



Psychology

About this Major

The psychology major has historically been one of three social science cornerstones to a liberal arts education. Along with sociology and anthropology, it prepares individuals for a number of occupational and professional paths, ranging from graduate studies in counseling and clinical psychology to law school and the health professions. There is an increasing demand for services in areas like corrections, social work, rehabilitation, addictions, and other community and personnel services through non-profit organizations. Accommodating flexible scheduling needs of those who seek this major, courses in the psychology program are offered through a combination of traditional face-to-face and online courses. Program faculty offer a high-quality learning experience, assist in degree planning, serve as mentors, and guide advisees toward the completion of their professional goals.

Meet a Student



"The Social Science Department and the staff at VCSU have been a big part of my successful journey. They have provided me with support, guidance, a fun environment, and most importantly, hope for my future." —Marilyn Quintero, Class of 2020.

"What I have found most beneficial about the Psychology program at VCSU are the small class sizes and the relationship students are able to build with their professors. This creates a welcoming atmosphere for discussion on tough issues related to the field. Here

everyone has a voice and is encouraged to use it." —Malik Jackson, Las Vegas, Nev.

Career Opportunities and Graduate School



Career opportunities for students who enter the workforce immediately after graduation include:

- Child welfare caseworker or case manager
- Direct care associate
- Employment counselor
- Human resources specialist
- Insurance (sales and claims representative)
- Probation officer
- Daycare provider
- Special education paraprofessional

Many undergraduate psychology majors choose to pursue graduate education in areas including:

- School counseling
- Mental health counseling
- Clinical psychology
- Marriage and family counseling
- Forensic psychology
- Social work
- Experimental psychology
- Occupational or physical therapy
- Law
- School psychology



Explore Psychology

VCSU students have many opportunities to learn more about careers and opportunities in psychology including the following organizations:

- Careers in Psychology (<http://www.careersinpsychology.org>)
- American Psychological Association (<https://www.apa.org/>)

Get Involved in your Major

The Human Services and Psychology Club started in 2011 and is a very active group at VCSU. Club membership is open to anyone with an interest in the fields of Psychology or Human Services. Students have a variety of events including holiday dances for individuals with intellectual disabilities, Eating Disorders Awareness Week activities, informational sessions about graduate school applications and career options, and booths in the annual VCSU Health and Wellness Fair. Students form relationships with others in their major and gain valuable skills in leadership and collaboration.

Practical Experience

Students can apply for a professional internship as part of the elective block of courses in Psychology. Credits range from three to twelve, and a wide variety of opportunities exist to match individual interests and needs with appropriate field placements. Former students have interned at state hospitals, outreach centers, police and sheriff departments, community corrections, Head Start, fire departments, and public school counseling offices.

Contact Information

Department Chair

Dr. Emily Fenster, emily.fenster@vcsu.edu, (701) 845-7313

Faculty Contact

Dr. Kathryn Woehl, kathryn.woehl@vcsu.edu, (701) 845-7316

Department Location

McFarland Hall 315

Schedule your visit today!

<http://visit.vcsu.edu/> or call (701) 845-7101 or (800) 532-8641

Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
CIS 170 (Gen Ed)	3	Art and Music (Gen Ed)	3
ENGL 110 (Gen Ed)	3	ENGL 120 (Gen Ed)	3
HPER 100 (Gen Ed)	2	MATH 210 (Gen Ed)	3
PSYC 111 (Gen Ed)	3	PSYC 250	3
Speech Communication (Gen Ed)	3	Social Science (Gen Ed)	3
UNIV 150	1		
15		15	

Second Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
BIOL 150 (Gen Ed)	4	Additional Humanities or Social Science (Gen Ed)	2
Course in Minor Field	3	BIOL 221	4
Elective Course	3	Course in Minor Field	3
Literacies (Gen Ed)	3	PSYC 340	3
PSYC 330	3	PSYC Elective	3
16		15	

Third Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Course in Minor Field	3	Course in Minor Field	3
Lab Science (Gen Ed)	4	Course in Minor Field	3
PSYC 350	3	Elective Course	3
PSYC Elective	3	PSYC Elective	3
PSYC Elective	3	PSYC Elective	3
16		15	

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Course in Minor Field	3	Course in Minor Field	3
Course in Minor Field	3	Course in Minor Field	3
PSYC 491	1	Elective Course	3
PSYC Elective	3	PSYC Elective	3
PSYC Elective	3	PSYC Elective	3
13		15	

Total Credits 120

Please note: This plan is intended for general information only. Students are strongly encouraged to meet with their academic advisor each semester before registration.



Learning Outcomes

1. Knowledge Base in Psychology: Students demonstrate comprehension of the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, historical trends, and empirical findings in the field of psychology.
2. Scientific Inquiry and Critical Thinking: Students use scientific inquiry and critical thinking to study and interpret psychological phenomena.
3. Ethical and Social Responsibility in a Diverse World: Students adopt ethical standards and demonstrate social responsibility.
4. Communication: Students utilize oral, written, and interpersonal communication skills for information exchange and relationship development.
5. Professional Development: Students apply knowledge of psychology-specific content and knowledge of themselves to personal and career goals.