Undergraduate Psychology

Degrees Available at SIUE
• Bachelor of Arts, Psychology
• Bachelor of Science, Psychology

Psychology at SIUE
Psychology is all about understanding people, which is not only interesting, but also crucial to workplace success. Psychology is both a scientific discipline which seeks to understand and explain behavior, and an applied profession which seeks to alleviate psychological problems and enhance human potential. Undergraduate courses in psychology acquaint students with the methods used and the knowledge gained by psychologists in their continuing efforts to understand mental processes and behavior. Students majoring in psychology study basic psychological processes, such as learning, cognition and motivation; the development of behavior, personality, and coping skills from conception through old age; human interaction in social settings; and the effects of physical and psychological stress upon coping skills and mental health.

Career Opportunities
Students obtaining an undergraduate degree in psychology from SIUE will be well-prepared to pursue a variety of both public and private sector careers. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, growth among popular career choices for those majoring in psychology is expected to be strong through 2028. Examples include mental health counselor (22%), social and human services assistant (13%), market research analyst (20%) and human resources specialist (5%). For some careers, including becoming a licensed psychologist, graduate-level training is required.

Hands-On Learning
Numerous experiential learning opportunities await students pursuing a degree in psychology at SIUE. Research has shown that these types of experiences greatly enhance learning and benefit students in many ways. The Department of Psychology offers several opportunities to engage in these high-impact practices through different courses:
• To enhance research skills, and in preparation for graduate study or employment, students often collaborate with professors in their research labs through the course PSYC 491 Research and Experiential Learning. In addition to conducting research studies, some students get involved by presenting research at psychology conferences, engaging in other forms of science communication, or getting involved in other service-learning projects. Many faculty offer the PSYC 491 experience in conjunction with the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (URCA) program. URCA Assistants assist faculty with their research with the additional benefits of receiving university recognition for this activity and possibly a monetary stipend.
• Students may also apply for internship opportunities by enrolling in the course PSYC 493 Field Study in Psychology. There are field study opportunities related to clinical psychology, school psychology, industrial/organizational psychology, and other areas of psychology.
• For those interested in obtaining teaching experience, students can take the course PSYC 496 Undergraduate Teaching Assistantship in Psychology. Students enrolled in PSYC 496 help an instructor teach and manage a psychology course.

Faculty
Due to the popularity of the undergraduate and graduate psychology programs, the Department of Psychology has one of the largest groups of faculty members at SIUE. Our professors hold doctoral degrees from universities throughout the country and in the last decade, seven have won teaching or student mentoring awards. The Department of Psychology has won two national awards since 2006: one from the American Psychological Association and one from the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. Our faculty members publish their research in a variety of professional journals and present at numerous conferences each year. In conjunction with excellence in teaching, all faculty members in the Department of Psychology are strongly committed to diversity and multicultural perspectives.

Stacey L. Adams, MS
2004, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Lynn E. Bartels, PhD
1991, University of Akron

Sarah J. Conoyer, PhD
2013, University of Missouri

Catherine S. Daus, PhD
1994, Purdue University

Gregory E. Everett, PhD (Chair)
2005, University of Southern Mississippi

Carlee B. Hawkins, PhD
2013, University of Virginia

Stephen D.A. Hupp, PhD
2002, Louisiana State University

Jeremy D. Jewell, PhD
2001, University of Texas - Austin

Elizabeth L. W. McKenney, PhD
2013, University of Missouri

Carlee B. Hawkins, PhD
2009, State University of New York - Buffalo

Elora C. Voyles, PhD
2017, Northern Illinois University

June 2020.
Hands-On Learning, Cont.

• All students complete a research project through senior assignment before graduating. They can either do this as part of a group in the course PSYC 494 Capstone Seminar in Psychology or individually as part of the Department of Psychology’s Robert J. McLaughlin Honors Academy.

Experiential learning beyond the classroom is also encouraged:

• By joining the Psychology Club, students can get to know others interested in psychology by participating in academic, service and social events.

• The local chapter of Psi Chi (The International Honor Society in Psychology) also organizes opportunities related to academic engagement, volunteerism and socializing.

• Each year, the Department of Psychology hosts a psychology-themed speaker through the Dreikurs Visiting Scholar program and students have the opportunity to interact with each speaker in different ways.

• Additional experiential learning opportunities outside the classroom include a psychology-focused book club, graduate school boot camp and Psiathlon (a 5K run to raise funds for local charities).

Admission Requirements

To be admitted to the psychology program as a major, students must have at least a 2.25 cumulative GPA overall at SIUE or (for transfer students) at the university of origin.

Retention

Majors earning below a 2.25 cumulative GPA at SIUE for two consecutive semesters will be dropped from the psychology program. A grade of C or better is required for a psychology course to count toward the major. In addition, a student will be dropped from the psychology program after two unsuccessful attempts of PSYC 200, 220, 221 or 494. Unsuccessful attempts are defined as receiving the grades of W, WF, WP, WR, UW, U, D or F in a class.

Graduation Requirements for Psychology Majors

• Complete all specific program requirements.

• Complete all University requirements, including:
  • All general education requirements
  • A minimum of 120 credit hours
    • At least 30 of which must be completed at SIUE
    • At least 60 of which must be completed at a regionally accredited four-year institution
  • A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.25

• Bachelor of Arts only: one year of the same foreign language

• File an application for graduation by the first day of the term in which you plan to graduate.

Contact Information

School of Education, Health and Human Behavior Student Services Office
Phone: 618-650-3940
Email: SEHHB-Advising@siue.edu

This information is concurrent with the 2020-2021 Academic Catalog.
Courses are subject to change at any time.