

## PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

### **BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PSYCHOLOGY PSYCHOLOGY MINOR TEACHER LICENSURE**

#### **PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR PROGRAM**

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 degree in psychology will be able to:

- C demonstrate knowledge of the following areas of psychology: developmental, abnormal, social, and research and statistical methodology;
- C demonstrate competence in using a statistical package to analyze data and to present those results in APA manuscript style;
- C communicate proficiently, both orally and in writing.

#### **Psychology Major Requirements**

PSYC 100	Introduction to Psychology	3 cr
Two of the following three courses:		6 cr
PSYC 210	Developmental Psychology	
PSYC 230	Social Psychology	
PSYC 270	Abnormal Psychology	
PSYC 290	Statistical Methods in Psychology	4 cr
PSYC 291	Research Methods in Psychology	4 cr
One of the following two courses:		4 cr
PSYC 360	Psychological Testing	
PSYC 390	Research Design and Analysis	
Two of the following five courses:		6 cr
PSYC 310	Cognitive Psychology	
PSYC 316	Behavior Analysis	
PSYC 331	Biological Psychology	
PSYC 350	Theories of Personality	
PSYC 370	Human Communication and Perception	
Two additional psychology courses at the 300-level or above		6 cr
One of the following three courses:		3 cr
PSYC 410	History of Psychology	
PSYC 499	Advanced Seminar in Psychology	
PSYC 550	Senior Thesis	
One year (or equivalent competency) of a foreign language		6 cr
BIOL 150	Foundations of Biology as one Code 31 course	<u>4 cr</u>

#### **TOTAL PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR REQUIREMENTS**

**46**

Specific career objectives may be pursued by selecting additional upper-division elective courses. Selections are to be made in consultation with the academic advisor.

# PSYCHOLOGY

Chairperson: James May, Ph.D.  
(413) 662-5465, jmay@mcla.edu

---

## PSYCHOLOGY MINOR PROGRAM

The Psychology minor enables students to acquire a fundamental understanding of complex human behaviors.

### Psychology Minor Requirements

PSYC 100 Introduction to Psychology 3 cr

Two of the following three courses: 6 cr

PSYC 210 Developmental Psychology

PSYC 230 Social Psychology

PSYC 270 Abnormal Psychology

PSYC 290 Statistical Methods in Psychology 4 cr

PSYC 291 Research Methods in Psychology 4 cr

Two additional psychology courses at the 300-level or above 6 cr

**TOTAL PSYCHOLOGY MINOR REQUIREMENTS 23**

## 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 and a licensure program in education in one of the two aforementioned areas of teacher licensure.

## SEMINARS, RESEARCH AND TOPICS COURSES, AND SENIOR THESIS

Seminars offered at the 200, 300, and 400 level 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. Topics 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, and PSYC 496 Research in Psychology and/or PSYC 500 Independent Study in Psychology. During the senior year, and with the approval of two faculty members, a student may then register for PSYC 550 Senior Thesis.

## COURSE LISTINGS

### PSYC 100 Introduction to Psychology 3 cr

Introduces students to the science of psychology, presenting the basic principles of mental processes and behavior. To introduce the process of empirical investigation, research participation is required.

**Prerequisite:** None

### 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 CCSS 100

### PSYC 210 Developmental Psychology 3 cr

Examines the development of the child through adolescence, including neonatal and prenatal development. Major theories of physical, cognitive, and social development are discussed. The research methods and controversial issues in developmental psychology are emphasized. (Students cannot receive credit for both PSYC 210 and PSYC 208).

**Prerequisite:** PSYC 100, SOCI 100 or CCSS 100

### PSYC 230 Social Psychology 3 cr

Examines human social behavior emphasizing environmental and situational factors. Theoretical and applied issues are considered within selected topics.

**Prerequisite:** PSYC 100, SOCI 100, or CCSS 100

### 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 CCSS 100

Chairperson: James May, Ph.D.  
(413) 662-5465, jmay@mcla.edu

---

# PSYCHOLOGY

- PSYC 290 Statistical Methods in Psychology** 4 cr  
Introduces the nature of empirical investigation in psychology and the role of data analysis in psychological research. Emphasis on quantifying, analyzing, and interpreting data.  
**Prerequisite:** PSYC 100 and either Code 13 or MATH 232
- PSYC 291 Research Methods in Psychology** 4 cr  
A continuation of PSYC 290, integrating methodology and data analysis in psychological research. Mastery of course material will be demonstrated by a completed research project.  
**Prerequisite:** PSYC 290
- PSYC 299 Sophomore Seminar in Psychology** 3 cr  
Introduces and explores empirical research, theory, and applications in selected areas of psychology. Emphasis will be placed on library research and class discussion. Critical reading and analysis skills will be assessed through several papers and presentations.  
**Prerequisite:** PSYC 100
- PSYC 310 Cognitive Psychology** 3 cr  
Studies knowing, learning, thinking, and language. Topics include theories of cognition, language, attention, problem solving, memory, consciousness, and creative thinking.  
**Prerequisite:** PSYC 291
- PSYC 316 Behavior Analysis** 3 cr  
Examines the interplay between behavioral and environmental variables. Topics include reinforcement, punishment, stimulus control, imitative control, and instructional control.  
**Prerequisite:** PSYC 291
- PSYC 320 Ergonomics and the Environment** 3 cr  
Examines the process involved in our efforts to design products and environments that optimally serve their intended use. Emphasis on research carried out to develop basic principles for application in the ergonomic design processes.  
**Prerequisite:** PSYC 291, 200-level math course, or one ENVI Foundations course
- PSYC 325 Environmental Psychology** 3 cr  
Examines the relationship between the natural and built physical environment from a multidisciplinary perspective. Focuses on the behavioral effects of spatial design, noise, privacy, personal space, and climate.  
**Prerequisite:** One 200-level PSYC, SOCI, or Tier II CCSS course
- PSYC 331 Biological Psychology** 3 cr  
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.  
**Prerequisite:** PSYC 291, BIOL 150
- PSYC 332 Drugs and Human Behavior** 3 cr  
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.  
**Prerequisite:** One 200-level PSYC, BIOL or CHEM course
- PSYC 335 Organizational Psychology** 3 cr  
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.  
**Prerequisite:** One of 200-level PSYC, SOCI, BADM or Tier II CCSS course
- PSYC 340 Psychology of Children with Special Needs** 3 cr  
Examines the special needs of children, the methods used to determine these needs, and the procedures used to meet these needs.  
**Prerequisite:** PSYC 210
- PSYC 350 Theories of Personality** 3 cr  
Examines classical and contemporary approaches to personality theory. Emphasizes application and empirical support for theoretical positions.  
**Prerequisite:** PSYC 291

# PSYCHOLOGY

Chairperson: James May, Ph.D.  
(413) 662-5465, jmay@mcla.edu

---

- PSYC 355 Human Sexuality** 3 cr  
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.  
**Prerequisite:** 200-level PSYC course or Tier II CCSS course
- PSYC 356 The Psychology of Gender** 3 cr  
Focuses on the similarities and differences between males and females, masculinity and femininity. Explores the origins and maintenance of gender stereotypes and their consequences.  
**Prerequisite:** 200-level PSYC course or Tier II CCSS course
- PSYC 357 Psychology of Women** 3 cr  
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.  
**Prerequisite:** One 200-level PSYC course or Tier II CCSS course
- PSYC 360 Psychological Testing** 4 cr  
Studies theoretical and applied aspects of psychological testing. Examines standardized tests of ability and personality, business and industrial testing, and personnel selection. Mastery of course material will be demonstrated by administration, interpretation, and writing of psychological reports.  
**Prerequisite:** PSYC 291
- PSYC 370 Human Communication and Perception** 3 cr  
Presents an information processing approach to how we perceive and communicate about the world. Also examines our acquisition and use of language, as well as societal influences on perception and thought.  
**Prerequisite:** PSYC 291
- PSYC 375 Health Psychology** 3 cr  
Studies health and illness within the conceptual and methodological context of psychology, epidemiology, development, neuroscience, and behavioral medicine. Examines and contrasts medical, psychological, and alternative models of disease and wellness.  
**Prerequisite:** PSYC 291 or instructor approval
- PSYC 380 Educational Psychology** 3 cr  
Studies the conditions and theories of classroom learning. Scope: instructional objectives, task analysis, conditioning, concept and rule learning, problem solving, memory, transfer, and motivation.  
**Prerequisite:** 200-level PSYC, EDUC or Tier II CCSS course
- PSYC 386 Adolescent Development** 3 cr  
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.  
**Prerequisite:** One 200-level PSYC course
- PSYC 387 Childhood Disorders** 3 cr  
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.  
**Prerequisite:** PSYC 210
- PSYC 388 Adulthood and Aging** 3 cr  
Examines cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development during adulthood from a psychological perspective. Studies the impact of an increased lifespan on society and concludes with a psychological examination of death and dying.  
**Prerequisite:** One 200-level PSYC course
- PSYC 390 Research Design and Analysis** 4 cr  
Focuses on advanced methodology, data analysis, and interpretation in psychological research. A research project is required.  
**Prerequisite:** PSYC 291

Chairperson: James May, Ph.D.  
(413) 662-5465, jmay@mcla.edu

---

# PSYCHOLOGY

- PSYC 391 Research Assistant in Psychology** **1-3 cr**  
Provides the opportunity for students to assist a faculty member in empirical research. Particular tasks may include: data collection, data analysis, and conducting experiments. Credit will be determined by the instructor following consultation with the student. May be repeated up to a maximum of six credits.  
**Prerequisite:** 200-level PSYC course, instructor approval
- PSYC 397 Research Seminar in Psychology** **3 cr**  
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.  
**Prerequisite:** PSYC 291
- PSYC 399 Honors Seminar in Psychology** **3 cr**  
Surveys and critically examines selected areas and issues in psychology. Emphasizes multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches to the topics selected for study. Designed for junior and senior majors intending graduate study in psychology, the seminar requires students to develop a program of reading, give oral presentations, and complete a literature review paper.  
**Prerequisite:** PSYC 291
- PSYC 410 History of Psychology** **3 cr**  
Examines the development of psychology as a science, an academic discipline, and a profession. Includes a comparative analysis of major contemporary theories in psychology.  
**Prerequisite:** PSYC 291 and completion of 9 upper-division credits in psychology
- PSYC 440 Counseling Methods in Psychology** **3 cr**  
Studies techniques applicable in the helping services and counseling. Theories of counseling and basic psychotherapy will be reviewed. Experiential sessions will demonstrate established theories.  
**Prerequisite:** PSYC 270, PSYC 350, and instructor approval
- PSYC 460 Human Behavior in Cross-Cultural Perspective** **3 cr**  
Examines similarities and differences in human behavior across cultural contexts. Includes study of socialization practices, interpersonal behavior patterns, personality variables and cognitive processes.  
**Prerequisite:** One 200-level PSYC course and PSYC 350 or instructor approval
- PSYC 470 Teaching Assistant in Psychology** **1-3 cr**  
The student will assist in the preparation and implementation of a psychology course.  
**Prerequisite:** Department approval
- PSYC 495 Special Topics in Psychology** **3 cr**  
Explores one or more special topics in psychology. Topic will be specified when the course is offered.  
**Prerequisite:** Department approval
- PSYC 496 Research in Psychology** **3 cr**  
For junior and senior psychology majors who desire to conduct research on a specific problem in psychology. The research project will be carried out under the direction of the instructor and will require a scholarly report of the research. Repeat for credit with permission of the instructor.  
**Prerequisite:** Department approval
- PSYC 499 Advanced Seminar in Psychology** **3 cr**  
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.  
**Prerequisite:** PSYC 291 and completion of 9 upper-division credits in psychology
- PSYC 500 Independent Study** **1-3 cr**  
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.  
**Prerequisite:** Junior/senior status, department approval

# PSYCHOLOGY

Chairperson: James May, Ph.D.  
(413) 662-5465, [jmay@mcla.edu](mailto:jmay@mcla.edu)

---

## **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.

**Prerequisite:** PSYC 440 or approved upper-division psychology electives and department approval

## **PSYC 550 Senior Thesis**

**3 cr**

For senior psychology majors who desire to complete a formal thesis on a significant topic in psychology.

**Prerequisite:** PSYC 496 or PSYC 500, presentation of a thesis prospectus, and approval of two members of the department faculty