

# BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PSYCHOLOGY



## ENHANCING WELL-BEING THROUGH UNDERSTANDING MENTAL PROCESSES AND BEHAVIOR

The Department of Psychology has an active and scholarly faculty with broad educational backgrounds and research interests. All full-time, tenure-track members of the department hold doctoral degrees from well-respected graduate programs across the country. Psychology is one of the most popular majors at EIU.

At Eastern, psychology is treated as a natural science, a social science, and a profession. The undergraduate curriculum in the Department of Psychology is designed to prepare students for graduate studies, careers, and lifelong learning. At the core of the curriculum is a set of carefully selected required courses that enable students to

master basic psychological principles, theories, scientific methods, and application. Students fulfill their departmental graduation requirements by taking the required core courses, choosing courses within several content areas, and taking other electives.

The Department of Psychology emphasizes the scientific study of behavioral, affective, and cognitive processes and their application to real-world issues by engaging students in integrative learning experiences such as undergraduate research, internships, and enhanced classroom experiences.

- + UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES
- + UNDERGRADUATE INTERNSHIPS
- + STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS
- + STUDY ABROAD

DEPARTMENT OF **PSYCHOLOGY**  
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## PREPARING FOR A MAJOR IN PSYCHOLOGY

It is not necessary to take a high school psychology course to become a psychology major in college. The best preparation for becoming a psychology major, whether you are currently a student in high school, at a community college, or at EIU, is to take courses that emphasize writing and critical thinking skills, math, and science.

## BECOMING A PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR AT EIU

To become a psychology major, students must complete College Algebra or a higher level math course, and Introductory Psychology, both with a grade of C or better. Once these prerequisites are completed, students selecting psychology as a major will be assigned a psychology faculty member who will serve as their advisor to help plan curriculum and explore career goals.

## PSYCHOLOGY CURRICULUM

The psychology curriculum emphasizes psychological science and places this knowledge in the context of a liberal arts orientation. In addition to learning the subject matter of psychology, students also develop analytical and communication skills.

Students fulfill their departmental graduation requirements by taking the required core courses, including statistics and research methods, choosing courses from several fundamental domains in psychology, and selecting from a broad range of elective courses. All of our courses are described in the Undergraduate Catalog.

Although there are no specializations within psychology at the undergraduate level, students have the option to pursue specific areas of interest through elective courses, independent studies, undergraduate research, and undergraduate internships. At the core of the curriculum is a set of carefully selected, required courses that enable students to master basic psychological principles, theories, and methods.

## HONORS AT EIU

The Psychology Department is an active participant in the University Honors Program and offers a B.A. degree with honors in psychology.

## REAL LIFE APPLICATION

Although not required, undergraduate internships provide an excellent opportunity for psychology majors to apply the knowledge and skills they've acquired in psychology courses to real-life settings in the community (e.g., mental health agency, school, police department, human resource office). These activities are supervised by a psychology faculty member in collaboration with an onsite supervisor.



## FACULTY COLLABORATION

The Psychology Department has an active and scholarly faculty whose educational backgrounds and research interests reflect the full spectrum of current psychological thought. Virtually all members of the department hold doctoral degrees from distinguished graduate programs throughout the country. The faculty are dedicated to undergraduate teaching; every psychology class is taught by a member of the faculty.

Numerous opportunities exist for psychology students to earn credit towards the major and graduation by assisting faculty members in various phases of research including library research, data collection, data entry, and data analyses. Advanced students are encouraged to conduct their own research project under the direction of a psychology faculty member.

## BEYOND THE DEGREE

The curriculum in the Psychology Department is designed to prepare students for careers, graduate school, and lifelong learning. At EIU, psychology is taught from both the scientific and applied perspectives. With the background gained from their studies, graduates are prepared either to pursue advanced training in psychology and related fields, or to begin work in occupations requiring an understanding of human behavior. Graduates pursue careers in such diverse areas as business, law, health services, community mental health, and human resources. Because professional psychology often requires advanced degrees, many students go on to graduate school in such programs as clinical psychology, school psychology, counseling, and industrial/organizational psychology.