Which Major Is Right for You?
Psychology or Applied Psychology
The Curriculum

The major in applied psychology is designed to provide students with a comprehensive knowledge of the theory and practice of psychology with an emphasis on 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.

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, five 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 Web site at www.steinhardt.nyu.edu/appsych/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.

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 major in psychology is designed to give students the theoretical knowledge and methodological skills needed to achieve a sophisticated understanding of the field, a broad grasp of the varied areas of inquiry that comprise psychology, and an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of particular areas of interest. Involvement in research is central to the major.

All psychology majors are required to take Introductory 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, Language and Mind, or Cognition). The second area includes courses that focus on psychology as a social science (Personality, Social Psychology, or Developmental Psychology).

Next, students select a laboratory course (Lab in Perception, Lab in Social Psychology, Lab in Developmental Psychology, etc.). Finally, students choose two advanced electives from an extensive array of courses, such as Behavioral and Integrative Neural Science, Cognitive Science, and Psychopathology.

Honors Program and Research

Psychology majors are encouraged to participate in faculty-supervised research by enrolling in Research Experience and Methods. The department invites its strongest sophomores and juniors to join the Honors Program, which allows students to engage in closely supervised independent research and scholarship. Research in the psychology program is predominantly laboratory-based. The department has excellent facilities for research, including neuroimaging equipment, motion trackers, and eye trackers. For a listing of current faculty research projects, visit the department’s Web site at www.psych.nyu.edu/faculty.

Program Requirements

The College of Arts and Science psychology program requires a total of 128 credits. Students complete 92 credits of liberal arts courses and 36 credits in the Department of Psychology. 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 as well as professional programs in medicine, business, and law. The major is often chosen by premedical students. Students interested in basic research in the areas of cognition, perception, cognitive neuroscience, social processes, developmental psychology, and clinical psychology are best served by the CAS major in psychology.
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