

## Research & Practical Experience

Students can explore any of the interesting and varied areas of Psychology through research, service learning and internships. Majors often work on research projects individually with faculty members or with small research teams. Recent research projects included "Glucose Regulation and Neuropsychology of Memory," "Psychological Factors in Blood Pressure Regulation," "Group Development Over Time," and "Self-Concept in Gifted Children." Many of the students are chosen to present their research at conferences across the nation.

Students in Psychology also have several opportunities to gain practical experience through internships before they graduate. Internships are tailored to match students' interests. This not only provides valuable experience, but gives you the chance to see if the career fits you. Psychology majors have completed internships at Riverbend Rehabilitation Center, Youth Services Group Homes, United Cerebral Palsy, Heartland Mental Health Unit, Buchanan County Prosecutor's Office, Buchanan County Juvenile Office, and Family Guidance Center.

## Admission

Admission in the Psychology program is competitive. An admissions committee reviews all applications October 1 and March 1.

Admission is based on the grades earned in five prerequisite courses, an essay regarding the applicant's vocational aspirations in Psychology, and grades in all college work to date.

Successful candidates in the Psychology program will have a solid background in high school courses in Math, Science, and English.



## Alumni Views

***"At Missouri Western, learning is facilitated in an atmosphere where students are encouraged***

***to think critically, effectively and openly. After graduation, I was immediately accepted into one of the premier, mid-size graduate programs in the Midwest and, thanks to the Psychology faculty, quickly realized I was among those most prepared for graduate work. I can say with confidence the commitment of the faculty at Missouri Western to educating students is above and beyond merit."***

*Donna Stuber-McEwen, Ph.D., '85, Professor, Dept. of Psychology  
Vice Chair, Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences  
Friends University, Wichita, Kansas*

***"Faculty in the Department of Psychology truly listened to students' ideas. They also encouraged us to challenge ourselves and our preconceived notions of the world."***

*N. Andrew Peterson, Ph.D., '91  
Director for Research and Asst. Professor  
Department of Community and Behavioral Health  
University of Iowa*

## For more information

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# Psychology

**Missouri Western State University**





# Psychology Department

Do you want to explore the dimensions of the human mind and better understand human behavior? Do you want a degree that offers interesting courses and can lead to a variety of careers? Psychology is

one of the most diverse academic fields. It is a hybrid science that stretches from the boundaries of chemistry and biology at one end to the social sciences and economics at the other.

Businesses and organizations today are looking for employees with great “people skills,” and the Psychology program helps you develop those skills. The program also cultivates leaders who have solid communication, interpersonal, problem solving and information technology skills.

You have the option of a bachelor of arts or bachelor of science degree in General Psychology, or a bachelor of science with a Personnel Psychology emphasis. A Psychology degree prepares you for a variety of careers in government, social services, childcare, business, human resources, and other areas. It also provides a great foundation for advanced degrees in psychology, education, law, and health and medicine.

A Psychology degree involves opportunities to conduct research as an undergraduate. In fact, 100% of Psychology majors are involved in research projects, service learning, or internships. The department has outstanding research facilities, including psychological testing equipment in a well-equipped experimental lab, psychological assessment instruments and a computer lab. The department also has several observation rooms with video cameras where students research human behavior.

Faculty members in Psychology have a broad range of backgrounds, and each faculty member has a specialty area that allows students to pursue different aspects of psychology.

## Careers

The Psychology program develops leaders who can think critically about complex issues. Psychology majors learn to gather, organize, and evaluate information from multiple sources; to interact effectively with various individuals from diverse backgrounds and age groups; and to work



collaboratively as part of a team. Particularly helpful are the statistical and research skills that students acquire that enable them to evaluate programs, create surveys and analyze problems. Most importantly, Psychology students “learn how to learn,” a requirement to keeping up in a world where demands are constantly shifting.

Graduates in Psychology have diverse careers in a variety of areas, such as social services, juvenile services, corrections, government and business. For example, alumni have reported careers as resources information specialists, pharmaceutical company health consultants, probation parole officers, case managers, FBI special agents, public relations directors, research analysts, police officers, daycare directors, training coordinators, child and family advocates, nursing home directors, substance abuse counselors, youth ministers and employment coaches.

Many graduates have successfully pursued advanced degrees to become clinical psychologists, speech language pathologists, doctors, counselors, therapists and more.

## Points of Pride

- **The Psychology Department received a grant from the National Science Foundation to develop and maintain the National Undergraduate Research Clearinghouse website. The website, [clearinghouse.missouriwestern.edu](http://clearinghouse.missouriwestern.edu), has many examples of student research not only by Western students, but projects by students throughout the world.**
- **Last year, 20 students presented research papers at Psychology conferences in Kansas City, Omaha, Chicago and Washington.**
- **One student won an award for a paper presentation at the Great Plains Students Psychology Convention in Kansas City and another recently had a paper accepted for publication in the *Journal of Educational Psychology*.**
- **A faculty member received the Psi Chi Honor Society’s Midwest Region Faculty Advisor of the Year award.**
- **Three faculty members have received Outstanding Teaching Research Poster Presentation awards from the Society for the Teaching of Psychology.**