Psychology

Overview

Major in psychology and you develop strong research skills, learn in ways that are interactive and hands-on, and get to know your professors well. You study clinical, social and experimental psychology; we also offer an interdisciplinary major in behavioral neuroscience. We encourage you to develop your own research interests, which may culminate in a senior honors thesis or an individual study with a professor. We offer more than 35 courses – a reflection on the diverse interests of our faculty. You have many opportunities to learn outside the classroom, including study abroad or an internship at a medical center, social services agency or mental health institution. In addition, a dozen distinguished scholars and practitioners in the field visit campus each year to speak.

Special Opportunities

You can combine your psychology major with another major or a certificate from one of the College’s academic centers. For example, a psychology major in the Toor Cummings Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts interned with an advocacy group in Argentina and also did cross-cultural research on body image and eating disorders. Another major in the Holleran Center for Community Action and Public Policy researched the impact of residential treatment on troubled youth.

Department Activities

Professors host weekly or biweekly discussions on a wide range of research topics, from developmental psychopathology and feminist psychology to personality and clinical research. You might use the group for feedback as you develop a research proposal, help a professor with a research project or collaborate with other students.
Faculty

Annamarie Brown ’10, Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology
B.A., Connecticut College; Ph.D., Dartmouth College
Cognitive and social neuroscience; nonverbal communication; emotional processing

Ruth E. Grahn, Associate Professor of Psychology; Psychology Department Chair
B.A., Mount Holyoke College; M.A., Ph.D., University of Colorado
Impact of stress on behavior and neural function; animal models of psychopathology; role of serotonin in fear/anxiety-related behaviors

Joseph A. Schroeder, Associate Professor of Psychology; Director of the Behavioral Neuroscience Program
B.A., Franklin & Marshall College; Ph.D., Thomas Jefferson University
The neurobiological mechanisms of psychostimulant-related behavior; animal models of neurodegenerative disease and drug abuse; heavy metal neurotoxicity

Joan C. 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; cognitive and behavior therapy; weight and eating disorders; gender roles

Jillian Marshall, Lecturer in Psychology
B.A., Mercyhurst University; M.A., Connecticut College
Impact of stress and anxiety on memory formation; animal models of spatial learning; factors that affect circadian rhythms and sleep architecture

Ann Sloan Devlin, May Buckley Sadowski ’19 Professor of Psychology; College Marshal
B.A., M.A., Ph.D., University of Michigan
Environmental psychology; spatial cognition; design of housing for the elderly; gender differences in way-finding; architecture of health care

Jason A. Nier, Professor of Psychology
B.S., The Pennsylvania State University; M.A., Ph.D., University of Delaware
Intergroup relations; contemporary forms of discrimination and the enforcement of civil rights laws; reducing intergroup bias; the social psychology of collective action

Audrey L. Zakriski, 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

Annemarie Brown, Assistant Professor of Psychology
B.A., Connecticut College; Ph.D., Dartmouth College
Cognitive and social neuroscience; nonverbal communication; emotional processing

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SELECTED COURSES

Social Psychology; Psychological Disorders; Environmental Psychology; Industrial and Organizational Psychology; Drugs and Behavior; Health Psychology; Irrational Behavior; Psychology of Personality; Psychology of Women; Sensation and Perception; Cultural Psychology, Psychology of Men and Masculinity, Psychology of Stress; Research Methods in Psychology; Behavioral Neuroscience

About Connecticut College

Connecticut College educates students to put the liberal arts into action as citizens in a global society. A leader in the liberal arts since 1911, the College is home to nationally ranked programs for internships, community action, arts and technology, environmental studies and international studies. Our beautiful 750-acre arboretum campus is located in the historic New England seaport community of New London, Conn.

Experiences in Psychology

Alexis Adams-Clark
Was It Rape? The Effect of Marital Status and Type of Sexual Act on Perceptions of Rape

Carter Funkhouser
An Outcome Evaluation of a Peer-Based Suicide Prevention Program for College Students

Sara Gildersleeve
Capturing the “We-ness” of Happy Couples Through Narrative Analysis

Michael Muro
Minority Stress and Anti-Effeminacy Attitudes Among Gay Men: The Predictive Value of Conformity to Masculine and Feminine Gender Norms

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A MAJOR IN PSYCHOLOGY?

Senior Clinical Publications Lead, AstraZeneca
General Counsel, BMC HealthNet Plan
Professor, San Diego State University
Youth Outreach Worker, AstraZeneca
Autism Research, Boston University
Director of International Adoptions, Adoptions Together
Research Assistant, Harvard Medical School
Social Worker, Golden Gate Regional Center
Ph.D. Candidate, Harvard Business School
Speech/Language Pathologist, ARC Greenwich
Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, Yale University

EXAMPLES OF STUDENT RESEARCH IN PSYCHOLOGY

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