

## Psychology Major

### **PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR - B.A.**

Primary Faculty, Rockland: Dr. Agnia Assur, Dr. Jack Wiltshire, Dr. David Chun  
Primary Faculty, NYC: Amy Flavin, Denise Hirschlein, Dr. Stephen Maret

#### **Mission**

It is the mission of the Psychology Department to provide a context for investigating psychological issues as informed by a Christian worldview, to strengthen students' understanding of persons in their diversity and their functioning in varied contexts, to empower students to act in the world in socially and spiritually responsible ways and to facilitate students' personal journey and development.

#### **Objectives**

The mission of the Psychology Department will be accomplished through the following objectives:

1. Development of a Psychological Perspective Informed by a Christian Worldview. Students will be introduced to truths about persons and their functioning. We believe that "all truth is God's truth." Therefore, since any valid truths discovered in the world around us or in relation to persons are also truths as God knows them, it is essential that we be open to them.
2. Development of an Understanding of Self. The psychology major facilitates the development of a deeper understanding of self. Many courses generate insight as students are open to self-discovery, further development of self-identity and greater inner growth. Thus, the study of psychology is valuable to students interested in resolving their own personal struggles in an effort to be of greater service to others.
3. Development of Interpersonal Skills. The psychology major facilitates the development of a greater capacity to connect with others in deeper ways. Understanding and practice of such skills as personal exploration, empathetic listening, giving compassionate feedback and self-expression are essential to a person's ability to interact with others more intimately. These skills can enhance a student's interpersonal life as well as form a useful foundation for work in many fields, including psychology, social work, social services, education, Christian ministries and business.
4. Preparation for Graduate Studies. The psychology major provides preparation and a solid foundation for graduate study in psychology and related areas. The major core requirements offer study in essential areas within the scope of psychology and electives allow students to concentrate in areas of personal academic interest. Internships give students the opportunity to be exposed to the provision of psychological services in varied settings. The psychology major is also very appropriate for entrance into graduate studies in other fields, such as ministry, law, business, healthcare and human resources, in which an understanding of human functioning is necessary.
5. Preparation for Careers. The psychology major provides preparation for work in psychology-related fields immediately upon graduation. Typically, graduates with a bachelor's degree can obtain positions as caseworkers and psychology technicians.

The major is also appropriate for students entering careers such as church and missionary work, work in non-profit organizations, and work in the business world which may require an understanding of people. With its core requirements and diverse offering of electives, the psychology major is able to provide uniquely crafted preparation tailored to the diverse interests and desires of each individual student.

#### **Student Learning Goals**

The Psychology Department facilitates students to achieve the following specific learning goals:

1. Students will have knowledge of basic psychological principles, theories, and research in major areas of psychology.
2. Students will be familiar with how methodological, statistical and ethical issues apply to psychological research.
3. Students will be able to write literature reviews drawing on all current information formats and technologies.

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4. Students will demonstrate the ability to assess critically psychological information and research.
5. Students will demonstrate the ability to integrate psychological principles and research with a Christian worldview in a critically sensitive manner.

### Program Assessment

The following assessments are used to assess program effectiveness.

Assessment	Context	Location in Program
Average exam scores	History of Psych (PSY 321), Abnormal Psych (PSY 342), Physiological Psych (PSY 438), Theories of Personality (PSY 441) and Psychology of Learning (PSY 443)	Whenever graduating senior took course
Average exam scores	Statistics for Social Sciences (PSY 337) and Experimental Psychology (PSY 339)	Whenever graduating senior took course
Literature review paper prepared for Psychology Research Methods	Psychology Research Methods (PSY 110)	Whenever graduating senior took course
Critique portion of paper submitted for Experimental Psychology and Theories of Personality	Experimental Psychology (PSY 339) and Theories of Personality (PSY 441).	Whenever graduating senior took course
Integrative portion of paper prepared for Psychology Seminar	Psychology Seminar (PSY 470)	Whenever graduating senior took course

120 credit hours, distributed as follows, are required for the Bachelor of Arts degree:

**Liberal Arts and Science Core Component** ..... 35

**Foreign Language Component** ..... 6

1 year (2 semesters) of the same language. One year of American Sign Language will also meet this requirement.

**Bible and Ministry Minor Curriculum** ..... 15

### Major Field Component (45 credits)

PSY 110 -Psychology Research Methods ..... 2  
 PSY 246 or PSY 248 Child Psychology or Adolescent Psychology ..... 3  
 PSY 253 - Integration of Psychology and Theology: A Survey ..... 3  
 PSY 321 - History of Psychology..... 3  
 PSY 337 - Statistics for Social Science..... 3  
 PSY 339 - Experimental Psychology..... 4  
 PSY 342 – Abnormal Psychology ..... 3  
 PSY 441 - Theories of Personality ..... 3  
 PSY 438 - Physiological Psych or PSY 443 - Psych of Learning..... 3  
 PSY 470 - Psychology Seminar (*must be taken at home campus*)..... 3  
 Psychology electives (*2 of the courses must be 300 level or above*) ..... 15

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### Miscellaneous Elective Component (19 credits)

Miscellaneous electives ..... 19

*(Students planning graduate study in Psychology are encouraged to elect additional courses in natural sciences, mathematics, philosophy and other social sciences.)*

**Total credits required ..... 120**

### Psychology Major Suggested Program Plan

#### FIRST YEAR: Fall

PMN 101-Intro to Spirit Form.....2  
ENG 101-College Writing I .....3  
HIS 113-Hist. of World Civ. I.....3  
PSY 101-General Psychology...3  
MAT-Elective\* .....3  
LIB 101-Info Literacy.....1

#### SECOND YEAR: Fall

BIB 201-New Testament Lit.....3  
ENG 201 or 202-Glob Lit. I or II.3  
Foreign Language.....3  
PHI 101-Intro. to Philosophy.....3  
PSY 337-Stats. for Social Sci\*...3

#### THIRD YEAR: Fall

BIB 303 Christian Thought .....3  
PSY 441-Theor of Personality...3  
PSY 342 Abnormal Psych.....3  
SOC 347-Cont American Soc ...3  
PSY Elective.....3

#### FOURTH YEAR: Fall

PSY 438-Physio Pysch or  
443-Psych. of Lear .....3  
Psychology Elective .....3  
Electives .....9

#### FIRST YEAR: Spring

BIB 102-Old Testament Lit. ....3  
ENG 102-College Writing II .....3  
HIS 114-Hist. of World Civ. II ....3  
PMN 201-Nyack Heritage.....1  
PSY 253-Integ. of Psy. & Theo. 3  
PSY 110-PSY Research Meth\*\*2

#### SECOND YEAR: Spring

ENG 201 or 202-Global Lit. I or II  
or Elective .....3  
Foreign Language.....3  
PSY 339-Experimental Psych\*..4  
PSY 246 or PSY 248 Child/Adol3  
Art History requirement.....3

#### THIRD YEAR: Spring

BIB-Elective .....3  
PSY 321-History of Psychology 3  
Laboratory Science.....4  
Psychology Elective.....3  
Elective.....3

#### FOURTH YEAR: Spring

PSY 470 Psych. Seminar .....3  
PSY-Elective .....9  
Electives .....1

\* Any Math course is prerequisite for PSY 337, and PSY 337 is prerequisite for PSY 339.

\*\* ENG 101 (or ENG 102 if student is exempted from ENG 101) is a prerequisite for PSY 110.

PSY 110 is a prerequisite for all 300 and 400 level psychology courses. Non-psychology majors will be exempt from this requirement with permission of the instructor.