Applied Psychology Major

The Curriculum
The applied psychology major is designed for students who are interested in bridging 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.

Planning the Major
All applied psychology majors are required to take Introduction to Psychology and Its Principles, Developmental Psychology, Cultures of Psychology, Research Methods I and II, and Statistics. Students then choose one elective each from three general areas of psychology: clinical/counseling, development/learning, and social/community. Examples of courses in those areas are Counseling Interview Group Dynamics; Abnormal Psychology; Human Learning; Families, Schools, and Child Development; Parenting and Culture; Child Development in a Global Society; Community Psychology; and Social Psychology. All students complete a self-assessment sequence of internship seminars that helps them investigate in depth a topic of their choice as they learn to make connections between research, theory, and the practice of psychology. Finally, additional elective courses enable students to gain comprehensive 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 seminars that includes fieldwork internships. These field experiences are closely supervised and take place in schools, social service agencies, hospitals, legal clinics, and youth centers. Students interested 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 department’s website at steinhardt.nyu.edu/appsych/undergraduates to see lists of current faculty and former students’ research projects.

Program Requirements
Steinhardt’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 BS in applied psychology.

Double Major and Minor
Students who major in applied psychology at the Steinhardt School 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, school psychology, ecological and community psychology, human development and developmental psychology, social work, and applications of psychology in community-based settings are best served by the applied psychology major at Steinhardt.

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COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE
Psychology Major

The Curriculum
The psychology major is designed to give students a thorough and integrated understanding of core aspects of the field of psychology. The major consists of 10 courses and focuses on the theoretical, methodological, and empirical perspectives that underlie each subject. Collectively, major course work is intended to provide a wide-ranging representation of the field of psychological study. The diverse course offerings provide an opportunity for students 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 two semesters of Statistics (Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences and Advanced Psychological 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, and Cognition). The second area includes courses that focus on psychology as a social science (Personality, Social Psychology, and Developmental Psychology). Students also complete a laboratory course (Lab in Perception, Lab in Social Psychology, Lab in Developmental Psychology, etc.), in which they gain experience with an empirical and analytic approach to a specific subject in the field. Finally, students choose two advanced electives from an extensive selection of topic-specific courses. Courses from this group include Motivation and Volition, Abnormal Psychology, Psycholinguistics, and various specialized seminars.

Research and Honors Program
Psychology majors are encouraged to conduct 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 for whom courses in their respective areas of study. The department maintains leading-edge research facilities, including imaging equipment, EEGs, ERPs, and eye trackers, each dedicated to the discovery of specific knowledge in the field. The department invites its academically strongest sophomores and juniors to apply for the honors program. Enroll in psychology honors allows students to engage in closely supervised independent research and scholarship. For a listing of current faculty research interests, visit the department’s website at psych.nyu.edu/faculty.

Program Requirements
The College of Arts and Science (CAS) program requires a total of 128 credits. Students complete 88 credits of liberal arts courses and 40 credits in the Department of Psychology for the psychology major. Upon completion, students receive a BA in psychology.

Double Major and Minor
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 a foundation for further studies in public health programs and medicine, business, and law. Students interested in conducting basic research are best served by the CAS major in psychology, particularly if the research relates to cognition, perception, cognitive neuroscience, social processes, developmental psychology, or personality psychology.

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Visit admissions.nyu.edu to apply to NYU today.