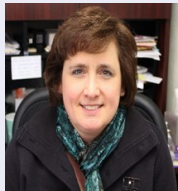


Psychology Department Student Advisement Handbook



Julie Kontos, Ph.D.
Department Chair
jkontos@bloomu.edu



Marnie Yeick
Department Secretary
myeick@bloomu.edu

Introduction

Welcome to the Psychology major!

Psychology is among the most popular majors in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education and one of the 10 most common majors in PA's workforce (Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, 2016). Workforce and economic development trends are favorable toward Psychology majors due to the discipline-specific knowledge and skills (communication, cognitive, personal, social, and technical) embedded in the undergraduate curriculum.

Psychology is a versatile major. According to the American Psychological Association (APA), Psychology majors pursue careers in business/advertising/finance, education, medical and mental health, human resources, law and law enforcement, social and human services, sports/fitness/recreation, and technology to name a few.

The majority of Psychology majors put their knowledge and skills to use in the workforce immediately following graduation. Others pursue an advanced degree in

Psychology (13%) or a related discipline (30%) (National Science Foundation, 2017).

Speak with your academic advisor early and often to learn how to align your professional aspirations with undergraduate curricular and extracurricular activities.



Content

Psychology Major	2
High Impact Practices	2
Psychology Minor	3
Aging Studies & Gerontology Minor	3
Advisement Responsibilities	4
Preparing for Beyond BU	4
Advisement Information	5
Psychology Association	6
Psi Chi	6
Awards & Scholarships	6
Psychology Faculty	7

Ethical Code

The American Psychological Association (APA, 2017) describes five ethical principles that guide psychologists' work as academicians, researchers, practitioners, and citizens. These principles include benevolence/non-malevolence, fidelity and responsibility, integrity, justice, and respect for people's rights and dignity. Psychology faculty, staff, and students at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania dedicate themselves to adhering to these ethical principles by:

- behaving in socially responsible ways that **elevate others** and do no harm to individuals (human and non-human), groups, or institutions,
- establishing and maintaining relationships of **trust** and upholding professional standards of conduct,
- demonstrating **accuracy, honesty, truthfulness** and caring about the ethical compliance of classmates and colleagues,
- **respecting** all members of our academic community regardless of status or background, and
- making sure that biases and limitations do not interfere with our ability to **act justly**.



Psychology Major

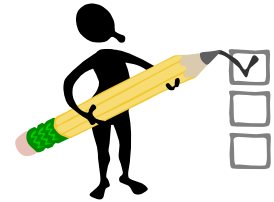
Approved in 1972, Bloomsburg University's Psychology major is a **36-credit** program that culminates in a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree in Psychology. We are committed to providing instruction, opportunities, and resources for undergraduate students to acquire scientific knowledge and skills in Psychology and apply that understanding to socially responsible, personal, and professional growth.

Our curriculum is aligned with the *APA Guidelines for the Undergraduate Psychology Major: Version 2.0* (APA, 2013). The *Guidelines 2.0* identify five student learning goals: (1) knowledge base in Psychology,

(2) scientific inquiry and critical thinking, (3) ethical and social responsibility in a diverse world, (4) communication, and (5) professional development.

Our structured curriculum begins with a core sequence of four courses that emphasize the science of Psychology: Introduction to Psychology, Applied Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences, Research Methods, and Research Applications. Majors are encouraged to work one-on-one with an academic advisor to select six content courses from the major domains of the discipline (developmental, sociocultural, applied, individual differences, cognitive, learning,

and neuroscience) that align with their personal, academic, and professional goals. The major culminates in students applying their psychological knowledge and skills through two capstone experiences choosing from Psychology Seminar, Theory and Practice of Academic Psychology, Independent Study, and Psychology Practicum.



To learn more about the major requirements, visit <https://www.bloomu.edu/offices-directory/psychology>

“The care and compassion that each and every Psychology professor has for their students is phenomenal.”

High Impact Practices

Academic Advisement.

Through personalized interactions with faculty, students explore academic and professional goals related to Psychology, identify activities that align with their aspirations, and learn more about available resources to support their post-baccalaureate pursuits.

Common Intellectual Experiences.

Four core experimental courses (Applied Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences, Research Methods, and Research Applications) introduce students to the science of Psychology including how knowledge is acquired, analyzed, and shared.

Service Learning. Curricular and extracurricular service learning experiences afford students opportunities to apply their knowledge of psychological theories and research for the betterment of others. To learn more about our annual Brain Awareness Week Campaign, contact Dr. Jennifer Johnson at jjohnson@bloomu.edu.

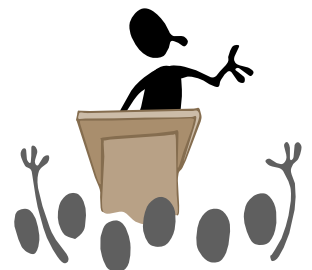
Independent Study. This undergraduate research experience involves conducting a scholarly literature review; selecting or developing appropriate measurement tools; designing a study; securing Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval; collecting and analyzing data; and writing a manuscript in APA-style. Students often present their findings at a peer-reviewed conference. To learn more about the faculty's research interests, see the Faculty page at the end of this handbook.

Psychology Practicum.

Supervised fieldwork experiences advance students' professional development by showing them firsthand the synergy between the science and practice of Psychology. Practicum also affords students the opportunity to practice applying Psychology's ethical principles in different settings with diverse individuals. To learn more about the Psychology Practicum, contact Dr. Jeff Leitzel at jleitzel@bloomu.edu.

Theory and Practice of Academic Psychology. The TA course focuses on career development, preparation for graduate school, and professional responsibilities in academia (presenting class content, planning review sessions, and holding a weekly office hour for students enrolled in the mass lecture Introduction to Psychology course). For more information, contact Dr. Brooke Hansen at bhansen@bloomu.edu.

Psychology Seminar. This capstone course promotes a deep understanding of a specific topic as students analyze influential theories, read and discuss seminal research, and hone their communication skills.



Psychology Minor

Approved in 1985, Bloomsburg University's Psychology minor is an **18-credit** program of study. The structured curriculum begins with a sequence of three core courses that emphasize the science of Psychology: Introduction to Psychology, Applied Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences, and Research Methods. Working one-on-one with the department chairperson, Psychology minors select

courses from major domains of the discipline that complement their academic major and align with their professional aspirations.

All Psychology minors are invited to join Psychology Association, a faculty-supervised and student-run organization that hosts informational meetings, social events, and service projects on campus and in the community.



To learn more about the minor requirements, visit <https://www.bloomu.edu/offices-directory/psychology>

Aging Studies & Gerontology Minor

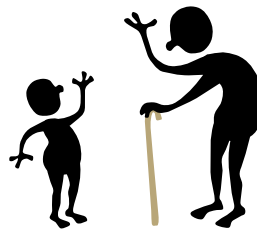
Approved in 2015, Bloomsburg University's Aging Studies and Gerontology (ASG) minor is an **18-credit** program of study. This interdisciplinary minor draws required and elective courses from approximately one dozen departments spanning three colleges (Liberal Arts, Science and Technology, and Business). ASG minors complete their choice of two foundational courses as well as four electives drawn from wide-ranging disciplines including Psychology, Social Work, Communication Studies, Nursing, Biology, Exercise Science, Finance, Economics,

Sociology, Philosophy, Anthropology, and Spanish.

The minor also hosts an active student group, the Aging Special Interest Group. Monthly meetings of the Aging Special Interest Group afford ASG minors opportunities to meet with faculty and students from other programs while participating in campus events and volunteering with older adults in the community.

Each Spring, faculty directors organize a Careers in Aging Week. This event features guest speakers, film reviews, and representatives from area

agencies and organizations who present internship and employment opportunities. For more information about the ASG minor, contact Dr. Mary Jo Larcom at mlarcom@bloomu.edu.



To learn more about the Aging Studies & Gerontology minor requirements, visit <https://www.bloomu.edu/offices-directory/psychology>

*"The [professors]
pushed me beyond
the limits I set for
myself and showed
me that I was
capable of more
then I knew."*

Advisement Responsibilities

Your faculty advisor will

- offer guidance on how to fulfill requirements for the Psychology major, general education program, and graduation
- provide information about on-campus opportunities and resources
- help you identify and prepare for post-baccalaureate pursuits

You are expected to:

- know and adhere to the requirements for the **Psychology major** (<https://www.bloomu.edu/academics/programs/psychology-ba>)
- know and adhere to the requirements for the **general education program** (<https://www.bloomu.edu/programs/learning-experience/general-education-mycore-program>)
- know and adhere to the requirements for **graduation** (<https://www.bloomu.edu/prp-3604-undergraduate-graduation-requirements>)
- learn how to use **MyHusky** (<https://www.bloomu.edu/myhusky-student-information-system>)
- schedule **advisement meetings** each semester to discuss your academic plans and review your progress



“My advisor was a major part in me succeeding in my overall college experience.”

Advisement for Beyond BU

Psychology is a versatile major with respect to students' post-baccalaureate pursuits. Our 36-credit B.A. in Psychology affords students the opportunity to achieve knowledge and competencies for success in the 21st century workplace. In fact, 91% of our alumni report being employed or enrolled in continuing education within one year of graduation from BU (2018-2019 NACE First Destination Survey).

The majority of undergraduate Psychology majors (57%) put their knowledge and skills to use in the workforce immediately following graduation (Lin, Christidis, & Stamm, 2017). APA notes that Psychology majors commonly pursue careers in the following occupational areas:

business, advertising, finance
human resources
social and human services

education
military
technology

medical and mental health services
law and law enforcement
sports, fitness, and recreation

Are you considering post-baccalaureate study in graduate school, medical school, or law school? One frequently asked question is “Do I need to specialize as an undergraduate Psychology major?” Students are often surprised to learn that the answer is “No.” APA-accredited graduate programs in professional Psychology (i.e., Health Psychology, Forensic Psychology, and School Psychology) do not require specialized undergraduate coursework. Rather, faculty serving on graduate school admissions committees encourage undergraduate students to explore the breadth of the discipline as well as related disciplines. For example, APA's Division 38: Society for Health Psychology's Education and Training Council posted the following video with advice for undergraduate students interested in Health Psychology: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7knZl3uz-94&feature=youtu.be>. In addition, APA's Division 41 (<https://www.apa.org/action/science/forensic/education-training>) noted that students who are interested in Forensic Psychology typically earn either a bachelor's degree in Psychology with a focus on Criminology or Criminal Justice, or they earn a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice or Criminology with a focus on Psychology. In other words,

psychologists understand that complex problems are often solved by interdisciplinary solutions.

Accordingly, we encourage psychology majors to **consider pursuing a double major or minor based on their professional aspirations and as their schedules permit**. Approximately half of our majors with 90+ credits follow this recommendation.



Important Advisement Information

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY (PRP 3407)

It is the responsibility of the student to know and observe the academic policies and regulations of the University; to confine registration to courses for which the prerequisites have been satisfied and to meet the requirements for graduation.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SCHEDULING POLICY (PRP 3439)

The normal course load of an undergraduate student in any semester is 15 semester hours. A student in academic good standing is limited to 18 semester hours, unless he or she receives permission for an overload by his or her academic adviser. A quality point average (QPA) of 3.0 or higher is required of the student before permission can be granted for an overload. If the QPA is less than 3.0, then approval of the department chairperson is required.

ADD/DROP (PRP 3434)

Students may add/drop courses through the 7th calendar day in a regular Fall/Spring semester.

PASS/FAIL (PRP 3454)

After attaining sophomore standing, a degree student may elect courses on a pass/fail basis until the final day of the Drop/Add period in accordance with the following rules: A maximum of two courses (not more than 8 credit hours in total) may be included as part of the minimum graduation requirement. No more than one Pass/Fail Option course, as defined in this section, may be taken in any one semester or session. Courses taken using the Pass/Fail Option must be free electives. The following may not be taken using the Pass/Fail option:

- Major requirements including cognate courses
- Minor requirements
- Courses used to fulfill General Education points

COURSE WITHDRAW (PRP 3462)

After the add/drop period is completed, and continuing until the final instructional day of the semester prior to finals, a student may withdraw from a course and a grade of "W" will be recorded on the transcript and remain as part of the student's permanent academic record. There is no limit to the number of courses from which a student may withdraw. Although not required, students are encouraged to consult with the instructor to verify their grades and status in the course, and to meet with their advisor to discuss the potential benefits and concerns of withdrawing from a particular course. Students should be aware that withdrawing from one or more courses may result in consequences related to academic progress, financial aid, and/or related areas and should seek advising accordingly.

COURSE REPEATS (PRP 3452)

A maximum of six course repeats is permitted. The grades for a repeated course remain on the transcript and are part of the student's permanent record. Except for a W, the most recent grade (regardless of whether it is higher or lower) will be the grade used for QPA calculation. Each repeat of the same course counts as one of the six permitted repeats and an individual course may not be attempted more than 3 times (defined as three non-W grades on the transcript). Withdrawals (courses for which the grade is W) do not count toward either the overall 6-repeat maximum or the individual course 3-repeat maximum. A course taken three times (defined as three non-W grades on the transcript) at Bloomsburg University may not be transferred from another institution of higher education.

COURSE TRANSFER (PRP 3343)

College level courses completed with a grade of C (2.0/4.0) or above from a two-year or four-year institution, accredited by one of the regional accrediting agencies, are usually transferred for a degree student...Be sure to complete a *Prior Approval for Transfer of Credit* eForm on MyHusky before enrolling in the course. If you take the course at a PASSHE school, the credit and grade will transfer to BU. If you take the course at a non-PASSHE school, only the credits will transfer to BU. You must complete 30 of your final 45 credits at BU.



To view other BU Policies and Procedures, visit <https://www.bloomu.edu/about/administration-and-governance/policies>

*“The staff in the
Department of
Psychology...showed
the flexibility and
willingness to work
with me that I
needed to
successfully
navigate my way
through
undergrad.”*

Psychology Association

All Psychology majors and minors are invited to join Psychology Association, a faculty-supervised and student-run organization that hosts informational meetings, social events, and service projects on campus and in the community.

Informational meetings include topics such as careers in Psychology, preparing for graduate school in Psychology and related fields, and guest speakers from the community. Social events include faculty-student meet-and-greets as

well as alumni guest speakers. Service activities include Relay for Life and visits to the Danville State Hospital.

For more information about Psychology Association, contact Dr. Mary Jo Larcom at mlarcom@bloomu.edu.

*“Once I walked
into the Psychology
department
everyone was so
warm and
welcoming it made
me feel right at
home and that I
was doing what I
was meant to do.”*

Psi Chi

Founded in 1929, Psi Chi's mission is “recognizing and promoting excellence in the science and application of Psychology.” Psi Chi was the first student organization formally affiliated with APA. It offers over \$400,000 in grants and awards annually. Learn more about Psi Chi by visiting the honor society's website at <https://www.psichi.org/>

Each year, Bloomsburg University's Chapter of Psi Chi

invites the highest ranking Psychology majors to membership in this international disciplinary honor society.

Criteria for membership include:

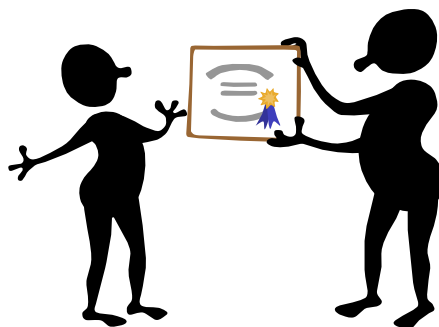
- Psychology major
- 36 credit hours completed
- B or higher in PSYCH 281
- PSYCH 282 completed
- 3.2 or higher GPA overall
- 3.5 or higher GPA in Psychology

For more information about Psi Chi, contact Dr. Jeff Leitzel at jleitzel@bloomu.edu.



Awards and Scholarships

Every Spring, Psychology faculty award the **Outstanding Psychology Student Award** to one or two senior Psychology majors who have demonstrated high quality, socially responsible, and fulfilling academic work. The Psychology faculty also recognize several Outstanding Psychology Student Award finalists who receive a faculty nomination and whose nomination is seconded by at least one other faculty member.



The **Ellen Barker Memorial Scholarship** is awarded to a Junior or Senior psychology major who has attained a grade point average above 3.0, declared a major in Psychology, and earned a minimum of 45 credits. Preference may be given to a student who has pursued a less traditional program (i.e., an adult returning student).



Kevin Ball, Ph.D.
kball@bloomu.edu
 Behavioral Neuropharmacology of
 Relapse using Animal Models



Amy Covill, Ph.D.
acovill@bloomu.edu
 Human Learning; Educational Practice;
 Cognitive & Language/Literacy
 Development



Kerrie Devries, Ph.D.
kdevries@bloomu.edu
 Cultural Psychology;
 Social Psychology;
 Ethnic Identity



Mary Katherine Duncan, Ph.D.
mduncan@bloomu.edu
 Developmental Psychopathology;
 Positive Psychology;
 Good Work in Higher Education



Brooke Hansen, Ph.D.
bhansen@bloomu.edu
 Positive Psychology;
 Goal Setting and Motivation;
 Experimental Psychology



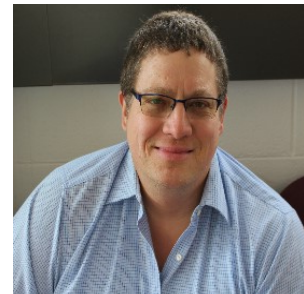
Jennifer Johnson, Ph.D.
jjohnson@bloomu.edu
 Cognitive Psychology;
 Cognitive Neuroscience;
 Good Work in Higher Education



Julie Kontos, Ph.D., Chair
jkontos@bloomu.edu
 Experimental Psychology;
 Human Learning;
 Applied Behavior Analysis



Mary Jo Larcom, Ph.D.
mlarcom@bloomu.edu
 Emotional Development in Older Adults;
 Social Development



Jeffrey Leitzel, Ph.D.
jleitzel@bloomu.edu
 Adolescent Psychopathology;
 Statistical Computing;
 Clinical Practice/Supervision



Eric Stouffer, Ph.D.
estouffe@bloomu.edu
 Learning and Memory;
 Behavioral Neuroscience



Joseph Tloczynski, Ph.D.
jtloczyn@bloomu.edu
 Meditation; Spirituality;
 Stress Management; Well-being

Psychology Faculty