INTRODUCTION

Psychology is the scientific study of behavior and the physiological and cognitive processes involved. Psychologists study behavior at all levels, from the actions of large groups to the chemical processes occurring in individual cells. Psychology is an exciting field that applies, directly or indirectly, to all parts of the human experience. Psychology is also much more diverse than most people realize. For instance, the American Psychological Association has over 50 divisions, including Developmental Psychology, School Psychology, Counseling Psychology, Health Psychology, and more. The research being conducted by the faculty in the Psychology Department also reflects the breadth and diversity within the field. Current research in Eastern’s Psychology Department includes training for parents of children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder; behavioral treatment for children with autism; work values of Generation Y employees; HIV/AIDS prevention; perceptions of affirmative action policies; adolescent social and emotional development; evolutionary factors in attraction; job attitudes of non-profit employees; situational influences on masculinity and femininity; impulsive or maladaptive choices; visual cognition, attention, and lifeguard surveillance; and treatment of anxiety disorders in adults.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Students in the program receive a firm grounding in the science of psychology including research methods and statistics. Consistent with the University’s liberal arts mission, written work is a requirement of all psychology courses. Students can choose from three tracks of study. The General Psychology concentration offers broad training in psychology. This concentration is appropriate for students who hope to continue their education at the graduate level. The Child and Youth concentration offers a strong foundation in current theory and research in child psychology. This concentration is appropriate for students planning careers in areas such as child therapy, child advocacy, education, or school psychology as well as students planning to pursue graduate study in child psychology or related areas. The third concentration, in the Psychology of Work, is designed to prepare students planning to enter organizations where knowledge of industrial-organizational psychology is useful (e.g., human resources, organizational research, market research) or attend graduate school in industrial-organizational psychology. Students also can take courses leading to certification in applied behavior analysis at the associate level, or complete an individualized major in cognitive neuroscience. Many students gain valuable experience working with faculty as teaching or research assistants and/or working with psychologists in field placements in a variety of settings.

TRENDS IN THIS FIELD

Recent technological advances have yielded a surge in activity in the field of cognitive neuroscience, where psychologists collaborate with biologists, mathematicians, computer scientists, and others. Education-related legislation has also created greater demand for school psychologists, child psychologists, and behavior analysts. Demographic shifts have created increased demand for psychologists focusing on aging and gerontology as well. Organizations have consistently increased their use of industrial-organizational psychologists to help address workplace challenges such as discrimination and work-life balance.
STUDENT SUCCESS

Our students have gone on to graduate studies at many different institutions, including:

- Baruch College - City University of New York (CUNY)
- Central Connecticut State University
- Connecticut College
- Fordham University
- New England Center for Children
- Nova Southeastern University
- Pacific University
- Roger Williams University
- Southern Connecticut State University
- Spalding University
- Springfield College
- University of California at Santa Cruz
- University of Colorado
- University of Connecticut
- University of Hartford
- University of Hawaii
- University of Indianapolis
- University of Kansas
- University of Massachusetts
- University of New England
- University of New Haven
- University of North Texas
- Yale University

CAREER OPTIONS

The psychology program provides a solid scientific background for students seeking a research, teaching or service career in the behavioral science or mental health fields. Psychology coursework and extensive hands-on laboratory and field experience provide knowledge and training which especially benefits students seeking to attend graduate school to study psychology, but which will also be applicable to many entry-level jobs in other fields. Some of our graduates are employed in the following occupations:

- Behavior analyst
- Human Resources coordinator
- Drug/substance abuse counselor
- Child protection worker
- Employment counselor
- Rehabilitation advisor
- School psychologist
- Family service worker
- Residential youth counselor
- Group home coordinator
- Social service director
- Nursing home director
- Mental retardation unit manager
- Affirmative Action officer
- Hospital patient service representative
- Parks and recreation director
- Community recreation worker
- Probation/parole officer
- Correctional officer
- Veterans’ advisor

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact the Psychology Department at (860) 465-4540 or visit www.easternct.edu/psychology/.