

# Psychology, Forensic Psychology, Behavioral Neuropsychology



Psychology is the scientific study of how we think, behave, and come to know and understand our world. Psychologists study many different aspects of life such as memory, reasoning, language, consciousness, emotions, relationships, personality, and mental health. Their research ranges from understanding how the brain works throughout life; to understanding how groups of people work together as couples, families, organizations, cultures, or nations. As a science, it emphasizes the scientific method to observe, investigate and address psychological phenomena. Psychologists try to apply their knowledge to investigate or solve practical problems of human learning, growth and life.

**Find your own voice.** Our programs are student-oriented, with faculty readily available to discuss concepts and advise on issues related to your chosen concentration. Faculty members recognize and value the life experiences you bring to the program and strive to give you guidance that will enable you to find your own voice within the profession, whether you choose to pursue an advanced degree or go directly into the workforce.

## Ambrose Advantages

**Unique options.** The Psychology Department offers majors in psychology, forensic psychology, or behavioral neuropsychology. The forensic psychology major—one of about 10 such undergraduate programs in the nation—differentiates itself from a traditional criminal justice major by focusing on applying the scientific knowledge of psychology to legal situations. Whatever your major, you will find that our faculty's diverse background in both psychological research and clinical practice have led to our ability to offer unique courses, research experiences, and internship courses. Many of our courses help students understand how to apply their knowledge and skills in psychology to careers in health and human services, or to advanced graduate studies.

**St. Ambrose graduate program connections.** Many of our majors who aspire to graduate or professional studies go on to success in master's and doctoral level programs at St. Ambrose. SAU graduate studies options include health sciences programs in occupational therapy, physical therapy, physician assistant studies, and speech-language pathology; and human services programs in social work and criminal justice.

**Strong mentor relationships.** Our students benefit from strong relationships with nine psychology faculty members with expertise in various experimental, clinical/counseling, neuroscience, and forensic areas. Majors can work collaboratively with psychology faculty on research projects through the Summer Research Institute, independent research practicums, or the Honors Program research



project. Students have recently presented their research work at local and regional conferences

**Real world application.** Internship and field experience courses allow students to experience real-world application of psychology at community agencies and sites. Students receive supervision on-site as well as by a faculty member.

Majors can choose from a wide range of internship sites. Some recent internship placements have included: Arrowhead Youth and Family Services, Center for Active Seniors, Child Abuse Council, Family Resources Programs, Genesis Health System, Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center, Scott County Jail, Scott County Sheriff's Office, Stepping Stones After-School Program, and Vera French Mental Health Program.

**Meaningful and formative experiences.** Students are strongly encouraged to get involved in meaningful and formative experiences—joining the Psychology Club and Psi Chi (psychology international honor society), supporting community organizations, volunteering for campus activities, participating in research with faculty, getting practical work experience in the community, and becoming members of professional organizations. Students are encouraged to network with peers and people in the community.

Psychology and Forensic Psychology majors have secured competitive national summer internships, at sites such as the Mayo

Clinic, Florida International University, and Chicago's Children's Research Triangle. Behavioral Neuropsychology majors have completed the prestigious University of Iowa Interdisciplinary Summer Undergraduate Research Program in Neuroscience.

## Career Opportunities

Graduates with bachelor's degrees in psychology often possess good research and writing skills, are good problem solvers and have well-developed, higher-level thinking abilities when it comes to analyzing, synthesizing and evaluating information.

Many find jobs in **administrative support, public affairs, education, business, sales, service industries, health, biological sciences and computer programming.** They may also work as **employment counselors, correction counselor trainees, interviewers, personnel analysts, probation officers, police officers,** and, of course, in the wide array of **human services and helping professions.**

## Career Outlook

- > Employment opportunities for doctoral level psychologists will grow by 14% in the next eight years, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- > The undergraduate psychology major is a popular choice for students pursuing careers in Occupational Therapy, Speech-Language Pathology or Physical Therapy, all fields in which the employment rate is projected to grow by 18% or more, per the Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- > The 2016 U.S. News & World Report ranks the position of Behavioral Counselor or Substance Abuse Counselor in its top 100 careers because of the projected growth in the field, low unemployment rates, and median salary.

## Opportunities for Advanced Studies

Our students have recently gone on to graduate programs at:

- > Arizona State University, master's of psychology
- > Completing dual MSW & Master of Theology, Boston College
- > Master in Rehabilitation Counseling with Mental Health Licensure, Ball State University
- > Master of Child Life Specialist program at the University of Iowa
- > Master of Clinical Mental Health Counseling with Drama Therapy, Kansas State University
- > PhD Behavioral Neuroscience program, University of Iowa
- > Master of Sciences in Environment and Resources, University of Wisconsin – Madison,
- > MA in Counseling Psychology at Valparaiso University
- > MA in Forensic Psychology at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology

## Where Some of Our Graduates Work

Organizations that employ St. Ambrose psychology programs alumni include:

- > Iowa State Extension and Outreach, families program assistant
- > Behavior Technician at the Quad Cities Autism Center, Moline
- > Association for Individual Development, Chicago
- > Applied Behavioral Analysis Specialist, Balance Autism, Davenport
- > Families First Counseling Services as an Interaction Specialist, Bettendorf
- > Contractor for the Office of Personnel Management, Cincinnati, Ohio
- > Residential Officer, 7th Judicial Circuit (Iowa), Davenport
- > Correctional Officer, Wisconsin Department of Corrections
- > Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, child welfare specialist
- > Rosecrance Health Network, recovery management specialist and substance abuse counselor
- > Texas Services for Veterans Families, case manager/program support specialist

## Your Career: Networking, Internships and Jobs in the Quad Cities

The Quad Cities is a welcoming and fun place to live as a college student. More than that, it offers a great community to help you prepare for—or even start—your career. There are more than 90 health and human services organizations in the area, including hospitals, mental health clinics, family agencies, facilities for the aging, community programs, courts, employee assistance programs, child welfare programs, and planning and coordinating councils.

## Get in Touch With Us Today

We invite you to visit St. Ambrose to learn more about the opportunities here. Our quality academic programs provide one of the best private education values in the Midwest. Check it out for yourself: contact our Admissions Office, 563-333-6300 (toll-free 800-383-2627) or [admit@sau.edu](mailto:admit@sau.edu), or go online to [www.sau.edu](http://www.sau.edu).

*St. Ambrose University offers a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, a Bachelor of Science in Psychology, a Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Neuropsychology, and a Bachelor of Arts in Forensic Psychology. Students can also earn a minor in psychology. For complete information and course descriptions, consult the Course Catalog at [www.sau.edu/catalog](http://www.sau.edu/catalog).*