

New York University Bulletin



UNDERGRADUATE 2010-2012

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Applied Psychology

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Gigliana Melzi
Program Director

Learning About Psychology and Its Applications

The Bachelor of Science Program in Applied Psychology is an interdisciplinary program designed to develop students who are able to bridge psychological theory, research, and practice in a multicultural world. Applied psychologists work with children, adolescents, families, businesses, and communities focusing on issues such as learning and schooling, race/ethnicity, sexuality, religion, health, and parenting. The program provides you with hands-on learning experiences that help you understand the range of work environments within the human services professions and the many ways that psychology and counseling are used in both research and real-world settings—invaluable information in helping you make your career decisions.

A Portfolio of Experience Built on a Strong Academic Base

The undergraduate major in applied psychology combines a broad-based liberal arts component with required course work in various fields across psy-

chology—developmental, social, community, counseling—and research skills. Specialization electives allow you to focus on a specific field within psychology or to explore an area of interest in a related discipline. A three-semester fieldwork sequence offers you the opportunity for continuous career exploration in clinical and research settings, helping you build a portfolio of experience valuable for seeking an entry-level position and graduate study.

Fieldwork Sequence

One of the distinguishing features of the applied psychology major is the multisequence of fieldwork experiences. During the first semester of fieldwork, students explore a variety of fields in psychology. Students learn about the work done at social service agencies, hospitals, community health centers, and a number of research sites, as well as how professionals with different specialties work together as a team. In the second and third semesters of fieldwork, students select a supervised field site at which they will volunteer for 8-10 hours a week over the course of two semesters.

Fieldwork: Clinical Option

Students who select the clinical option gain practical experience at a professional setting, performing intake interviews at community centers, mentoring children or adolescents in schools or after-school programs, or volunteering in hospital settings, to list just a few of the many opportunities available.

Fieldwork: The Research Option

As an alternative to choosing a supervised field experience in a clinical setting, students may elect to pursue the research option by becoming a member of a faculty research team, where they collect, code, and analyze data related to an ongoing research project. Applied psychology students are currently participating in a number of faculty research projects, including a study with Head Start parents on parent involvement in Latino children's education, a study on the effects of hip-hop music on perceptions of spirituality among African Americans, and a project on how diagnoses of brain disease in young children affect the psychology of their families. This is a unique oppor-

tunity for undergraduate students to work side by side with senior faculty members and advanced graduate students.

Students are permitted to combine the clinical and research options.

Fieldwork Seminars

During the three semesters of fieldwork, students meet biweekly with their peers, the fieldwork instructor, and the fieldwork coordinator to receive guidance and to discuss their experiences.

Culminating Project and the Undergraduate Research Conference

All applied psychology majors conclude their studies with a comprehensive research proposal that links their fieldwork experience to psychological theory/research. Select seniors have an opportunity to present their work to fellow students and faculty in a professional forum—the Applied Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference.

Honors Program

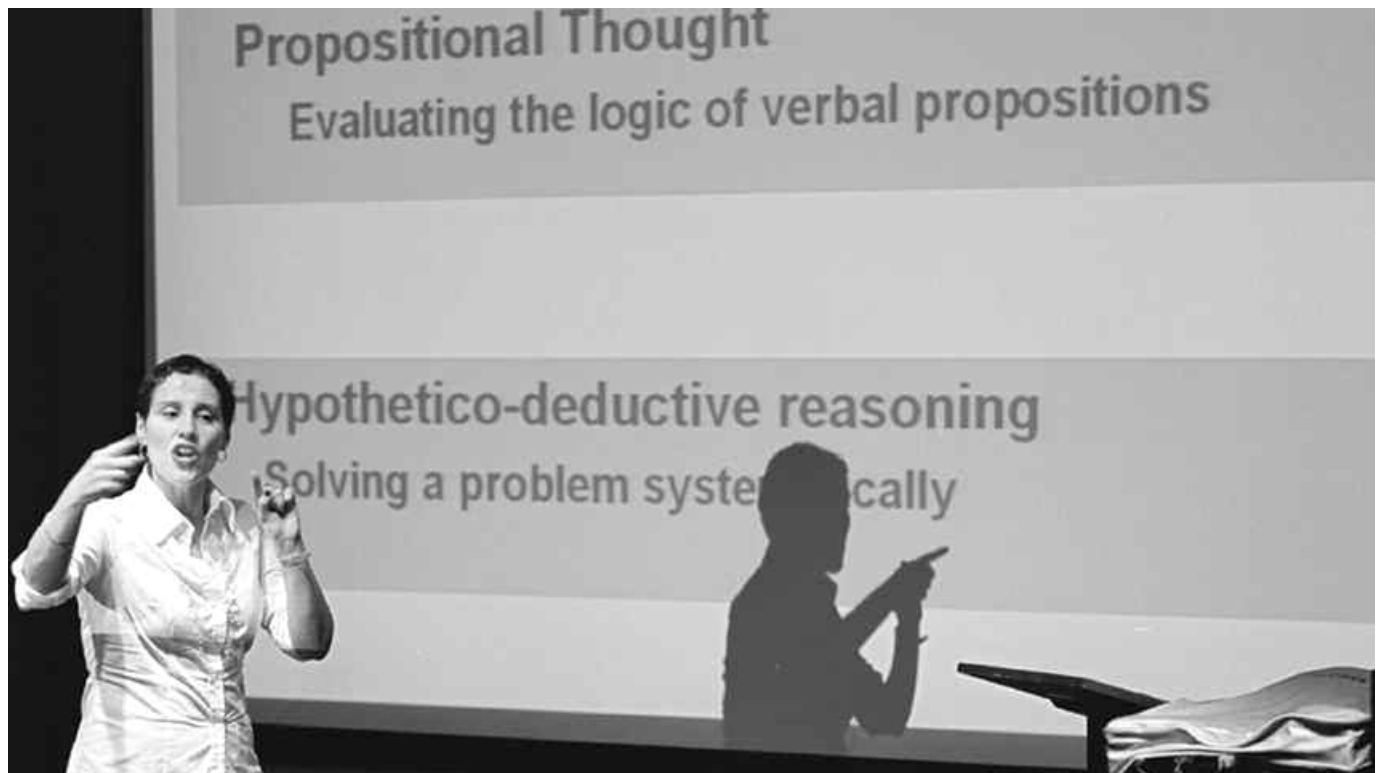
Applied psychology majors with a record of exceptional achievement may apply to our Honors Program. Eligible juniors submit a proposal to conduct an independent research project on a topic of their choice under close mentorship of an applied psychology faculty member.

Distinguished Faculty

Faculty members in the Department of Applied Psychology are not only teaching you in the classroom but, as applied psychologists, are actively

engaged in research.

Professor Gigliana Melzi, the director of the undergraduate program, investigates the ways preschool children, in particular Latino children, interact with their parents to acquire language and literacy skills. Professor Selçuk Şirin's work focuses on the lives of immigrant children and their families. Professor Jacqueline Mattis studies African American spirituality and religiosity. Professor Lawrence Aber investigates social, emotional, and behavioral development among high-risk youth as well as program and policy implications of developmen-



tal research on this population. Professor LaRue Allen's research focuses on the impact of sociocultural and ecological factors on human development, exploring adolescent development, parent-child relationships, and early childhood preventative interventions. Other distinguished faculty are conducting research in areas relating to friendship development, women's health, high-risk sexual behaviors, drug abuse, and stereotyping.

Study Abroad Opportunities

Applied psychology majors may live and study abroad for one or more semesters. Students can choose from NYU-sponsored programs in Berlin, Paris, Madrid, Ghana, Prague, London, Shanghai, Buenos Aires, Tel Aviv, and Florence or may participate in an established exchange program with one of several internationally renowned universities. Academically qualified sophomores and juniors

may apply for the Dean's Research Travel Colloquia, which offer opportunities during the January intersession and spring break to explore the culture of an international destination. Past colloquia have taken students to Mexico, Ireland, Peru, Greece, Poland, Senegal, and Brazil.

Pursuing a Double Major or Minor

Applied psychology majors may double major or minor in another subject. Students typically pursue a double major or minor in the social science or humanities discipline they choose for their required sequence.

Depending on the choice of second major or minor, students may need additional courses beyond the 128 credits required for the bachelor's degree.

YOUR CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Most careers in applied psychology require study at the master's or doctoral level. This program prepares you for graduate study in a variety of fields as well as entry-level positions in the human services sector.

If you choose to continue your studies after graduation, many fields, including the following, are open to you:

- Counseling and school psychology
- Social work
- Clinical psychology
- Human development
- Rehabilitation and therapies: art, music, drama, dance, speech, and occupational therapy
- Intervention and prevention
- Marketing
- Graduate programs in psychology, sociology, anthropology, urban studies, and counseling and guidance

APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY

The B.S. Program in Applied Psychology requires students to complete a total of 128 points—60 points in the liberal arts and 68 points in the major. In addition to 32 points of specified liberal arts courses, students complete a 12-

point concentration of courses in a single social science or humanities discipline of their choice. There are 16 points of liberal arts electives that provide students many opportunities to explore a variety of liberal arts subjects or to

declare a minor. The applied psychology major consists of 12 points of required courses in psychology, 12 points of core electives in psychology and counseling, 11 points of research skills courses, 12 points of field experiences,

8 points of specialization electives, and 13 points of unrestricted electives to explore a wide range of interests or to be used toward a minor. See the Sample Curriculum Worksheet and course descriptions.

SAMPLE CURRICULUM WORKSHEET

Freshman Year 32 Points

FALL SEMESTER	Liberal Arts Elective4	SPRING SEMESTER	MAJOR
LIBERAL ARTS	MAJOR	LIBERAL ARTS	Introduction to Psychology and Its Applications. E63.00024
Writing the Essay. V40.0100 . . .4	New Student Seminar. E03.00010	The Advanced College Essay. E52.01104	TOTAL
Liberal Arts Requirement: Foreign Language4	TOTAL	Foundations of Scientific Inquiry: Quantitative Reasoning. V55.01••4	16
Foundations of Contemporary Culture: Texts and Ideas V55.04••4		Liberal Arts Elective4	

Sophomore Year 33 Points

FALL SEMESTER	Introductory Social Science or Humanities Elective4	SPRING SEMESTER	MAJOR
LIBERAL ARTS	MAJOR	LIBERAL ARTS	Basic Statistics. E10.10853
Foundations of Contemporary Culture: Cultures and Contexts. V55.05••4	Survey of Developmental Psychology. E63.00104	Foundations of Contemporary Culture: Expressive Culture. V55.07••4	Core Psychology Restricted Elective4
Foundations of Scientific Inquiry: Natural Science I. V55.02•• . . .4	TOTAL	Advanced Social Science or Humanities Elective4	Unrestricted Elective2
	16		TOTAL
			17

Junior Year 32 Points

FALL SEMESTER	Research Methods in Applied Psychology I. E63.00254	SPRING SEMESTER	MAJOR
LIBERAL ARTS	Core Counseling Restricted Elective4	LIBERAL ARTS	Fieldwork in Applied Psychology II. E63.11244
Advanced Social Science or Humanities Elective4	TOTAL	Liberal Arts Elective4	Research Methods in Applied Psychology II. E63.11374
MAJOR	16		The Cultures of Psychology. E63.10504
Fieldwork in Applied Psychology I. E63.11234			TOTAL
			16

Senior Year 31 Points

FALL SEMESTER	Core Psychology or Counseling Restricted Elective4	SPRING SEMESTER	
LIBERAL ARTS	TOTAL	MAJOR	Unrestricted Electives8
Liberal Arts Elective4	15	Specialization Electives8	
MAJOR			TOTAL
Fieldwork in Applied Psychology III. E63.11254			16
Unrestricted Elective3			

GRAND TOTAL: 128 Points