise issues and discuss topics relevant to the practicum experience and assigned readings.
Prerequisite: Department approval

PSYCHOLOGY: TEACHER LICENSURE

Students majoring in psychology may opt to pursue initial teacher licensure as an early childhood teacher or elementary teacher. These students will complete the psychology major, education major, and a licensure program in education.