

Psychology



"Bethel was a wonderful environment for learning. The professors brought a passion to their teaching that couldn't help but excite you. They were as committed to my success as I was."

—Matthew Schmidt '94, Newton, Kan., director of Community Support Services for Prairie View Inc., a regional behavior health care provider and local community mental health center for Harvey, Marion and McPherson Counties



Question

How will I know if this is the right major for me?

Answer

From the start, your faculty advisor will work with you to set up a course schedule and explore options available in psychology as a major (or minor). If you are interested in how the brain works and about what makes people act as they do, psychology may be an ideal major or minor for you. Psychology will allow you to develop the tools for understanding and helping people, which makes psychology a wonderful field of study, regardless of what career you might be attracted to. As a Bethel student, you'll have a wide range of opportunities to apply your learning, including laboratories, assistantships, research projects and internships, all of which can help you further explore your interests and their applications.

Question

What courses are required for a degree in psychology from Bethel College?

Answer

All psychology students are required to take General Psychology, Life-Span Development, and Psychology Seminar. Other courses that satisfy requirements are:

- Social Psychology
- Psychology of Music
- Neuropsychology
- Abnormal Psychology
- Cognitive Psychology
- Personality

There are two Certificate Programs administered by the Psychology Department. If you are seriously considering graduate school, you might also want to think about earning a neuroscience certificate (18-19 credit hours). Neuroscience is currently an extremely active area in psychology and biology. Neurobiology and Neuropsychology are required courses. You'll complete the certificate by choosing from courses such as Animal Behavior, Molecular Biology of the Cell, Abnormal Psychology and Cognitive Psychology, among others. The clinical and counseling studies certificate (16-17 credit hours) can help to prepare you for graduate work in areas such as clinical and counseling psychology, school psychology or pastoral counseling. Requirements are Theory and Practice of Counseling, Interpersonal Negotiation and Mediation, and Skills for Human Service Work. Electives are based on your personal interest—for example, working with children and youth. You will also do a practicum in collaboration with a local service agency such as Prairie View Mental Health Center or ResCare Developmental Services.

* Bethel



Seek.
Serve.
Grow.

Question

What kind of practical experience will I get?

Answer

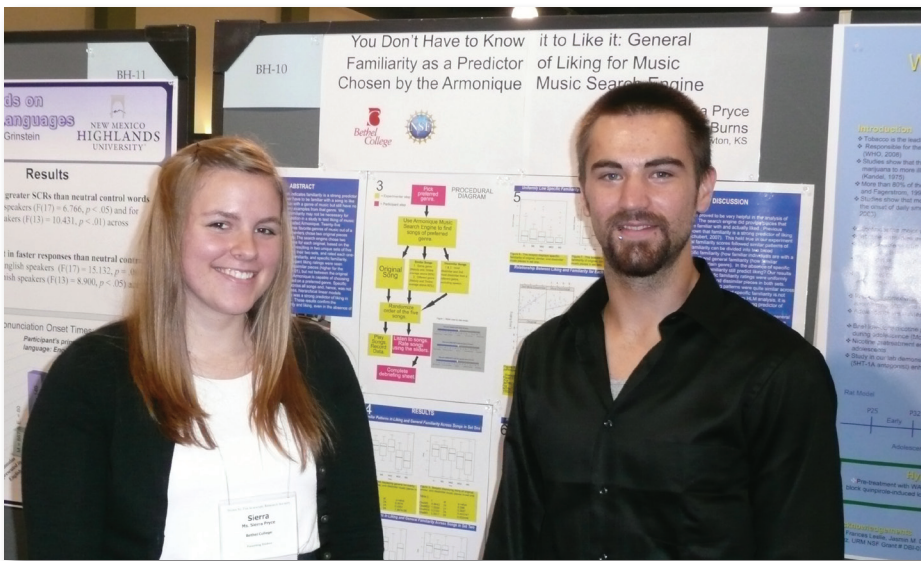
You will be able to pursue ways to put your education and interests to use in a variety of settings, depending on your interests. All psychology students have opportunities for laboratory work. You will learn to administer and analyze tests, observe people, measure brain activity, use the latest software and prepare presentations. You will also be able to participate in research projects, both on campus and off, from studying how people interpret the behavior of others to determining how animals make choices in finding food. As a psychology student, you will have the chance to work as a departmental assistant and/or at local agencies that serve people with developmental disabilities or mental illnesses.

Question

What can I expect after graduation?

Answer

A psychology degree from Bethel College will prepare you to pursue a career such as counseling, clinical psychology, teaching and research. You will have gained the ability to understand human actions, so psychology will also equip you to serve effectively in professions such as school administration, law, medicine, social work and pastoral ministry. Psychology is a popular major for students who plan to go on to medical school.



“The experience I got in classes, labs and my senior seminar research has helped me tremendously in critical thinking and developing good analytical practices. It helped me get a summer research grant between my first and second years of medical school, and I got published from that project. I owe so much of my ability to organize and write up research to my training at Bethel.”

—Robin Linscheid '00, family practice physician, Fresno, Calif.



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