



# Psychology

Psychology is the study of how humans act, think, and feel. Psychologists rely on scientific methods to explore the full range of human and animal behavior. Students of psychology gain an appreciation of human diversity, of the complexity of human and animal behavior, and of the value of the empirical approach to understanding complex problems. With an understanding of human development and mental processes, the psychologist promotes human welfare in a variety of environments, including human services, research, business, and public administration.

A psychology concentration may serve as the foundation for careers in many different areas. Undergraduates may wish to combine study in psychology with course work in other academic areas to develop additional skills. Many psychology majors also continue their education in a graduate program or professional school. Listed below are some characteristic skills developed by psychology majors as well as representative occupations of graduates with a psychology degree.

## SKILLS & ABILITIES

In addition to addressing the central question of human behavior, the study of psychology also develops skills in critical analysis, accurate problem definition, the relation of theory to evidence, and the interpretation of data. Because the field of psychology draws from the biological sciences and the social sciences, many students find that the study of psychology bridges both disciplines.

The skills developed through a psychology concentration may be applied to job responsibilities in a variety of occupational groups. For example, while a clinical psychologist, a rehabilitation worker, or a marketing specialist might use critical analysis for different purposes, each will probably use that skill on a daily basis. A sampling of representative skills and abilities follows.

### Human Relations

- Counseling
- Analyzing/modifying behavior
- Motivating
- Perceiving and understanding individual differences
- Fostering group dynamics
- Exhibiting empathy toward others
- Identifying and understanding needs

### Research

- Observing people/data/things
- Framing a research question
- Developing ideas and theories
- Gathering information
- Clarifying goals/problems
- Organizing and analyzing data
- Summarizing results
- Synthesizing conclusions

### Communication

- Influencing and persuading people/groups
- Informing/explaining ideas
- Mediating/negotiating conflicts
- Writing clearly
- Presenting information effectively

### Analysis

- Defining problem areas
- Creating a system to analyze data
- Offering new perspectives
- Developing new solutions for recurring problems
- Evaluating theory and evidence
- Comparing/contrasting ideas and information

## OCCUPATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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A degree in psychology provides students with skills and abilities that may serve as building blocks toward any number of occupations and career paths. The selected list that follows was compiled from follow-up surveys of

Michigan graduates and from national data. For some of the occupations listed below, such as animal ecologist, further skills or related training are desirable. Additional graduate study is generally expected for those occupations marked with a • on the following list.

<b>Human Services</b>	<b>Education/ Communication</b>	<b>Public Administration</b>	<b>Business</b>
Caseworker	Teacher (K-12)	Affirmative action officer	Human factors "ergonomics"
• Day care center director	• Professor	Community organizer/ planning specialist	Industrial relations coordinator
• Employment counselor	• Experimental psychology researcher	Relocation worker	• Organizational psychologist
Probation/parole officer	• Clinical psychology researcher	Policy analyst	Job analyst
Youth counselor	Curriculum designer	• Field health officer	Marketing manager
• Psychiatric social worker	• College student affairs administrator	• Health policy planner	Training specialist
• Psychotherapist	Consumer researcher	• Environmental psychologist	Employment recruiter
Volunteer services director	Statistical report writer		Advertising account manager
Criminologist	Technical writer		Market research analyst
• Child development specialist	Media director		Systems analyst
• Neuropsychologist	Public opinion survey worker		• Consumer psychologist
Rehabilitation worker			Labor relations coordinator
			Human resource manager
			• Biomedical laboratory technician
			Web designer

## CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

A concentration (in either Psychology or Brain, Behavior, and Cognitive Science) may be declared once the following prerequisites are met: Introductory psychology course,

Statistics 350, and two Breadth (Psych) or Gateway (BBCS) Group courses. The Psychology and BBCS concentrations require 24 additional concentration credits.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For information about choosing a major and choosing a career, about graduate/professional school, internships, or job descriptions:

The Career Center  
3200 Student Activities Building  
764-7460  
[www.careercenter.umich.edu](http://www.careercenter.umich.edu)

For information about choosing a major and about concentration and degree requirements:

LS&A Academic Advising Center  
1255 Angell Hall  
764-0332

Department of Psychology  
1343 East Hall  
530 Church Street  
764-2580  
[www.lsa.umich.edu/psych/](http://www.lsa.umich.edu/psych/)