Psychology

Degree Designation: BA

Mission Statement

The Department of Psychology is a Community of Scholars dedicated to the creation and dissemination of knowledge. The department is committed to furthering our understanding of the mind and behavior by the methods of science, as well as to the development of applications of the science of psychology to better the human condition and that of individual persons. In keeping with the mission of the University of South Florida, the department is committed to helping its students to acquire knowledge of psychological theories, research findings and the methods used by both basic and applied psychologists. The department sees as its mission serving the general student body, its majors and its graduate students by providing these students with an understanding of the importance of the scientific approach in addressing issues of human behavior. The department also sees as its mission the training of graduate students as independent scholars who will dedicate themselves to the pursuit of knowledge, even as they are using their training as scientist-practitioners or as clinical scientists to contribute substantially to the solution of pressing human problems. We see it as an important part of our mission to assure that our students internalize the canons of ethics of the discipline and profession, of Psychology. The Department of Psychology values and promotes diversity of its members and students.

Student Learning Outcomes

Content / Discipline Skills

- Describe the major theories and findings of Psychology.
- Recognize and apply concepts and theories in at least 4 areas of psychology (e.g., abnormal behavior, biological bases of behavior, cognitive processes, developmental psychology, industrial psychology, perceptual processes, principles of motivation, principles of learning, personality psychology or social psychology)
- Recognize the impact of human diversity (e.g., gender, race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, cultural) on the data of psychology
- Describe the application of the scientific method to the study of behavior and mental processes.
- Understand basic types of measurement in psychology.
- Understand the purposes of statistics in psychology.
- Demonstrate the ability to select appropriate statistical analyses for particular studies.
- Critically analyze empirically obtained data.
- Demonstrate an understanding of and adherence to the ethical principles as prescribed by the APA in the use of human and nonhuman animals in research
- Demonstrate an understanding of and adherence to the principles of professional ethical behavior and academic honesty.

- Research and Quantitative Skills
o Describe the application of the scientific method to the study of behavior and mental processes.
o Understand basic types of measurement in psychology.
o Understand the purposes of statistics in psychology.
o Demonstrate the ability to select appropriate statistical analyses for particular studies.
o Critically analyze empirically obtained data

- Ethics of Scientific Inquiry

  o Demonstrate an understanding of and adherence to the ethical principles as prescribed by the APA in the use of human and nonhuman animals in research
  o Demonstrate an understanding of and adherence to the principles of professional ethical behavior and academic honesty.

Critical Thinking Skills

- Demonstrate critical thinking skills and analytical abilities as they apply to the study of psychology.
- Critically evaluate various research designs and their applications to psychological inquiry.

Communication Skills

- Demonstrate writing ability by producing APA style papers containing all components of a scholarly research manuscript.

Assessment Strategies

- Through a variety of mechanisms, including examinations, written papers, oral presentations, individual and group projects, class participation, and other student evaluations, the faculty of the Department of Psychology will measure students' achievement of the identified core learning outcomes. The results of the assessments will be used to evaluate student performance as well as improve student achievement and program effectiveness.