PSYCHOLOGY AT THE COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON

A QUICK & EASY GUIDE

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Welcome to the Department of Psychology at the College of Charleston! Whether you’re interested in the B.A., the B.S., or the minor, we’re glad you’re here. Our goal is to engage with the liberal arts and sciences tradition of the College by developing students’ understanding of the scientific study of human behavior and preparing them to become scientifically literate, socially responsible citizens with the skills necessary to thrive in life and work.

Our department includes faculty members ranging from social and clinical psychologists who study relationships and mental health issues in children, adults and family systems, to behavioral neuroscientists who study the effects of drugs and hormones on behavior using animal models. We offer many high impact learning experiences, including laboratory research opportunities that allow you to gain experience gathering and analyzing data; study abroad courses that illustrate the role that culture plays in behavior; and internships that give you an opportunity to apply their developing skills and knowledge in the real world. We strive to serve not only our campus community, but also the larger community, thereby providing a clear model to our students of the importance of civic engagement and public service.

Wherever your interests lie, we think there’s something in our program that will intrigue you. In this guide, you’ll find information about degrees, courses, extracurricular opportunities, study abroad, and more. Should you have questions after exploring what we offer, please don’t hesitate to reach out to the department for more information.

Best wishes,

Daniel L. Greenberg, PhD
Associate Professor and Department Chair
Department of Psychology
College of Charleston
# Table of Contents

(click to navigate)

1. **CHOOSING YOUR DEGREE** ................................. 4
   - Foundational Curriculum .................................................. 5
   - Tips for Course Selection .................................................. 6

2. **CLUBS, RESEARCH, AND INTERNSHIPS** ............... 7

3. **SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS** .............................. 12

4. **STUDY ABROAD** ...................................................... 15
   - Germany ................................................................. 16
   - Italy ....................................................................... 17
   - Cambodia & Vietnam ................................................. 19

5. **INTERDISCIPLINARY MINORS** ................................. 20
   - Neuroscience ............................................................ 21
   - Crime, Law, and Society ............................................. 22
   - Women’s and Gender Studies .................................... 23
   - Medical Humanities .................................................. 24
Choosing Your Degree

In the following sections, you will find a detailed outline of the requirements for obtaining a Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Science, or a minor in Psychology (in addition to the College’s general education requirements).

Please see our “Tips For Course Selection” for information on choosing between a B.A. and a B.S.

The most up-to-date information can always be found in the Catalog, located here. If the information in this packet differs from that in the Catalog, the Catalog information takes precedence.
Foundational Curriculum

Introduction to Psychological Science: PSYC 103

Core Content Areas

Conditioning and Learning

Behavioral Neuroscience

Cognitive Psychology

Sensation and Perception

Abnormal Psychology

Social Psychology

Personality Psychology

Developmental Psychology

Psychological Statistics

Research Methods

Experimental and Statistical Coursework

B.A. students must take 2
B.S. students must take 3

B.A. students must take 2
B.S. students must take 3

All majors must take both

*In addition to completing the requirements for the Psychology major (including electives and other courses not listed here), students must also complete College-wide degree requirements, including General Education courses. Please see the Undergraduate Catalog for more information here.
Tips for Course Selection

We believe that all Psychology majors, whatever their special interests, should be well-grounded in the scientific research methods of our field and familiar with the basic theoretical perspectives offered by the various subfields of psychology.

Although you should work with your advisor to select and sequence those psychology courses that will best fit your needs and goals, and also consult our B.A. Roadmap and B.S. Roadmap, there are a few general recommendations that apply to all majors (please see the Tips page on the Psychology Advising website for more information).

**CHOOSING YOUR DEGREE**

The Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) is designed for students considering working in a field where understanding principles of behavior would be helpful. This translates to many career paths, including social work, education, business, health-related occupations, and the non-profit sector. Most students choose the B.A.; it provides extra flexibility that makes it easier to add a second major or multiple minors.

-OR-

The Bachelor of Science (B.S.) prepares students for advanced training in the field of Psychology or a related discipline. The curriculum emphasizes mathematical and methodological skills. Good for the student who plans to pursue graduate level study at a PhD level.

**STAY UPDATED**

- Use the Degree Works “Remaining Requirements” function in MyCharleston to see a full list of classes you’ll need to take for your major.

- Check your major roadmap before registering to make sure you’re staying on track with prerequisites!

**OTHER TIPS**

- B.A. and B.S. students should try to take Statistics & Methods early in the major, by completing either PSYC 211 and PSYC 220 or PSYC 250. These courses are prerequisites for upper level courses, so taking them early will help you stay on track.

- B.S. students must complete the Psychology mathematics requirement with a statistics course (Math 250) and a Calculus course (Math 111 or 120).

- Take at least one of your math courses prior to enrolling in PSYC 211 (Psychological Statistics) or PSYC 250 (Psychological Statistics & Research Methods).
Clubs, Research, and Internship Opportunities

In this section you’ll learn about some of the ways you can get involved with Psychology outside of class, whether through our clubs and organizations or via experiential learning opportunities like research and internships (both of which include options for course credit). We encourage all majors to experience at least one before they graduate.

The College is home to many extracurricular opportunities other than those within our department - learn more by visiting Campus Life’s Clubs and Organizations website here.
Clubs & Organizations

Psychology Club
Designed to allow those interested in Psychology the opportunity to interact socially and academically. Students in the club are exposed to a variety of psychology-related topics, fields, and events; including sponsored speakers, trips, conferences, information on getting into grad school, and opportunities for volunteer work.

Thinking about joining?
Email psychologycofc@gmail.com to join!

Best Buddies
Best Buddies is an international non-profit organization dedicated to establishing a global volunteer movement for social inclusion, creating opportunity for one-on-one friendships, integrated employment, and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. CofC’s chapter focuses on 1:1 friendship between our students and members of the Charleston community with disabilities. It is also our mission to raise awareness about social stigmas against the special-needs community.

Sound like you?
Email Professor Adam Doughty at DoughtyA@cofc.edu

Psi Chi
Psi Chi is the International Honor Society in Psychology. Its purpose is to encourage, stimulate, maintain excellence in scholarship, and to advance the science of Psychology. Membership to Psi Chi is an earned honor and can be useful for reference purposes to graduate school and for jobs.

*There is a one-time fee of $65 for lifetime membership in the organization.

How do I become a member?
A list of the qualifications and the application can be found on the department website. Or, you can email Professor Lisa Ross at RossL@cofc.edu

Meditation Club
Organized to enhance the experience of mindfulness in students, faculty, and staff on campus. It is an opportunity for members to come together to learn meditative techniques, enhance cognitive performance while reducing stress, and discuss the importance of living in a state of mindful awareness.

Think you’ve found your niche?
Email Professor Rhonda Swickert at SwickertR@cofc.edu

Mindfulness Initiative
Join us once a month to discuss mindful practices that are applicable to the classroom environment as well as your personal life! Once a year, we host an event for the Charleston community to expose the idea of mindfulness and enhance well-being.

Eager to learn more?
Email Professor Rhonda Swickert at SwickertR@cofc.edu
Student-Faculty Research

Whatever your intended career might be, we strongly encourage you to get involved in research in a faculty member’s lab. In our department, students work directly with faculty members, who mentor them throughout the research experience.

Our faculty conduct research on a wide variety of topics, including: Behavioral Neuroscience; Clinical Psychology; Cognitive Sciences; Conditioning and Learning; Developmental Sciences; Personality; Positive Psychology; Quantitative Methods; and Social Psychology.

Not only do these projects advance psychological science, but they provide students with a unique opportunity to learn how discoveries are made.

Unleash Your Potential and Discover Something New!
Internships for Course Credit

Internships provide a way for you to get hands-on experience in a particular field of psychology. They’re critical for students planning to go on to careers in clinical areas. We offer several ways to receive course credit for pursuing an internship:

**Practicum in Psychology (PSYC 319)**
This online course complements and enhances students’ professional experience at psychology-related workplaces. Students synthesize, analyze, and link theories and principles in psychology to professional practice. As part of the course, students complete at least 40 hours per credit hour of supervised work at an approved site in addition to online coursework.

- This class is open to students with at least 9 credit hours of PSYC courses, with permission of the instructor

**Internship Experience (PSYC 397)**
This course provides students interested in the application of psychological theories and principles the opportunity to have an applied learning experience in a pre-approved agency or organization. The learning experience will be guided by an individualized learning contract which will specify the academic and work components of the experience.

This class is open to students who meet the following criteria:

- junior or senior psychology majors
- 3.0 overall GPA and a 3.0 GPA in the major
- Completion of PSYC 211 and 220 (or PSYC 250) required
- Special consideration will be given to students with more credits in Psychology and students who have successfully completed (at least some of) our Core A courses.
Common Internship Sites

- **National Crime Victims Center at MUSC**: Trauma-focused treatment for child and adult victims
- **Dee Norton Lowcountry Children’s Center**: Child-advocacy agency for children who have been abused or neglected
- **WINGs for Kids**: After-school program that structures daily activities to promote social and emotional learning
- **Bishop Gadsden Retirement Community**: Social activities department works to enhance social and emotional needs of residents
- **Couples and Family Clinic at the Charleston VA**: Serves families that include a veteran member and provides evidence-based treatment for improving couples’ relationships and parent-child interactions

*Please note that internship opportunities vary from semester to semester.*
Scholarships & Awards

You’ll find information regarding our scholarship opportunities as well as our departmental awards in the following pages. If you’re interested in applying for any of them, you should become familiar with the various requirements and deadlines involved beforehand.

You can find information on other scholarships available at The College through the Financial Aid website. Click here to go to the common application, known as the Cougar Scholarship Awarding System (CSAS).
Scholarships & Awards

William Bischoff Memorial Scholarship

The department offers an institutional scholarship in memory of the first chair of the Psychology Department. Scholarship funding must be applied toward academic expenses (e.g., tuition, textbooks, etc.) for the awarded academic year. This award may be renewed one time only for the Spring semester. Award renewal is contingent upon maintaining academic performance. To apply for the scholarship, please review the criteria here to ensure that you are eligible.

Charles Latimer Jr. Psychology Travel Award

The department values individualized and advanced student learning experiences. Such experiences include travel to professional conferences to present original research on topics relevant to psychological science. The Charles Latimer Jr. Psychology Student Travel Award is given to students to support these endeavors by helping to cover student costs associated with attending a conference or other presentation venue. Timely and outstanding applications from psychology majors will be given full consideration for this award. Applications are accepted in the fall and spring.

Charles Kaiser award

The Charles Kaiser Award for Outstanding Psychology students is given to rising seniors majoring in Psychology. Awarded in the fall, it recognizes students within the Psychology major who have demonstrated a strong commitment to community service, particularly within the confines of the field of psychology. Students must possess a 3.5 GPA in core Psychology coursework and an overall average GPA of 3.0 or higher. The awards committee of the Department of Psychology will review applications and, using the designated criteria, will select the most deserving award recipient.

College of Charleston Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (URCA)

College of Charleston's URCA provides a variety of additional competitive grant opportunities to students and faculty mentors, including Major Academic Year Support (MAYS; maximum award $4000), Research Presentation Grants (RPG; awards range from $50-$750 depending on location of conference), and Summer Research with Faculty (SURF; maximum award $6500). More information can be found here.
Graduating student Awards

Graduating students may apply for Departmental Honors, Outstanding Student, and HSS Scholar awards as described below. In addition to the following criteria, other considerations for both awards may include personal statements and other relevant community service or work experience in psychology-related areas (paid or unpaid).

Departmental Honors

The Department of Psychology invites applications for Departmental Honors in the fall and spring. To apply for the award, first review the criteria below to ensure that you are eligible.

- Psychology GPA ≥ 3.5
- Completion of at least 6 credit hours of independent research under the supervision of a faculty member, typically through a Bachelor’s Essay

Outstanding Student Award and HSS Scholars

The Department of Psychology invites applications for the Outstanding Student Award and the Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) Scholars Award in the fall and spring. To apply for either of these awards, first review the criteria below to ensure that you are eligible.

- GPA ≥ 3.8
- Psychology GPA ≥ 3.8
- No incomplete notation or grade lower than “C” on college transcript
- 62 credit hours completed at the College of Charleston
- Completion of ≥ nine credit hours on independent course work (e.g. independent study, Bachelors Essay, tutorial, internship course, and teaching mentorship). Three of these nine credit hours can be met through completion of the Psychology Internship or Teaching Mentorship course; six must be met through Independent Study or Bachelor’s Essay research.

In addition, for the Outstanding Student Award, all 9 hours must be in psychology or neuroscience. For HSS Scholars, at least 3 credit hours must be in psychology, but the remaining 6 may be taken elsewhere in HSS.
Study Abroad

Here we’ve included sample flyers from programs that are run by faculty members in our department. These study-abroad opportunities allow you to experience other cultures in countries such as Germany, Italy, Ireland, Cambodia, Vietnam, Rwanda, and Uganda, while gaining a better understanding of how differences influence behavior, but also what we, as humans, have in common. In the following pages, you’ll find flyers from recent years so that you can get a sense of the focus of each trip and how it relates to the study of Psychology.

For information on the tremendous amount of other study abroad opportunities offered by The College at large, please check out the Center for International Education (CIE).
University of Bremen, Germany. Summer Research Assistant Positions in Psychology.

Collaboration with Cognitive Psychologists at U Bremen. 8-10 weeks.

For more details contact: Mike Ruscio, Associate Professor, Psychology rusciom@cofc.edu

http://blogs.cofc.edu/rusciom/psych-research-in-bremen/
Students will take one of the following courses:

CHLI650: Special Topics in Child Life: Cross-cultural Issues in Pediatric Psychosocial Care

PSYC410: Special Topics in Cross-cultural Influences: Child and Parent Interactions and Behaviors

Students will live in center of Florence for an entire month with an integrated trip to Rome and optional trip to Assisi and other smaller Tuscan towns. Both courses will explore the rich history and current focus on child welfare of the Ospedale Degli Innocenti (Hospital of the Innocents). In the 1400’s, Florence was the center of the civilized world, with tremendous advancements in the arts, science, and architecture. Ruled by the prosperous Medici family, wealth abounded- but only for a select class. Slavery was also a facet of life in Florence, as was severe poverty. Florence faced a crisis of hundreds of abandoned and orphaned babies, referred to as the “foundlings”. Responsibility for caring for these children was given to the “Arte Della Seta” (Silk Guild), one of the most rich and powerful guilds in Florence. They built the first facility dedicated specifically to the care of abandoned children-the first orphanage. Opened in 1445, the Ospedale Degli Innocenti remains in its original form in the center of Florence. Still evident is the “turnstile” style door where a mother was able to leave her baby without being seen by those inside. Above the door, a statue of Mary points down to indicate the appropriate drop off point. Mothers often split items such as a coin or beads threaded on shreds of material, and left half attached to a necklace on the infant being given up, with the hope that perhaps one day she could be reunited with her child. Ospedale Degli Innocenti cared for over 375,000 children over five centuries and continues to advocate for the caravan and children worldwide today. It is also a headquarters for UNICEF and an educational center dedicated to child welfare in Italy and worldwide.
Why Participate in a CofC Summer Study Abroad Program?

- Go abroad with CofC faculty and fellow CofC students for 1 to 5 weeks during the summer term
- Earn CofC credit towards your major, minor, general education, or elective requirements
- Most, if not all, travel logistics arranged by the College (program fee and arrangements vary by program)
- Pay CofC in-state tuition or reduced out-of-state tuition
- Scholarships ranging from $500 to $1,500 available through the Center for International Education; additional scholarships available through other CofC departments
- You may be eligible for additional financial aid during the summer term
- Come home with a lifetime of memories and the strong desire to go abroad again!

Faculty Information:
CofC in Florence Program Director:
Dr. Susan Simonian- simonians@cofc.edu

To Learn More:
Visit us online:
http://international.cofc.edu

Apply online:
https://cofc.via-trm.com

Visit us in person:
207 Calhoun Street, Charleston, SC 29424

Call us:
(843)953-7661

Find us on Social Media!
College of Charleston Center for International Education
cofcabroad
@cofcstudyabroad
Summer Study Abroad Experience

Cambodia & Vietnam + 3 days of volunteering at the Elephant Valley Project (http://www.elephantvalleyproject.org)
Program fee: $4950*

- Psychology & Environmental and Sustainability Studies Program
  Dr. Jen Cole Wright, Psychology

Courses (out of state students pay in-state tuition + fee):

  ➢ PSYC: Emerging from Violence: Trauma and Post-Traumatic Growth
  ➢ PSYC or ENVT: The Psychology of Social Change

In addition to regular coursework, you will design and carry out your own research project during the trip.

* Program fee includes everything but one meal/day. It is subject to change based on actual expenses & does not include tuition

Program Director: Dr. Jen Wright, wrightjj1@cofc.edu

!! contact me if you are interested !!
Interdisciplinary Minors

Many of our majors choose to pursue a minor. While you can pursue any of the minors that the College offers (list available here), students find several interdisciplinary programs to be complementary: Neuroscience; Crime, Law, and Society; Women's and Gender Studies; and Medical Humanities.

For more information on these programs, check out the following pages or click on the links below.

Neuroscience

Crime, Law, and Society

Women’s and Gender Studies

Medical Humanities
PET scans, MRIs, and EEGs. You’ve heard those acronyms mentioned countless times on TV’s raft of hospital shows. These imaging techniques are essential diagnostic tools in specific branches of medicine. Yes, they help doctors save lives, but they also help us understand how the brain and the central nervous system impact behavior. And that understanding is the principal concern of neuroscience.

At the College of Charleston, neuroscience is part biology and part psychology. In addition, our program also draws from physics, anthropology, philosophy, chemistry, computer science and data science.

As one of only three neuroscience programs offered in South Carolina, ours takes a comparative approach to understanding brain-behavior relationships so that students get a solid foundation for neuroscience-related careers. In addition, students in this program benefit from research opportunities at the College and in the Neuroscience Department at the Medical University of South Carolina – just a few blocks down the street.

When you combine the interdisciplinary aspect of our program with the extensive research experiences that it provides, it’s clear why our graduates stand out. On a regular basis, they are more competitive applicants to academic and professional programs – including medical and nursing school.

And, you don’t have to become a neuroscientist to benefit. A neuroscience minor can be an advantage to anyone who plans to pursue a career in:

- education
- social work
- medicine
- forensics
- marketing

Those are just a few examples. Want to learn more about the brain, the nervous system and human and animal behavior? Check out neuroscience at the College of Charleston.
“My internship in the public defender’s office was amazing. I couldn’t have asked for a better experience. By having real-life involvement in a field that is otherwise difficult to observe, I learned how the world of criminal law works. I am now more determined than ever to pursue the legal profession.”

— Lauren Patterson

CSI. You know the show. You can’t watch network television these days without coming across some version of “Crime Scene Investigation.” From Miami to Las Vegas to New York, these programs present and solve gruesome, mysterious crimes. But what you see in those often-glitzy, sometimes-gory dramas isn’t always an accurate portrayal of the legal system or the criminal world. If you want to know what really goes on in this realm, sign up for our Crime, Law and Society minor.

At the College of Charleston, this program has been designed to provide students with the knowledge and experiences they need in order to understand the origins of criminal behavior, the consequences of crime for society and the legal responses that societies develop to combat crime. It’s fitting that the program consists of courses in psychology, history, philosophy, political science and sociology, among others.

The hallmark of this program is its required internship. These hands-on experiences allow students to apply what they have learned in the classroom to real-life circumstances. Sometimes the setting can be a courtroom. Other times it’s a police cruiser (doing a ride-along) or a more clinical setting where you’ll assist victims of a crime. Some of the sites where our students serve internships include:

›› Charleston Police Department
›› Public Defender’s Office
›› The Solicitor’s Office
›› South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice
›› National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center

The really good news is that students who’ve completed this program have gone in many different directions after graduation. Some have attended law school, while others have become police officers or U.S. Marshalls. And some have entered clinical graduate programs with the intention of working with crime victims or offenders.

If you’re fascinated by the world of crime and how society contends with it, take a closer look at our Crime, Law and Society program. It’s not always as it seems on TV.
“WGS provides the best sort of community – the kind where you feel free to explore intellectual and interpersonal pursuits in ways you might never have before. You’ll learn that we’re all part of a deeply flawed world, and that the resources to exist for you to radically improve it.”  
- Charlie Shipley ’06

WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES

Why should anyone study motherhood? Or for that matter, sexuality or masculinity? What about the role of women in politics or the dynamics of gender within social institutions? These are central concerns in women’s and gender studies. And, if you want to examine society and history through a nontraditional lens, this is the discipline for you.

At the College of Charleston, our WGS program explores the intersections of gender, class, race, ethnicity, age, religion and sexuality. The courses we teach allow you to immerse yourself in the study of women and gender in different cultures, contexts and time periods. We discuss complex cultural issues – from historical to contemporary controversies – and teach students to think on their feet and develop a range of analytical approaches.

The professors you’ll work with in this program – more than 40 in all – represent a variety of academic interests, specialties and disciplines, including English, theatre, biology, philosophy, history, political science, communication, physical education, art history, Hispanic studies, anthropology, psychology and more. That gives you tremendous latitude in selecting courses, which means that you can easily structure this minor to complement your major field of study, whether it’s theatre, economics, education or computer science.

Most importantly, the experience and knowledge you will gain by choosing the minor in women’s and gender studies can give you a distinct advantage for future employment or graduate study. Not only does this program introduce you to relevant social issues, it also:

- fosters critical thinking.
- develops strong verbal, writing and research skills.
- encourages social advocacy.
- emphasizes diversity.
- gives you valuable, real-life experience.

Want to know more about social justice or the relationship between research and activism? Check out our Women’s and Gender Studies program.
MEDICAL HUMANITIES

Do you know the term medical humanities? You’ll also hear it called health humanities. Broadly, this is the study of the human factors affecting healthcare practices. That study involves history, literature, sociology, psychology, anthropology, and religion. It also includes analyses of debates surrounding medicine and health research, including philosophy, economics, and law.

At the College, our medical humanities program is comprehensive. We study the human dimensions of medicine and health and contextualize that by applying such fields as women’s and gender studies.

Students who choose this minor take just two required classes (Introduction to Medical Humanities and a one-credit capstone course or a healthcare internship). In addition, they can choose from a wide array of course options, including:

›› Biomedical Ethics
›› Medical Anthropology
›› Environmental Psychology
›› Aging and the Family
›› Disease, Medicine and History
›› Characteristics of Students with Intellectual Disabilities
›› Positive Psychology: Optimizing Psychological Well-being.

The knowledge you gain in this program is broadly applicable. It can support careers in medicine, women’s health, public health or psychology. In addition, the minor can help prepare you for non-medical professions such as occupational, speech, physical, art or music therapy.

So, if you’d like to better understand the doctor-patient relationship, racial disparities in medical treatment or the ethics of stem-cell research, consider this program.