DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL AND BRAIN SCIENCES

The Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences offers three undergraduate degrees and a minor. These include programs of BA in Psychology, BS in Psychology, BS in Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience, and a minor in Psychology. All degree programs prepare students to pursue graduate study in related fields and to enter entry level positions for careers.

Psychology majors receive a rigorous program of undergraduate education and training that encourages critical thinking, lifelong learning, and the analysis and integration of information about individuals and groups of people. The curriculum leading to a degree in psychology provides students with an understanding of human behavior and the ability to use scientific methods to answer questions about human behavior. Students are prepared to enter a variety of graduate and professional programs in psychology and related fields (such as law, medical school), as well as to enter entry-level employment in a number of fields (such as business, human resources). BA/BS Degrees: Students majoring in psychology may earn either the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree. The psychology course requirements for the two degrees are identical; they differ with respect to the requirements in other disciplines. For example, the BA degree requires courses in a foreign language and extra humanities hours, whereas the BS degree requires additional hours in the physical and biological sciences. The two degrees are offered to allow students to complete their non-psychology course of study in fields of greatest interest to them. Thus, students who have stronger interests in the natural and life sciences should pursue the BS degree, whereas those with stronger interests in foreign language and the humanities should pursue the BA degree. Both degrees provide students with the necessary curriculum requirements to pursue graduate study in psychology in most institutions, as well as other professional fields such as law. Students planning to apply to medical school or other physical health professional programs are advised to select the BS degree program.

Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience majors receive a rigorous program of undergraduate education and training in the life and physical sciences, with an emphasis on the study of how the nervous system impacts behavior and cognitive functions. This interdisciplinary field integrates several disciplines, including psychology, psychiatry, biology, chemistry, and physics. Because the study is interdisciplinary, the Neuroscience major involves multiple units, including the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, the Department of Biology, and the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences in collaboration with the Department of Neuroscience and Experimental Therapeutics (NExT) in the College of Medicine in offering this degree, as well as the Texas A&M Institute for Neuroscience (TAMIN). The concentration of this degree that focuses on Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience is housed within the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences. Students will develop competency in foundational coursework in the life and physical sciences, including biology, chemistry, and physics. Based on their individual career aspirations and interests, students will complete coursework in neuroscience that involves psychological and biological processes, as well as translational issues relevant to medical science and/or pharmacology, neural engineering, and biochemistry. Nationwide, there is increasing interest in neuroscience programs and training. In part, this interest is driven by changes in the employment market that focus on technical and medical support jobs. Students completing a BS in Neuroscience will be well prepared for graduate study, as well as to enter entry-level healthcare and technical occupations.

Honors: Students who qualify for the University Honors Program should contact the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences about the department’s own honors program which places an emphasis on small classes and independent research experience.

Minors: A non-psychology minor is optional for psychology majors. If chosen, a minor must consist of 15–18 credit hours, no more than 9 of which may be lower division and must be declared before the student completes 90 credit hours. No more than 6 hours from the minor may be used to fulfill other Core requirements. A grade of C or higher is required if a course is to be counted in the major or minor field. A psychology minor is available for non-psychology majors (see below). For more information about Psychology undergraduate programs, please visit the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences website.

Faculty

Alexander, Allison, Lecturer
Psychological & Brain Sciences
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2014

Alexander-Packard, Gerianne, Professor
Psychological & Brain Sciences
PHD, McGill University, 1991

Anderson, Brian A, Associate Professor
Psychological & Brain Sciences
PHD, John Hopkins University, 2014

Arthur Jr, Winfred E, Professor
Psychological & Brain Sciences
PHD, The University of Akron, 1988

Atoba, Olabisi, Instructional Assistant Professor
Psychological & Brain Sciences
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2017

Bergman, Mindy E, Professor
Psychological & Brain Sciences
PHD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2001

Bernard, Jessica A, Associate Professor
Psychological & Brain Sciences
PHD, University of Michigan, 2012

Bolanos, Carlos A, Professor
Psychological & Brain Sciences
PHD, Northeastern University, 2000

Bolger Jr, Patrick A, Instructional Assistant Professor
Psychological & Brain Sciences
PHD, University of Arizona, 2005

Brooker, Rebecca J, Associate Professor
Psychological & Brain Sciences
PHD, Pennsylvania State University, 2011

Burte, Heather, Research Assistant Professor
Psychological & Brain Sciences
PHD, University of California-Santa Barbara, 2014
Smith, Steven M, Professor
Psychological & Brain Sciences
PHD, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1979

Snyder, Douglas K, Professor
Psychological & Brain Sciences
PHD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1978

Thurston, Idia, Associate Professor
Psychological & Brain Sciences
PHD, University of South Florida, 2010

Vaid, Jyotsna, Professor
Psychological & Brain Sciences
PHD, McGill University, 1982

Vess, Matthew K, Associate Professor
Psychological & Brain Sciences
PHD, University of Missouri, 2010

Wellman, Paul J, Professor
Psychological & Brain Sciences
PHD, Iowa State University, 1980

Worthy, Darrell A, Associate Professor
Psychological & Brain Sciences
PHD, The University of Texas at Austin, 2010

Yamauchi, Takashi, Associate Professor
Psychological & Brain Sciences
PHD, Columbia University, 1997

Zhang, Bo, Assistant Professor
Psychological & Brain Sciences
PHD, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, 2020

Majors

- Bachelor of Arts in Psychology (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/psychological-and-brain-sciences/ba/)
- Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience, Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience Track (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/psychological-and-brain-sciences/bs-neuroscience-bcn/)
- Bachelor of Science in Psychology (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/psychological-and-brain-sciences/bs/)

Minors

- Psychology Minor (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/psychological-and-brain-sciences/minor/)

Certificates

- Healthy Development Certificate (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/psychological-and-brain-sciences/healthy-development-certificate/)
- Psychology of Diversity Certificate (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/psychological-and-brain-sciences/psychology-diversity-certificate/)