

Psychology

Psychology can be defined as the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. Yet that definition hardly begins to encompass the incredibly wide range of areas in which psychologists work.

As partners in their learning, St. Ambrose psychology students receive a broad background in theoretical and applied areas in psychology. Students are also provided opportunities for research both inside and outside the classroom through independent study and laboratory practicum experiences with faculty.

Contact us

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Visit the Psychology Department Web

site at www.sau.edu/psychology

For general information about

St. Ambrose or how to apply:

Admissions Office

563/333-6300 or 800/383-2627

email: admit@sau.edu

www.sau.edu



Degrees offered and required credit hours

St. Ambrose offers a bachelor of arts and a bachelor of science in Psychology. A minor in Psychology is also offered, as well as a teaching major and a teaching minor in Psychology (7-12).

The bachelor of arts degree in Psychology is primarily for students who plan to enter the job market immediately after graduation. Students earning the BA degree are advised to complete additional work in another program closely tied to the work force such as business, economics, mass communications, education, or sociology. The BA in Psychology requires 51 credit hours. A minor in Psychology requires 15 credit hours.

The bachelor of science degree in Psychology is intended for students who are contemplating advanced work in psychology or a related field and for students entering the work force immediately after graduation. While the bachelor of arts degree offers more flexibility, the bachelor of science degree more adequately prepares students for graduate school and ensures a broad background in the scientific bases of psychology.

The bachelor of science in Psychology requires 55 credit hours of psychology, science and math courses.

The teaching major (7-12) requires 30 credit hours in psychology with additional education courses. The teaching minor requires 24 credit hours in psychology.

Psychology students may also choose to major in Forensic Psychology, an inter-disciplinary program between the Psychology Department and the Criminal Justice Department (for more details, see the Forensic Psychology Fact Sheet). Another option is a concentration in Biopsychology, which follows the bachelor of science degree track with an emphasis on the biological bases of behavior. A strong background in biology is emphasized.

Program highlights and courses

The Psychology degree program at St. Ambrose focuses on exposure to research methodology and statistical analysis to develop the broad problem-solving skills necessary in psychology.

A typical major's course of study should start with Introductory Psychology, followed by coursework in statistics and research methods. These courses will provide students with knowledge of fundamental principles of behavior and serve as preparation for the 300-level courses. Courses include: Research Methods, Advanced Experimental Design and Analysis, Psychology of Gender, Social Psychology, Personality Theories, Abnormal Psychology, Learning and Memory, and Theories of Counseling.

See our course catalog at www.sau.edu/catalog for a full description of required and elective courses.

Resources and co-curricular activities

The Psychology Department sponsors a chapter of Psi Chi, the psychology national honor society, which plans both academic and social events throughout the year. The department also sponsors the Psychology Club that works with Psi Chi, which is open to all students.

St. Ambrose is a member school of ILLOWA, the oldest undergraduate psychology conference in the country, and hosted ILLOWA in 2001. St. Ambrose psychology students

Ambrose. Advantage.

regularly attend and present original research at several regional undergraduate psychology research conferences each year. In fact, in 2002 two undergraduate psychology students, along with their professor, presented their original research in the professional section of the American Psychological Association's national conference.

Career prospects

Although many psychology graduates pursue post-baccalaureate education, a bachelor's degree in Psychology prepares you for such professions as employment counselors, interviewers, personnel analysts, probation officers and writers.

St. Ambrose psychology graduates have gone on to such positions as:

- Director of social services, Life Care Center of St. Louis, Mo. Graduated in 1994.
- Case manager, Rock Island County Health Department, Ill. Graduated in 1994.
- Prevention specialist, Cedar Rapids Area Substance Abuse Council, Iowa. Graduated in 1993.
- Legislative analyst, Illinois House of Representatives, Springfield. Graduated in 1994.
- Medical malpractice specialist, Proassurance, Indianapolis, Ind. Graduated in 1998.
- Human resources administrator, ASCO, Alexandria, Va. Graduated in 1996.

About the faculty

Robin Anderson PhD, Professor

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Prof. Anderson has been a member of the psychology faculty since 1990 after receiving her PhD in the areas of social psychology and health and behavioral science from the University of Iowa in 1989. Her research interests include cognitive processes in stereotyping, gender issues, and stress and coping.

Judith Correa Kaiser PhD, Associate Professor and Chair

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Prof. Correa Kaiser's research interests include multi-cultural counseling, sexual harassment and psychological disabilities in post-secondary education. A licensed clinical psychologist in Iowa and Illinois, she received her PhD in clinical psychology from Florida State University in 1994. She has taught at St. Ambrose since 1995.

Carol DeVolder PhD, Associate Professor

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Prof. DeVolder began teaching at St. Ambrose in 1997. She obtained her PhD from the University of Iowa in 1993. Her research interests include neurological substrates of learning and memory and experimental neuropsychology. She is also the faculty advisor for SAU's Psychology Club. Primary classes taught at St. Ambrose include Behavioral Neuroscience, Neuroanatomy and Neurophysiology, Behavioral Pharmacology, Psychology of Sensation and Perception, and Introduction to Psychology.

Andrew Kaiser PhD, Associate Professor

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Prof. Kaiser was instrumental in forging the new Forensic Psychology major, which combines the disciplines of psychology and criminal justice. In addition to Forensic Psychology, Prof. Kaiser is interested in issues related to adults with disabilities. Prof. Kaiser is Past President of ILLOWA Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD). He received his PhD in clinical psychology from Florida State University and has taught at St. Ambrose since 1995.

Kathleen Trujillo PhD, Associate Professor

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Prof. Trujillo received her PhD in experimental psychology with emphasis in adult development and aging from the University of Southern California and has been at St. Ambrose since 1994. Her research interests are age differences in the motivation to exercise, time perspective and credit card debt in college students.

Mary Waterstreet PhD, Professor

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Prof. Waterstreet teaches Introductory Psychology, Human Motivation, Personality Theory, Learning and Memory, Psychological Tests and Measurements, and History and Systems of Psychology. She holds a PhD in school psychology from the University of Georgia (Athens) and has taught at St. Ambrose since 1984.