Which Major Is Right for You?

Psychology or Applied Psychology
The Curriculum
The applied psychology major is designed to develop students who are able to bridge psychological theory, research, and practice in a multicultural world. The program emphasizes the contexts that influence the behavior and development of children, adolescents, adults, parents, and families. Students apply the knowledge gained in lectures and readings through required field experiences in both research and real-world settings. Links between theory, research, and application are a recurrent theme throughout the program.

Planning the Major
All applied psychology majors are required to take Introduction to Psychology and Its Applications, Developmental Psychology, Cultures of Psychology, Research Methods I and II, and Statistics. Students then choose three electives from an array of psychology and counseling courses, including the Counseling Interview, Group Dynamics, Theories of Personality, Social Psychology, Psychology of Human Learning, and Abnormal Psychology. All students complete a multisemester sequence of fieldwork experiences and seminars (see below). Finally, elective courses enable students to gain additional knowledge in a specific area of interest related to psychology.

Internships, Research, and Honors Program
A key component of the applied psychology major is our sequence of fieldwork placements and seminars. These field experiences are closely supervised and take place in schools, social service agencies, psychiatric hospitals, legal clinics, and youth centers. Students with an interest in research are encouraged to satisfy their fieldwork requirement by joining a faculty member’s research team. Research in the Department of Applied Psychology is conducted in diverse settings and covers a broad array of topics. Students with a record of exceptional achievement may apply to our Honors Program. Eligible juniors submit a proposal to conduct an independent research project on a topic of their choice under the close mentorship of an applied psychology faculty member. Visit the program’s website at www.steinhardt.nyu.edu/apppsych/undergraduate to see a listing of current faculty and past students’ research projects.

Program Requirements
The Steinhardt School’s program in applied psychology requires a total of 128 credits. Students complete 60 credits of general liberal arts courses and 68 credits in psychology. Upon completion, students receive a B.S. in applied psychology.

Double Majors and Minors
Students who major in applied psychology in Steinhardt may double major or minor in another subject. Depending on the choice of the second major, students may need additional courses beyond the 128 credits required. Students may also choose a combined major in applied psychology and global public health.

Graduate School Preparation
NYU’s applied psychology major provides excellent preparation for graduate programs in applied psychology, psychology, and psychology-related areas as well as graduate programs in business and law. Students interested in counseling and guidance, school psychology, ecological and community psychology, human development, social work, and applications of psychology in community-based settings are best served by the applied psychology major in Steinhardt.
The Curriculum

The psychology major is designed to give students a sophisticated understanding of core aspects of the field of psychology. The major consists of nine courses and focuses on the theoretical, methodological, and empirical perspectives that underlie each subject. Collectively, the courses of the major are intended to provide a wide-ranging comprehension of the field of psychological study. The diverse course offerings as well as in-depth seminars provide an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the field, both overall and within particular areas of interest. Involvement in research is central to the major.

Planning the Major

All psychology majors are required to take both Introduction to Psychology and Statistics. Students then choose two courses from each of two areas of study. The first area includes courses that focus on psychology as a natural science (Perception, Cognitive Neuroscience, or Cognition). The second area includes courses that focus on psychology as a social science (Personality, Social Psychology, or Developmental Psychology). Students also complete a laboratory course (Lab in Perception, Lab in Social Psychology, Lab in Developmental Psychology, etc.) that provides an empirical and analytic approach to a specific subject in the field. Finally, students choose two advanced electives from an extensive array of topic-specific courses, such as Motivation and Volition, seminars in cognition, and Abnormal Psychology.

Research and Honors Program

Psychology majors are encouraged to participate in faculty-supervised research. Participation can be pursued informally by joining a lab as a research assistant or by enrolling in the course Research Experience and Methods. Research in the psychology program is predominantly laboratory-based. The department’s faculty includes researchers who are prominent in their respective areas of study. The department maintains leading-edge research facilities including neuroimaging equipment, EEGs, ERPs, and eye trackers, each dedicated to the discovery of knowledge in the field. The department invites its strongest sophomores and juniors to apply for the Honors Program. Enrollment in Psychology Honors allows students to engage in closely supervised independent research and scholarship. For a listing of current faculty research projects, visit the department’s website at www.psych.nyu.edu/faculty.

Program Requirements

The College of Arts and Science program requires a total of 128 credits. Students complete 92 credits of liberal arts courses and 36 credits in the Department of Psychology, for the psychology major. Upon completion, students receive a B.A. in psychology.

Double Majors and Minors

Students in the College of Arts and Science who major in psychology may double major or minor in another subject within the 128 credits required for graduation.

Graduate School Preparation

NYU’s psychology major in the College of Arts and Science provides excellent preparation for graduate programs in psychology and psychology-related areas. In addition, the major provides professional preparation in medicine, business, and law. Students interested in basic research in the areas of cognition, perception, cognitive neuroscience, social processes, developmental psychology, and personality psychology are best served by the CAS major in psychology.
Psychology or Applied Psychology

Which NYU Major Is Right for You?