The Department of Psychology offers both a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) and Doctorate of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree, as well as an undergraduate minor in psychology. There are numerous opportunities for students to receive hands-on experience conducting research in laboratories or working in applied settings.

PSYCHOLOGY: SCIENCE FOR FUTURE CAREERS

B.S. in Psychology
Our department offers a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in psychology. This degree prepares undergraduate students for employment in applied settings or for graduate study in psychology and related fields. Students who do not pursue a graduate degree may find employment in a wide variety of organizations and agencies, as well as in research settings where knowledge of social, cognitive, and behavioral processes of humans or animals is useful. For such students, a B.S. degree in psychology offers a scientific background.

Our undergraduate curriculum introduces students to core areas of psychology including abnormal, developmental, learning and motivation, memory and cognition, physiological, research methods and statistics, sensation and perception, and social. Our undergraduate coursework emphasizes scientific theory, terminology, research methodology, and empirical findings in psychology’s major areas of study. Through upper-division coursework and personal contact with faculty, our undergraduate students gain valuable knowledge and research experience in several areas of psychology.

A psychology degree provides the educational background needed by students interested in clinical, counseling, and other human service careers.

Psychology Minor
We also offer a minor in psychology. Because psychology is a central discipline, a minor in psychology fits well with major studies in business, sociology, philosophy, health and human development, and many other disciplines.

Ph.D. in Psychological Science
We offer a research-oriented Doctorate of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in Psychological Science. Through advanced coursework, thesis and dissertation credits, research colloquia, and individualized mentoring from faculty, this program is designed to train graduate students in cognitive, social, health, physiological, and developmental psychology to conduct psychological research involving our two main themes: Health and Well-Being and Cognition, Emotion, and Motivation. Our Ph.D. program in Psychological Science prepares students for research-oriented careers in academia and applied settings.

Neha John-Henderson studies the impacts of socioeconomic disparities on health and disease risk.

INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS
The faculty in the Department of Psychology are involved in a variety of interdisciplinary research projects. For example, several members of the faculty are affiliated with the Center for American Indian and Rural Health Equity (CAIRHE) at MSU. Psychology faculty collaborate with other faculty in several departments at MSU and beyond, both nationally and internationally.
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH
Undergraduate students can gain invaluable hands-on research experience by working in one of the departmental research labs, including:

Attention and Memory Lab
This lab investigates attention, cognitive control, memory, and language processes in young adults, older adults, and individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease.

Memory and Aging Lab
Research in this lab examines mechanisms that give rise to memory distortion and investigates how those mechanisms might also lead to memory enhancement.

Motivation and Diversity Lab
Our research is focused on three primary areas: motivation, goals, and stereotype processes, particularly as they relate to gender and achievement outcomes.

Neurobiology Lab
The primary goal of the research in this lab is to contribute to a better understanding of why the hippocampus is sensitive to transient cerebral ischemia.

Persuasion and Affect Lab
This lab conducts research broadly in social cognition, including attitude formation and change, unconscious thought, bias, and expectation effects.

Research, Education, and Culture in Health Lab
The REACH Lab investigates mental health and addictive behaviors from a biopsychosocial perspective, meaning that body, mind, and social/cultural factors are connected and interact to influence behavior.

Child and Adolescent Anxiety Lab of Montana (CAALM)
The primary focus of this research lab is to understand how emotion regulation factors contribute to the development and maintenance of anxiety problems across childhood and adolescence.

Socioeconomic Adversity, Resilience, and Health Lab
This lab focuses on how daily life experiences, health behaviors, and social relationships may moderate the relationship between low socioeconomic status and problematic physiological profiles. Ultimately, research from this lab seeks to contribute to the reduction of socioeconomic disparities in health.

Please note: Some of these professions would require additional education such as a master’s or doctoral degree.

For additional information, contact:
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Brandon Scott researches anxiety and emotion-regulation in children.

Monica Skewes leads a CAIRHE pilot project examining substance abuse and resilience on the Fort Peck Reservation in Montana.

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