

**DISCOVER.
ENGAGE.
LEAD.**



PSYCHOLOGY

College of Arts Letters & Sciences

EMPHASIS OF PROGRAM

Students in the Psychology Program at Southwest Minnesota State University develop an understanding of the major approaches, methods, and principles which psychologists use to explore human thought and behavior. Psychology majors learn how to apply psychological research and theory so they can use this knowledge in a variety of areas, from industry to mental health. The Psychology minor is a valuable addition to students in other programs, such as social work, education, pre-law, pre-medicine, pre-physical therapy, and business administration. Regardless of whether you are interested in getting a job right out of college or going on to graduate school, you will receive a strong foundation in Psychology. Personal attention combined with rigorous training yield a rich and rewarding four years at Southwest Minnesota State.

FACULTY

Our professors' first commitment is teaching. However, faculty are also engaged in research, civic engagement, university service, and community outreach. Dr. Christine Olson has a clinical background and is active in connecting students with service and internship opportunities. Dr. Corey Butler studies personality, political attitudes, and social networks. Dr. Scott Peterson has a background in experimental psychology and involves students in laboratory research projects. Dr. Benjamin Anderson has a background in cognitive neuroscience and conducts research on memory, attention, and self-regulated learning. Dr. Laura Koenig advises our Psi Chi honor society chapter and conducts research on religiousness, spirituality, and well-being.

FACILITIES

The Psychology Program is located in the center of campus with close access to several other Social Science program offices, a large courtyard, and the SMSU library. The Psychology Program office suite (CH 127) provides convenient access to faculty offices as well as a work area and video conference-enabled meeting space for faculty and student use. The Psychology Club and Psi Chi members have a lounge/club room to meet with other students. Psychological research and data analysis are conducted by students and faculty in our Social Science Research Lab.

ACTIVITIES

Psychology majors may join the Psychology Club to get to know other students as well as faculty in an informal atmosphere. Psychology Club members are active with a variety of service, professional development, and social activities throughout the year. Upper level students with high grades may be eligible to join Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology. Students from both organizations regularly attend the Minnesota Undergraduate Psychology Conference in the spring. Psychology majors have opportunities to work with their professors on active research projects and present research at conferences. Psychology students regularly present research at the SMSU Undergraduate Research Conference.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The Psychology faculty at Southwest Minnesota State encourage students to pursue master's or doctoral degrees in Psychology. The program is also an excellent choice for students who are not interested in post-graduate education. Because Psychology majors can think critically, write, do research, and solve applied problems, they are well prepared for entry-level employment in mental health agencies, business and industry, casework, child care, human relations, gerontology, health services, marketing and public relations, probation and parole, sales, and technical writing. To assist students with their interests in these diverse subfields of Psychology, students enroll early in Psychology Seminar, a professional development course. They may also take advantage of a variety of internship and volunteer opportunities in the southwest Minnesota region. Pursuing international study is another great way to better discern one's career interests, and students majoring in Psychology have regularly taken advantage of international studies opportunities through various cross-cultural education programs.

PREPARATION

Psychology majors need to have good oral and written communication skills, computer skills, library research skills, and mathematics skills. Psychology students are encouraged to take courses in biology, math, and other social sciences as well as in Psychology. All Psychology majors are required to take statistics, research methods, and a 100 hour internship.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Incoming students may be eligible for a number of leadership and academic scholarships through the SMSU Office of Admission.

Freshmen who have completed a College Now Psychology course while in high school are eligible for the College Now Psychology Scholarship. Junior and senior Psychology majors are eligible for the Psychology Scholarship. Junior and senior female Psychology majors are eligible for the Cowan Scholarship.

POTENTIAL CAREER

- Mental Health
- Business
- Casework
- Child Care
- Career Services
- Gerontology
- Health Services
- Marketing
- Public Relations
- Management
- Policing

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

- Psi Chi
- Psychology Club

For more information please contact: The Psychology Department at (507) 537-6224.



MINNESOTA STATE

Southwest Minnesota State University,
A member of Minnesota State

Southwest Minnesota State University is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music, the Minnesota Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board, the Council on Social Work Education, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, and The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.
SMSU is an affirmative action, equal opportunity educator and employer.