

# PSYCHOLOGY, B.A. (UNIVERSITY COLLEGE)

**Begin Campus:** Any Penn State Campus

**End Campus:** Beaver, Brandywine, Fayette, Greater Allegheny, Hazleton, Lehigh Valley, Mont Alto, New Kensington, Schuylkill, Scranton, York

## Program Learning Objectives

### Beaver and Scranton Campuses

- **Foundational Knowledge:** Students will demonstrate knowledge of major psychological concepts, theories, and empirical findings.
- **Application:** Students will demonstrate the ability to apply psychological concepts and theories to research and real-life situations.
- **Critical and Creative Thinking:** Students will use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.
- **Scientific Literature:** Students will demonstrate critical thinking in the analysis, evaluation, and interpretation of information in the scientific literature to distinguish the scientific literature from other sources.
- **Communication:** Students will communicate effectively (in writing and/or orally) the results of a project or internship.
- **Research Writing:** Students will demonstrate the ability to effectively extract central points and summarize psychological research literature and to write in the format of psychological research.
- **Research Methods:** Students will differentiate among the research methods used in psychology and apply the designs in evaluation or development of a research study.
- **Analysis:** Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze and interpret quantitative psychological data using statistics, graphs, and data tables.
- **Culture Diversity:** Students will show evidence of knowledge and appreciation for cultural diversity and relativity in human experience and for the complexity of human behavior and interactions.
- **Ethics:** Students will demonstrate knowledge, and the application of, basic principles of scientific and professional ethics.
- **Professionalism:** Students will demonstrate sensitivity to ethical concerns and professionalism (including cultural considerations) in settings where applications of psychology and/or psychological research occur.
- **Professional Options:** Students will demonstrate knowledge of professional options and required training for careers in the major subfields of psychology.
- **Career Options:** Students will demonstrate the ability to identify personally-relevant career options to implement their psychological knowledge, skills, and values in occupational pursuits in a variety of settings.

### Brandywine Campus

- **Communication:**
  - Students will demonstrate effective writing for different purposes.
  - Students will exhibit effective presentation skills for different purposes.
  - Students will interact effectively with others.
- **Ethical & Social Responsibility in a Diverse World:**

- Students will apply ethical standards to evaluate psychological science and practice.
- Students will build and enhance interpersonal relationships.
- Students will adopt values that build community at local, national, and global levels.
- **Knowledge Base:**
  - Students will describe key concepts, principles, and overarching themes in psychology.
  - Students will develop a working knowledge of psychology's content domains.
  - Students will describe applications of psychology.
- **Professional Development:**
  - Students will apply psychological content and skills to career goals.
  - Students will exhibit self-efficacy and self-regulation.
  - Students will refine project-management skills.
  - Students will enhance teamwork capacity.
  - Students will develop meaningful professional direction for life after graduation.
- **Research Skills:**
  - Students will differentiate among the research methods used in psychology and apply the designs in evaluation or development of a research study.
  - Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze and interpret quantitative psychological data using statistics, graphs, and data tables.
- **Scientific Inquiry & Critical Thinking:**
  - Students will use scientific reasoning to interpret psychological phenomena.
  - Students will demonstrate psychology information literacy.
  - Students will engage in innovative and integrative thinking and problem solving.
  - Students will interpret, design, and conduct basic psychological research.
  - Students will incorporate sociocultural factors in scientific inquiry.

### Fayette Campus

- **Human Behavior:** Students will connect specific human behaviors to the many broad areas of psychology.
- **Professional:** Students will relate applications of psychology to specific professions associated with psychology.
- **Research:** Students will describe and apply the steps of the scientific method.
- **Theory:** Students will summarize the scientific principles of psychology, including its history and major theoretical principles.

### Greater Allegheny and Hazleton Campuses

- **Career-Related Skills:**
  - Students will demonstrate knowledge of professional options and required training for careers in the major subfields of psychology
  - Students will demonstrate the ability to identify personally-relevant career options to implement their psychological knowledge, skills, and values in occupational pursuits in a variety of settings.
- **Communication Skills:**

- Students will communicate effectively (in writing and/or orally) the results of a project or internship.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to effectively extract central points and summarize psychological research literature and to write in the format of psychological research.
- **Content Knowledge:**
  - Students will demonstrate knowledge of major psychological concepts, theories, and empirical findings.
  - Students will demonstrate the ability to apply psychological concepts and theories to research and real life situations.
- **Diversity and Ethical Considerations:**
  - Students will show evidence of knowledge and appreciation for cultural diversity and relativity in human experience and for the complexity of human behavior and interactions.
  - Students will demonstrate knowledge, and the application of, basic principles of scientific and professional ethics.
  - Students will demonstrate sensitivity to ethical concerns and professionalism (including cultural considerations) in settings where applications of psychology and/or psychological research occur.
- **Research Skills:**
  - Students will differentiate among the research methods used in psychology and apply the designs in evaluation or development of a research study.
  - Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze and interpret quantitative psychological data using statistics, graphs, and data tables.
- **Thinking Skills:**
  - Students will use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.
  - Students will demonstrate critical thinking in the analysis, evaluation, and interpretation of information in the scientific literature to distinguish the scientific literature from other sources.

## Lehigh Valley Campus

- **Communication:** Communicate effectively in writing using APA style correctly.
- **Critical Thinking:** All students will demonstrate critical thinking in the analysis, evaluation, and interpretation of information in the scientific literature and to distinguish the scientific literature from other sources.
- **Cultural Diversity:** All students will show evidence of knowledge and appreciation for cultural diversity and relativity in human experience and for the complexity of human behavior and interactions.
- **Data Analysis:** All students will demonstrate an ability to analyze and interpret quantitative psychological data using statistics, graphs, and data tables in Psych 301W.
- **Knowledge:** All students will demonstrate knowledge of major psychological concepts, theories, and empirical findings.

## Mont Alto Campus

- **Empathy Skills:** Psychology majors will demonstrate a sense of empathy, the ability to understand someone else's experience.
- **Interpersonal Relationships:** Psychology majors will build and enhance interpersonal relationships and adopt values that build community at local, national, and global levels by understanding that other sides of an argument.

- **Preparation for Working with Diverse Experiences:** Students will be prepared to work with individuals and families with different experiences from their own.
- **Preparation for Working with Underrepresented Groups:** Student will demonstrate a sense of preparation for working with underrepresented groups.

## New Kensington Campus

- **Career-Related Skills:** Preparing students for careers upon graduation.
- **Critical Thinking:** Use critical thinking to solve problems & distinguish scientific from non-scientific.
- **Data Analysis and Problem Solving:** Demonstrate the ability to analyze and interpret quantitative and qualitative data.
- **Effective Communication:** Demonstrate competence in comprehending, reading, writing, and orally communicating research.
- **Ethical Awareness:** Demonstrate knowledge and the application of professional ethics.
- **Experience Other Cultures:** Students immerse themselves into another culture by attending an event (e.g., religious service) outside their own ethnic/religious/sexual orientation/SES group.
- **Knowledge/Application:** Demonstrate knowledge and application of major concepts and theories.
- **Research Competence:** Differentiate among the research methods.

## Schuylkill Campus

- **Ability to prepare presentations in APA style:**
  - Ability to prepare papers that review past research on behavioral topics
  - Ability to prepare research reports in APA style
  - Ability to prepare conference presentations
- **Understanding ethics and application in psychology:**
  - Understanding of ethical guidelines for research and applied psychologists
  - Ability to apply psychological theories in community organizations
- **Understanding of basic behavioral research methods:**
  - Understanding basic research methods for psychology and their limitations
  - Ability to design basic research projects to study predictors of behavior
  - Understanding basic statistics to analyze behavioral data
  - Ability to search Library databases for research on behavioral topics
- **Understanding of the variety of behavior problems and treatment options:**
  - Understanding of DSM diagnostic terminology for behavior problems
  - Understanding of variety of treatment approaches for behavior problems
- **Understanding of the variety of theories to explain human behavior:**
  - Understanding of variety of psychological theories to explain behavior
  - Understanding of the impact of diversity on human behavior

## York Campus

- **Critical Thinking:** Use critical thinking to solve problems & distinguish scientific from non-scientific.

- **Data Analysis and Problem Solving:** Demonstrate the ability to analyze and interpret quantitative and qualitative data.
- **Effective Communication:** Demonstrate competence in comprehending, reading, writing, and orally communicating research.
- **Ethical Awareness:** Demonstrate knowledge and the application of professional ethics.
- **Knowledge/Application:** Demonstrate knowledge and application of major concepts and theories.
- **Research Competence:** Differentiate among the research methods.