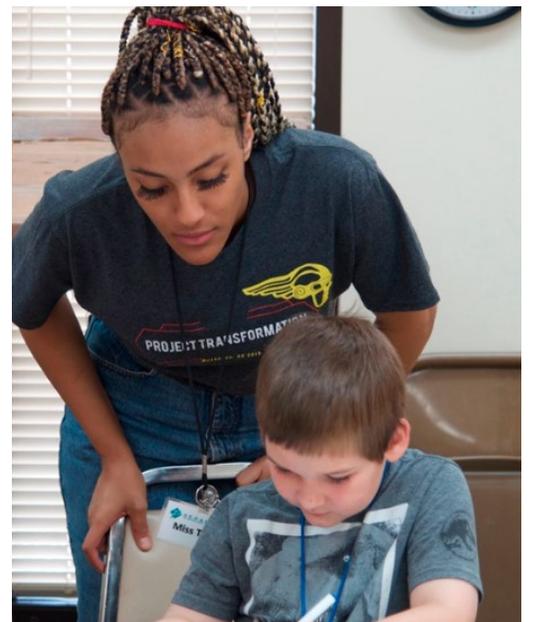
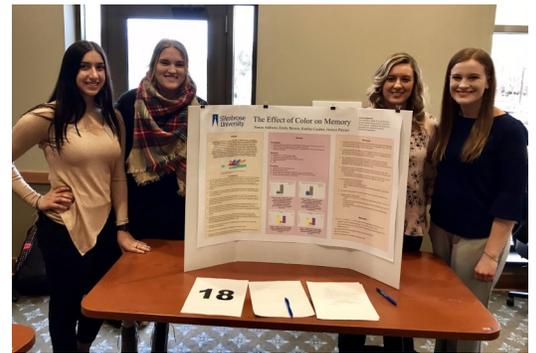


## Exceptional Learning Experiences

The St. Ambrose Psychology Department is committed to providing graduates with a culminating experience in their senior year that helps them apply their knowledge and skills gained through our unique psychology curriculum. Psychology is a field of study that many students pursue to enhance their understanding of human behavior and scientific research, while preparing for careers in a variety of industries including health and human service, forensic settings, research, business, etc. With this in mind, the Psychology Department offers 4 capstone course options tailored to our majors' specific interests and skill sets, while helping them best prepare for the next step in their career. Students in all of the capstone courses grow in oral and written communication skills, especially honing APA research style writing and professionalism in presenting work to others. After completing the capstone course, all students participate in an end of semester "Psychology Showcase" where they present their work to peers, faculty, alumni, and community partners.



## PSYC 420: Supervised Psychology Practicum (4 credit hours)

This course provides students with an opportunity to apply psychology-specific knowledge and skills through an internship/practicum experience at a community site for 8-10 hours per week. Students benefit from hands-on experiences, not just shadowing, with a population that is often served by those who have studied psychology. Students receive supervision both through the on-site supervisor, as well as through faculty who meet in a small group with practicum students several hours each week. Students will have an opportunity to work collaboratively in a community of peers, learn how research informs practice, and conduct activities within their range of competence. Students are required to write reflectively and complete an APA-style research paper on aspects of their experience. Students are not responsible for finding their own practicum site, but instead rank order their top choices from various community sites who are specifically contracted with the St. Ambrose Psychology Department to take our intern/practicum students.

**Who can take this course?** Students who are Bachelor of Arts Psychology majors can take this course to fulfill their capstone requirement. Bachelor of Science Psychology or Behavioral Neuropsychology students are also eligible to complete this course as one of their 300+ level electives, but it does not take the place of their specific capstone requirement (listed below). Class size is purposely limited to allow for quality supervision. Students may apply to the faculty instructor approximately 2 weeks before early registration period begins each semester. Acceptance into the course is based also on a student's ability to have demonstrated professional behaviors, openness to feedback, and other essential functions.



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## PSYC 421: Forensic Psychology Internship (4 credit hours)

This course provides students with an opportunity to apply specific knowledge and skills gained through forensic psychology coursework to hands-on, applied work at an internship site in the community. This culminating course helps Forensic Psychology students explore career options and gain access to practical work experience and skill building opportunities in sensitive, forensic focused sites that are not generally available to the public. Students strive to deepen their interpersonal awareness, sensitivity and self-knowledge through work with offender, victim, or at-risk populations. Students receive supervision both through the on-site supervisor, as well as through the faculty supervisor who meets with students in a small group several hours each week. Students are required to write reflectively and complete an APA-style research paper about aspects of their experience. Students are not responsible for finding their own internship site, but instead rank order their top choices from various forensic-psychology specific sites contracted with the St. Ambrose Psychology Department to take our intern/practicum students. This course may be repeated for a maximum of eight credits.



**Who can take this course?** Only students who are Forensic Psychology majors may take this course and it is a graduation requirement for the major. Students may apply to the faculty instructor approximately 2 weeks before early registration begins each semester. Acceptance into the course and therefore ability to graduate with a Forensic Psychology major is based also on a student's ability to have demonstrated professional behaviors, openness to feedback, and other essential functions before being accepted into the course.

## PSYC 404 and 405: Advanced Experimental Design (4 credit hours)

This course offers an in-depth examination of research and methodology with hands-on experience during all phases of the course. Within small groups, students are required to initiate a research project and carry it through to completion under instructor supervision. Students will develop a research topic, conduct a literature search, develop a research design, obtain IRB approval, collect data, conduct data analysis, and individually write an APA style research paper, in addition to orally presenting the study. Class size is purposely limited given the amount of instructor attention that is required to the writing and research process. PSYC 404 is offered in the Fall semester, and PSYC 405 is offered in the Spring semester. Both courses are required in consecutive semesters.

**Who can take this course?** Students who are Bachelor of Science Psychology majors or Behavioral Neuropsychology majors are required to take this course to meet their capstone requirement. Bachelor of Arts Psychology majors may elect to take this course as their capstone requirement. Forensic Psychology majors are eligible to complete this course as one of their 300+ level electives, but it does not take the place of their specific capstone requirement, PSYC 421. Instructor permission is required for the course and PSYC 215 and STAT 213 are pre-requisites that must have been completed with a C or better.



## PSYC 425: Professional Development and Integration in Psychology (4 credit hours)

This course focuses on helping students intentionally integrate and apply knowledge, awareness, and skills from different psychology courses as they seek to develop a professional identity and discern or solidify career options. Courses in psychology offer a strong foundation in understanding research about human behavior, cognition, and emotion but many times students are unsure how to turn the knowledge and skills learned through coursework into being a competitive candidate in a specific field or graduate program. Students in this course complete various reflective readings and assignments to identify their professional aspirations and better understand what it will take to reach their career goals. Practical, real world behaviors involved in professional development are focused on, such as resume writing tailored to showcase psychology specific skills and how they apply to various career paths, group and individual interviewing skills, writing personal statements/understanding specifics of graduate school, attaining excellent letters of recommendation, developing mentorships through relationship building, and managing the timeline needed to transition to a career or graduate program upon graduation. Students also complete APA format writing summaries of research.



**Who can take this course?** Students who are Bachelor of Arts Psychology majors can take this course to fulfill their capstone requirement. Forensic Psychology, Bachelor of Science Psychology, or Behavioral Neuropsychology students are also eligible to complete this course as one of their 300+ level electives, but it does not take the place of their specific capstone requirement.

*All Bachelor of Arts Psychology majors who started at St. Ambrose University in the Fall of 2020 or later are required to complete one of the above capstone options. Forensic Psychology, Bachelor of Science Psychology, and Behavioral Neuropsychology majors have long been required to complete a specific capstone requirement for graduation and that requirement continues, namely Forensic Psychology majors must complete PSYC 421 and Bachelor of Science Psychology or Behavioral Neuropsychology majors must complete PSYC 404 and PSYC 405 in consecutive semesters.*

## Are there extra costs associated with Capstone Courses?\*

### PSYC 420: Supervised Psychology Practicum

- Students will create a document on their computer and have it made into a full-color poster for the Psychology Capstone Poster Presentation session at the end of the semester.  
Cost: \$12 at SAU Library Media Services
- If the Supervised Psychology Practicum site does not conduct background checks on student interns, students will be responsible for paying for a background check through SAU's contracted background check company.  
Cost: \$56 per student

### PSYC 425: Professional Development and Integration

- Students will create a document on their computer and have it made into a full-color poster for the Psychology Capstone Poster Presentation session at the end of the semester.  
Cost: \$12 at SAU Library Media Services
- The textbook for this course is approximately \$20.
- Each student will complete a personality inventory during the semester.  
Cost is \$10 per student.
- Each student will select a professional association in which to purchase membership. The cost of professional association member varies, with some memberships being free and others costing as much as \$100 per student.

### PSYC 421: Internship in Forensic Psychology

- Students will create a document on their computer and have it made into a full-color poster for the Psychology Capstone Poster Presentation session at the end of the semester.  
Cost: \$12 at SAU Library Media Services
- If the Internship in Forensic Psychology site does not conduct background checks on student interns, students will be responsible for paying for a background check through SAU's contracted background check company.  
Cost: \$56 per student
- Each student will select a professional association in which to purchase membership. The cost of professional association member varies, with some memberships being free and others costing as much as \$100 per student.

### PSYC 404 and 405: Advanced Experimental Design and Analysis

- Students will create a document on their computer and have it made into a full-color poster for the Psychology Capstone Poster Presentation session at the end of the semester.  
Cost: \$12 at SAU Library Media Services

\* All costs are estimates as of 2021