



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

Rachael Datz '09

*Psychology-Based Human Relations,
Human Development*



Q: How did you decide on a major?

A: I knew I wanted to major in sociology even before I came to Connecticut College. Once I was here and discovered that the psychology-based human relations major combined classes from the sociology, psychology and human development departments, I knew that would be my major.

Q: Do you have a close relationship with your professors?

A: Being in a major that reaches across so many disciplines, I have had the opportunity to interact with and form relationships with professors from many departments. Professors in every department are always accessible and willing to offer me academic advice, or help me understand key concepts.

Q: Were you able to study abroad?

A: I studied abroad at the Umbra Institute in Perugia, Italy. In Perugia I took Italian language classes, photography, the history of Italian food and creative writing. The program offered a variety of human development and psychology classes, but I chose to take advantage of my liberal arts education by dabbling in as many new fields as possible.

Q: Were your internships related to your major?

A: Through the clinical practicum course, I am interning at the Jennings School in New London. I work closely with a social worker leading a therapy group for fifth-grade girls, working on bullying prevention and developing crisis response programming.



Psychology-Based Human Relations

Overview

Do you want to discover what drives and determines human relationships such as marriage, family and friendship? Are you interested in serving and giving back to the community? If so, the psychology-based human relations major at Connecticut College is for you.

Conceived of by the internationally renowned expert in interpersonal relationships professor emeritus Bernard Murstein, the psychology-based human relations major takes an interdisciplinary approach to the study of human interactions. Our majors follow a rigorous but flexible curriculum that involves coursework in the psychology, sociology and human development departments. This diversified exposure to multiple disciplines allows students to explore the cultural and interpersonal aspects of human behavior through various lenses.

Service Learning and Community Outreach

Within the psychology-based human relations major there is a strong emphasis on interaction with the surrounding communities. For this reason, the Holleran Center for Community Action and Public Policy, an interdisciplinary certificate program that integrates the liberal arts curriculum with experiential learning in local and global communities through an in-depth research project, is particularly compatible with this major. In recent memory, students have completed research projects on subjects such as AIDS education and prevention in South Africa.

Clinical Practicum

Students in this department have the opportunity to put theory into practice through the department's practicum in clinical and community psychology. The practicum allows majors to connect with the community while they work 10-12 hours a week at local organizations and administer varying degrees of counseling services with a range of clients. Past placements have included prisons, schools, special education programs, New London's High Street House, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Child Life Programs.

Study Abroad

Through the College's own Study Away Teach Away (SATA) program, students can go abroad with their Connecticut College professors. Departmental SATA

programs have gone to places like Mexico and Italy. Students can also study abroad with programs offered through other universities.

Beyond Connecticut College

Upon graduation, psychology-based human relations majors find themselves prepared for careers in law, business, advertising and government. Many students continue to graduate school, where they receive their master's in social work and gravitate toward service-oriented careers. Others pursue careers at research and policy organizations that focus on education reform, children and families.

Faculty

Joan Chrisler, *Class of '43 Professor of Psychology*

B.S., Fordham University; Certificate, Behavior Therapy, Long Island University; M.A., Ph.D., Yeshiva University
Health psychology and psychology of women; women's health; menstruation and menopause; weight and eating disorders; gender roles

Ann Sloan Devlin, *May Buckley Sadowski '19 Professor of Psychology; Chair of Psychology Department*

B.A., M.A., Ph.D., University of Michigan
Environmental psychology; spatial cognition; design of housing for the elderly; gender differences in way-finding

Jason A. Nier, *Associate Professor of Psychology*
B.S., The Pennsylvania State University; M.A., Ph.D., University of Delaware

Intergroup relations; reducing intergroup bias; the social psychology of collective action

Jennifer Gorman Rose, *Senior Lecturer, Psychology*

B.S., Mary Washington College; M.A., Connecticut College

Health psychology; psychology of women; gender roles; attitudes and expectations; applied research methods in psychology

Jefferson A. Singer, *Professor of Psychology*

B.A., Amherst College; M.S., M.Phil, Ph.D., Yale University
Personality theory; autobiographical memory; clinical psychology; addiction; couples and family therapy

Stuart Vyse, *Professor of Psychology, Acting Chair of Psychology Department, spring 2009*

B.A., M.A., Southern Illinois University; M.A., Ph.D., University of Rhode Island
Psychology of irrational behavior, superstition and belief in the paranormal; human operant behavior; theories of choice; decision making; behavior analysis; developmental disabilities

Audrey Zakriski, *Associate Professor of Psychology*

B.S., Bucknell University; M.A., Ph.D., Duke University
Children's mental health; contextual assessment of child psychopathology; childhood peer rejection and victimization

Selected Courses

Psychology of Women; Social Psychology; Health Psychology; Intimate Relationships; Developmental Psychopathology; Seminar in Clinical and Community Psychology; Peer Relationships and Development; Seminar in Social Psychology; The Psychology of Women's Health

About Connecticut College

Connecticut College is a highly selective residential liberal arts college with 1,900 students from all over the country and the world. The academic program offers more than 50 majors in the arts, sciences, social sciences and humanities as well as innovative interdisciplinary programs. Students engage with dedicated faculty and each other to create a vibrant social, cultural and intellectual community in which learning is valued for its own sake — and individuals' diverse perspectives enrich the experience of all.

What can you do with a major in psychology-based human relations?

Duncan Rollason '07

Psychology-Based Human Relations

Works in Washington, D.C., for the Global Health Council on the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial, facilitating communications, arranging international meetings and coordinating campaigns.

Came to Connecticut College with an interest in South Africa, HIV/AIDS and social justice. Studied and interned in South Africa, where he researched stigma and prejudice toward people living with HIV/AIDS among health-care workers in the United States and South Africa.

Tesandra Cohen '07

Psychology-Based Human Relations, Hispanic Studies

Currently works for the Peace Corps as a rural community developer in Costa Rica. Teaches English and works with a group of second- and third-grade girls to promote positive self-esteem, teamwork and communication skills.

Interned at the Universidad de Navarra in Pamplona, Spain, examining sources of sexual education for adolescents and wrote an independent study on the portrayal of sexuality in teen media of Spain and the U.S.

For more information, visit
www.conncoll.edu/academics/