Psychology Major’s Handbook (2012-2016)
Statement of Purpose
Roanoke College pursues its mission through a curriculum that includes a cohesive core of liberal arts as well as specialized, career-oriented programs of study. The Psychology Department offers a program which contributes to the liberal arts mission of the College through a course in social scientific reasoning and through a specialized (major) program of study in psychology.

The Introduction to Psychology course, which fulfills the social science reasoning general education requirement, provides students with knowledge of how the science of psychology produces knowledge about human behavior and cognitive processes. Students who specialize (major) in psychology also acquire proficiency in the use of the technology, tools, and information-gathering resources of psychology; the ability to design and conduct empirical research on human behavior and cognitive processes; knowledge of a broad sampling of facts, concepts, and theories in contemporary psychology; the ability to place psychology within the broader intellectual traditions of the sciences and humanities; and the ability to seek out and assimilate psychological knowledge outside the classroom experience.

Academic Goals for Psychology

 Majors and Minors

Knowledge of Psychology: To develop a conceptual framework of facts, concepts, and theories (rather than isolated bits of knowledge), which will be useful in one’s professional and personal life.

Information-gathering and Thinking Skills: To be able to locate, extract, and organize information from scientific sources commonly used in psychology and to be able to think critically and evaluate information and ideas from scholarly and non-scholarly sources.

Research Methods, Statistical Analysis: & Technology Skills: To be able to conduct empirical research, which includes preparation of a proposal, collection and analysis of data, and preparation of a research report in APA style. To be able to use the computer to conduct a literature search, perform statistical analysis of the data, and write a paper.

Historical Perspective on Psychology: To place psychology within the broader intellectual traditions of the sciences and humanities by tracing the evolution of the theories, methods, and sociopolitical issues in Psychology as a science and profession.

Ethics and Values: To understand and be able to apply the ethical standards and principles of conduct which have been adopted for the conduct of research with human and animal subjects.

These academic goals can be met by the student’s successful completion of the core requirements which are common to the B. A. and B. S. majors: PSYC 101 (Introduction to Psychology), PSYC 204 (Quantitative Methods), PSYC 205 (Research Methods), PSYC 420, 430, or 440 (Research Seminar), and PSYC 450 (History of Psychology).

Degrees Offered in Psychology

The psychology department at Roanoke College offers several degree options for students. These include two majors (Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science), a minor, and two concentrations (Human Development and Neuroscience).

It is strongly recommended that students declaring a major in psychology have at least a 2.0 GPA in psychology at the time of the declaration of the major. Students who have taken three or more psychology courses and have not achieved at least a 2.0 GPA in psychology should seriously reconsider their intention to major in psychology.

Bachelor of Arts Degree

The Bachelor of Arts degree (B. A.) is designed to expose the student to the core areas in the science of Psychology and to provide the maximum number of electives in the major. The B. A. degree will give the student a broad base from which to seek employment or, with the appropriate selection of courses, a sound background for graduate study at the Masters or Doctoral level.

Students pursuing the Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in psychology are required to complete a minimum of 12 units.

- **Required Courses:** 101, 204, 205, 450, and one unit of Research Seminar (420 or 430).

Of the remaining seven units, two must be selected from Group A and two from Group B:

- **Group A:** Development-Abnormal-Learning: 210 or 211 or 212 or 215; 230, 290.

- **Group B:** Personality-Social-Physiological-Cognitive: 315 or 325, 330, 340, 350, 360.

**Electives:** The final three units required may be selected from all Psychology courses offered except only one Internship (PSYC 316/317) and only one unit of Mentored Research course (PSYC 318/319, 405/406/407, 495/496/497) may be applied to the major. PSYC 210 may not be counted towards the major if 215 has been taken. Students wishing to complete the Concentration in Human Development should take 210 and 211. It is recommended that students complete at least two 200-level psychology courses before enrolling in courses numbered 300 or higher. INQ 260PY may count as one of the electives.

Other Courses Recommended for B. A. Majors:

- BIOL 120 (Principles of Biology) and INQ 240 (Statistics).

For more information see [http://goo.gl/EOx4B](http://goo.gl/EOx4B)

Bachelor of Science Degree

The Bachelor of Science degree (B.S.) is designed to prepare the student for graduate school at the doctoral level, particularly for Ph.D. programs in clinical psychology, experimental psychology, cognitive science, and neuroscience. The B.S major requires more research experience than the BA major and it requires four mathematics and/or physical science courses.

Students pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology are required to complete a minimum of 13 units in psychology and four additional math and science units.

- **Required Courses:** 101, 204, 205, 290, 450, and two units of Research Seminar (420, 430). Also, BIO 120 and INQ 240.

PSYC 300, 1 unit of an empirically based independent study (406 or 405 and 407) or 1 unit of Honors Project (496 or 495 and 497) may be
substituted for the second unit of the research seminar requirement.

In addition, three units must be selected from Group C:

- **Group C**: BIOL 125, 210, 230, 260, 340; CHEM 111, 112, 221, 222, 341; CPSC 120, 170, INQ 241(CPSC); MATH 111 or higher; PHYS 103, 104; STAT 202, 301, 403, 404. (Note that many of these courses are prerequisites to others; some do not receive credit if a higher-level course is taken. These restrictions apply.)

For more information see [http://goo.gl/cjl6a](http://goo.gl/cjl6a)

### Enrollment in Internship and Mentored Research

For enrollment in an Internship (PSYC 316/317), a written application must be submitted to the Director of the Internship Program and approved by the department faculty prior to registration. Contact the Internship Director for more information about the application process. For enrollment in Mentored Research (Research Experience PSYC 305/306, Research Practicum PSYC 318/319, Independent Study PSYC 405/406/407, or an Honors Project PSYC 495/496/497), a written application must be submitted to the department chairperson and approved by the department faculty prior to registration. Information about the application process for Internships and Mentored Research can be found under the Research and Internships section of the department website.

### Minor in Psychology

The Psychology minor requires six courses in Psychology: two designated courses and four chosen from the Psychology curriculum:

- **Required Courses**: PSYC 101 and PSYC 205 or PSYC 300 (for students majoring in Sociology) or CJUS/POLI/I.R. 209 (for students majoring in Criminal Justice, Political Science or International Relations)

Four courses chosen from the psychology course offerings excluding PSYC 316/317 (Internship) and Mentored Research (Research Experience PSYC 305/306, Research Practicum PSYC 318/319, Independent Study PSYC 405/406/407, or an Honors Project (PSYC 495/496/497), Two of the four courses must be at the 300 level or higher. Only one PSYC 240 (Special Topics) course may be applied to the Minor.

For more information see [http://goo.gl/KDW3R](http://goo.gl/KDW3R)

### Human Development Concentration

**Professor Jan Lynch, Coordinator**

The Concentration in Human Development has two purposes:

1. To provide focused coursework for students who plan to pursue a post-graduate degree in counseling psychology or school psychology
2. To prepare students for entry-level positions in a variety of careers that involve designing and/or implementing programs for children, adolescents, and/or the elderly

Successful completion of the following seven courses is required:

- **Required Courses**: PSYC 101, 210, 211, 212; and PSYC 205 or PSYC 204 or SOC 251 or CJUS/POLI/I.R. 209

Two courses chosen from Group A:

- **Group A**: PSYC 300, 315, 316, 325, 340

To apply for the concentration, students must have a GPA of 2.00 or higher in the courses completed at the time of application. At least three of these courses cannot also be counted towards the major. Students who have competency in PSYC 101 will take six courses for the concentration.

For more information see [http://goo.gl/MzBJu](http://goo.gl/MzBJu)

### Neuroscience Concentration

**Assistant Professor Dr. David Nichols, Coordinator**

A concentration in neuroscience will offer students an opportunity to learn about theory and research on the brain and nervous system from a number of perspectives. A tremendous body of knowledge in psychology, intersecting with biology, chemistry, movement science, artificial intelligence, and medical ethics, has been growing rapidly in recent years with the advent of newer techniques in the study of neuroscience. These developments have illuminated multiple areas within the disciplines and filled in knowledge gaps in areas such as mental illness, brain damage, child development, and drug interactions. The Psychology Department houses the concentration, but it is designed to be compatible with majors in biology, chemistry, and health and human performance because neuroscience is an interdisciplinary field. Students will come to understand how developments in chemistry, biology, psychology and related fields alter knowledge and research techniques in the other fields. Students will also learn from faculty in a range of departments and be exposed to a range of research and thus a range of viewpoints. Students from any major may graduate with a concentration in Neuroscience by successfully completing at least six units and earning a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0. In accordance with the general rules applicable to all concentrations, no more than three courses from a student’s major may apply to the concentration and at least three courses in the concentration must be completed at Roanoke College.

Successful completion of the following six courses is required:

- **Required Courses**: NEUR 330, BIOL 120 or (BIO 105 for HHP Majors only), CHEM 111, NEUR 430 or 406 or 405 and 407
Psychology Course Descriptions

Psychology 101 is a prerequisite for all other courses in the department. Some courses have additional prerequisites, which are indicated in the course descriptions that follow.

101 Introduction to Psychology
An overview of the field of psychology with emphasis on basic processes in human behavior. (Except where noted, this course is a prerequisite for all other courses in the department.) (1) Lecture: 3 hrs/wk.

204 Quantitative Methods in Psychology
An examination of techniques used by psychologists to measure behavior and to analyze and interpret the data. The course includes an introduction to computer data analysis. (1) Lecture: 3 hrs/wk.; Laboratory: 1½ hrs/wk. Prerequisite: PSYC 101 or permission.

205 Research Methods in Psychology
An examination of the research methods used in the fields of psychology. Topics include introductions to and evaluations of observational, relational and experimental research methods and designs. Ethics and research, communication and research, the development of research ideas and the reliability and validity of research are also examined. (1) Lecture: 3 hrs/wk. Prerequisite: PSYC 101 or permission.

210 Child Development
Behavior and development of the child from conception to puberty. (1) (PSYC 210 may not be counted towards the major if PSYC 215 has been taken. Students wishing to complete the Concentration in Human Development should take 210 and 211). Lecture: 3 hrs/wk. Prerequisite: PSYC 101 or permission.

211 Adolescent Development
Behavior and development of the individual from puberty to early adulthood. (1) Students wishing to complete the Concentration in Human Development should take 210 and 211). Lecture: 3 hrs/wk. Prerequisite: PSYC 101 or permission.

212 Adult Development and Aging
Behavior and development of the individual from early adulthood to old age. (1) Lecture: 3 hrs/wk. Prerequisite: PSYC 101 or permission.

215 Child & Adolescent Development
An examination of development from conception through adolescence. Physical, cognitive and socioemotional development will be discussed in the context of psychological theories, research, current applications and historical events. Psychology 215 may not be counted towards the major if 210 has been taken. Students wishing to complete the Concentration in Human Development should take 210 and 211. (1) Lecture: 3 hrs/wk. Prerequisite: PSYC 101 or permission.

220 Creative Thinking and Problem-Solving
An introduction to creative thinking and creative problem-solving, including definitions, theories, and assessment of creativity as well as research about creativity and the creative process. Attention will be given to skills of creative thinking and presentation of a creative problem-solving model. (1) Lecture: 3 hrs/wk. Prerequisite: PSYC 101 or permission.

225 Cross-cultural Psychology
The study of human behavior and mental processes, including both differences and consistencies, across different cultures. The aim is to examine systematic relations between cultural factors and behavior, as well as the generalizability of psychological principles across cultures. Lecture: 3 hrs/wk. Prerequisite: PSYC 101 or permission.

230 Abnormal Psychology
Study of individual psychopathology and deviant behavior, including diagnosis, theories, causes, and treatments. (1) Lecture: 3 hrs/wk. Prerequisite: PSYC 101 or permission.

240 Special Topics in Psychology
A course offered in various formats, designed to give students instruction in a subject not regularly offered. (1) Lecture: 3 hrs/wk. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: PSYC 101 or permission.

250 Industrial-Organizational Psychology
Application of principles and methods of psychology to business, industry, and other organizations, with emphasis on selection of employees and organizational behavior. (1) Lecture: 3 hrs/wk. Prerequisite: PSYC 101 or permission.

260 Human Sexuality
Human reproduction and sexual behavior; contemporary and historical norms; dysfunction; cross-cultural perspective; the bonding function of sexuality, and its expression in the arts, religion, ethics, and law. (1) Lecture: 3 hrs/wk. Prerequisite: PSYC 101 or permission.

270 Drugs and Behavior
An examination of the mechanisms of actions, uses, effects and abuse liability of range of drugs. Both therapeutic drugs (such as...
antidepressants and antipsychotics) and recreational drugs (such as alcohol, stimulants and marijuana) will be addressed. *(l)*
Lecture: 3 hrs/wk.
Prerequisite: PSYC 101 or permission

**280 Evolutionary Psychology**
Why do some humans like spicy food and drinking alcohol? Why are younger women attracted to older men? Why would we risk our life to save a total stranger? Evolutionary psychology suggests that a considerable amount of human activity can be explained as evolutionary adaptations. Human beings, like other animals on this planet, evolved certain traits, preferences, and abilities to deal with their environment. This class will explore the latest research applying evolution to human psychology. *(l)* Lecture: 3 hr/wk.
Prerequisite: PSYC 101 or permission.

**290 Learning**
Principles of learning processes, classic and contemporary theories, and methods of research. *(l)*
Lecture: 3 hrs/wk.
Prerequisite: PSYC 101 or permission.

**300 Tests and Measurements**
Principles and methods of psychological measurement and test construction, with consideration of administration and psychometric evaluation of representative tests. *(l)*
Lecture: 3 hrs/wk.
Prerequisite: PSYC 204 or permission.

**305, 306 Research Experience**
Directed experience conducting empirical research under the supervision of a faculty member. Open to all students (majors and non-majors). *(1/4, 1/4)*
Prerequisite: Written application approved by department.

**315 Personality**
Theories of personality, applications, and extensions of these theories, current research on individual differences, and methods and issues in personality measurement. *(l)*
Lecture: 3 hrs/wk.
Prerequisite: PSYC 101 or permission.

**316, 317 Internship**
Practical experience in a setting in which psychology is applied. Placements in mental health facilities and other community agencies and institutions. Seminar on relevant topics. (One unit may be counted as an elective in the major). *(1, 1)*
Prerequisite: Written application approved by department.

**318, 319 Research Practicum**
Directed study and empirical research under the supervision of a faculty member. (Open to majors with the approval of the department. One unit may be counted as an elective in the major). *(1, 1)*
Prerequisite: Written application approved by department.

**325 Social Psychology**
Study of the influence of people on each other’s behavior, including social influence and social interaction. *(s)*
Lecture: 3 hrs/wk.
Prerequisites: PSYC 101 or permission.

**330 Principles of Neuroscience**
This course will provide a detailed understanding of neurons and the functional role of different aspects of the human nervous system. A survey of topic areas relevant to psychology and neuroscience related disciplines will also be included. (Cross-listed with NEUR 330). *(l)*
Lecture: 3 hrs/wk.; Laboratory: 1 1/2 hrs/wk.
Prerequisite: PSYC 101 or BIOL 120 or permission.

**340 Cognition**
An examination of the research and theory of complex cognitive processes. Topics covered include memory, cognitive development, language, thinking, concept formation, pattern recognition, and problem solving. *(l)*
Lecture: 3 hrs/wk.
Prerequisites: PSYC 101 or permission.

**350 Sensation and Perception**
Study of the functionality of the different senses and how perception arises within the human brain. *(l)*
Lecture: 3 hr/wk.
Prerequisite: PSYC 101 or NEUR 330.

**360 Neuropsychology**
Examines the field of neuropsychology through the examination of common disorders found in neuropsychology, assessment techniques, and the application of knowledge of the relevant concepts to the interpretation and solution of disorders of brain-behavior relationships. (Cross-listed with NEUR 360). *(l)* Lecture: 3 hrs/wk
Prerequisite: NEUR 330 or permission.

**405, 406, 407 Independent Study**
Empirical research project or extensive literature review, with faculty supervision. *(1/2, 1, 1/2)*
Prerequisite: Written proposal and application approved by department.

**420 Research Seminar: Psychology**
An advanced, research-oriented seminar where students in small groups propose and carry out an empirically based research study. *(l)*
Lecture: 3 hrs/wk.
Prerequisites: PSYC 204 and 205 and a 300 level PSYC course.

**430 Research Seminar: Neuroscience**
An advanced, research-oriented seminar in human neuroscience. (Cross-listed with NEUR 430). *(l)*
Lecture: 3 hrs/wk.
Prerequisites: NEUR 330 or permission.

**450 History of Psychology**
Examination of the major systems in psychology with an emphasis on its 19th-century origins to the present. *(l)*
Lecture: 3 hrs/wk.
Prerequisite: Senior standing or by permission.

**495, 496, 497 Honors Project**
A program of independent study culminating in a paper, artistic creation, or performance. *(1/2, 1, 1/2)*
Prerequisites: To qualify for consideration to receive honors in the major, a student in his/her senior year or in the Summer prior to the senior year, must work under the guidance of his/her committee. A written proposal and application must be approved by the committee and department. A minimum GPA of 3.4 in the major is required. 495 Honors Project is prerequisite for 497 Honors Project. At least 1 unit of Independent Study (405, 406, or 407) is a prerequisite to 495, 496, and 497.
Neuroscience Course Descriptions

330 Principles of Neuroscience
This course will provide a detailed understanding of neurons and the functional role of different aspects of the human nervous system. A survey of topic areas relevant to psychology and neuroscience related disciplines will also be included. (Cross-listed with PSYC 330). (1)
Lecture 3 hrs/wk. Laboratory: 1 ½ hrs/wk
Prerequisite: PSYC 101 or BIOL 120 or permission.

360 Topics in Neuroscience
A thorough examination of a particular topic within the field of neuroscience that is not covered in other regularly offered courses. (1)
Lecture: 3 hrs/wk.
Prerequisite: NEUR 330 or permission.

360 Neuropsychology
Examines the field of neuropsychology through the examination of common disorders found in neuropsychology, assessment techniques, and the application of knowledge of the relevant concepts to the interpretation and solution of disorders of brain-behavior relationships. (Cross-listed with PSYC 360). (1)
Lecture: 3 hrs/wk.
Prerequisite: NEUR 330 or permission.

405, 406, 407 Independent Study
Empirical research project that has a focus in neuroscience, with faculty supervision. (½, 1, ½)
Prerequisite: Written proposal and application approved by the coordinator.

430 Research Seminar: Neuroscience
An advanced, research-oriented seminar in human neuroscience. (Cross-listed with PSYC 430). (1)
Lecture: 3 hrs/wk.
Prerequisite: NEUR 330 or permission.

The Psychology Faculty

Dr. Angela Allen, Teaching Associate in Psychology
Dr. Allen began teaching at Roanoke College in 1997. She received the B.A. ('86) from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and the Ph.D. ('92) from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her interests are in Psychopharmacology and Abnormal Psychology. She teaches PSYC 101, 203, 270, and NEUR 210. allen@roanoke.edu

Dr. Christopher Buchholz, Associate Professor of Psychology
Dr. Buchholz was hired in 2004. He received the B.S. in psychology from Virginia Tech ('93), the M.A. from Appalachian State ('98), and the Ph.D. from Florida Atlantic in ('02). His research and teaching interests include social psychology and personality where he has been focusing on the effects of personality on musical preferences. He teaches PSYC 101, 225, 280, 325, 420, and 450. buchholz@roanoke.edu

Dr. Mary Camac, Associate Professor of Psychology and Department Chair
Dr. Mary Camac came to Roanoke College in 1992. She received the B.A. ('80) from the University of Delaware, and the M.A. ('82) and Ph.D. ('85) in psychology from Princeton University. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi. Dr. Camac's interests are in memory, critical thinking, and scientific reasoning, in which she has developed a program of research. She teaches PSYC 340, 440, and INQ 260. mcamac@roanoke.edu

Dr. Charles E. Early, Professor of Psychology
Dr. Early was hired as Chair of the department in 1988. He received the A.B. ('66) from Grove City College, an M.S. Ed. ('74) from the University of Southern California, an M.A. ('76) from Western Washington University, and the Ph.D. ('79) from the Pennsylvania State University. He is a member of Phi Kappa Phi, and has interests in the history of psychology and learning. He teaches PSYC 101, 290, and 450. early@roanoke.edu

Dr. Denise R. Friedman, Associate Professor of Psychology
Dr. Friedman joined the department in 2007. She graduated Summa Cum Laude from Averett University with a B. S. in Psychology. She earned her M. S. (2004) and her Ph.D. (2006) from Virginia Tech where she specialized in developmental and biological psychology. Her research interests include memory and cognitive development as well as the effects of technology on human abilities. She teaches PSYC 101, 210, 215, 440; INQ 260, and 300. friedman@roanoke.edu

Dr. Jan H. Lynch, Professor of Psychology
Dr. Lynch came to Roanoke College in 1980. She received the B.S. ('76) from Columbus College, and the M.A. ('78) and Ph.D. ('80) from the University of Georgia. She holds a Certificate in Gerontology from the University of Georgia and is a member of Sigma Xi. Her interests are in gerontology and cognition. She teaches PSYC 212, 316, and 340. jlynch@roanoke.edu

Dr. David Nichols, Assistant Professor of Psychology
Dr. Nichols came to the department in 2009 after completing a post-doctoral position at the Vision Research Centre at York University in Toronto. Dr. Nichols completed the B. A., M. A. and Ph.D at Florida Atlantic University. His teaching and research interests are in Sensation and Perception and Cognitive Neuroscience among other areas. He teaches PSYC 101, 205, 350, 410, and NEUR 210. dnichols@roanoke.edu

Dr. Lindsey Osterman, Assistant Professor of Psychology
Dr. Osterman came to the department in 2013. She received the B.S from the University of Southern Mississippi ('06), and the M.S. ('09) and Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma. Her interests focus on how individual, social, cultural, and ecological factors interact to influence social and personal functioning and well-being. Currently, she is pursuing lines of research on (1) an evolutionary model of suicidal behavior, and (2) the psychosocial and endocrinological effects of parasocial relationships (i.e., the one-sided relationships that people...
develop with media personalities). She teaches PSYC 204, 205, 280, and 325.

**Dr. Galdino F. Pranzarone, Professor of Psychology**
Dr. Pranzarone joined the department in 1972. He received the B.S. ’(66) from Loyola University, and the M.A. ’(68) and Ph.D. ’(72) from George Peabody College. He is certified by the American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors, and Therapists as a sex educator and holds a primary certificate in rational-emotive therapy. His interests are in physiological psychology and human sexuality. He teaches PSYC 101, 260, 330, and INQ 260. pranzaro@roanoke.edu

**Dr. Edward Whitson, Associate Professor of Psychology**
Dr. Whitson joined the department as a full time member in 2009. He served as the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for over 15 years. Before coming to Roanoke College he was an Associate Professor at the State University of New York at Geneseo. Dr. Whitson received a B.S. from Pennsylvania State University, M. Ed. from Antioch Graduate School and the M. A. and Ph. D. in clinical psychology from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Dr. Whitson is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. His teaching and research interests focus on personality and positive psychology. He teaches PSYC 205, 230, 315, and 440. whitson@roanoke.edu

**Ellen M. Dyer, Secretary**
Ellen has worked at Roanoke College since 2001. She received a B.S. in Business Administration from Longwood University. dyer@roanoke.edu

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**Additional Opportunities to Conduct Research**

Additional participation in research is strongly recommended for students who plan to pursue advanced degrees (e.g., a Master’s degree, a Psy.D., a Ph.D., as well as for Medical School. One’s likelihood of acceptance into a nationally competitive program is enhanced by having a record of research participation.

Presenting research at regional or national conferences is also recommended for students seeking admission graduate programs. Roanoke College Psychology majors have presented papers and posters based on their research at the Carolinas Undergraduate Psychology conference, the Annual Meeting of the Virginia Psychological Association, the L. Starling Reid Undergraduate Psychology Conference, as well as regional and national professional conferences in Psychology. Financial support for conference presentation can be obtained by application to the Department or to Director of Student/Faculty Research.

Additional opportunities for research experience are provided by Research Practicum, Independent Study, and Honors Project in Psychology.

- **Research Practicum:** Research Practicum provides the student with an opportunity to conduct empirical research under the direction of a faculty member. Typically, the student becomes involved in an on-going research project and learns how to collect and analyze data through “hands-on” experience.

- **Research Experience:** Directed experience conducting empirical research under the supervision of a faculty member. Open to all students (majors and non-majors).

- **Independent Study:** Independent study is available to students in the junior and senior years. Students design their own projects and work independently, with guidance from a faculty supervisor.

- **Honors Project in Psychology:** Honors in Psychology may be earned by students who meet Roanoke College’s criteria for Honors in the Major and who successfully complete an
Honors Study. The Honors Project is an empirical study which is based on an Independent Study conducted in a previous term. Each student has an Honors Committee and a faculty supervisor; the work is done independently. Students who fulfill the requirements receive the designation, *Honors in Psychology*, on the diploma.

- **The Summer Scholar Program** at Roanoke College enables qualified students to conduct independent research for eight to twelve weeks during the summer. Students receive tuition, on-campus housing, and a stipend of $2500. Application procedures and deadlines are published every spring and are available from your psychology advisor. Psychology majors have participated in the Summer Scholar Program almost every year since its beginning in 1994.

**Research Practicum**
Research Practicum provides the student with an opportunity to conduct empirical research under the direction of a faculty member. Typically, the student becomes involved in an ongoing research project. Typically, the student becomes involved in an on-going research project. Student work is more directed (i.e., less independent) than the Independent Study (PSYC 406), which also involves student research.

Students may participate in Research Practicum twice; one unit may count toward the major, while the second unit counts as a general elective. Research Practicum is taken for a grade.

Research Practicum is strongly recommended for students who plan to attend graduate school in any of the research areas of psychology. Admission criteria for M.A. and Ph.D. programs often include research experience, and one's likelihood of acceptance into a competitive program is enhanced by having a record of research participation.

To participate in Research Practicum, the student must have an overall GPA of at least 3.0 and a Psychology GPA of at least 3.0 at the time the independent study is proposed.

1. The student must obtain a faculty sponsor.

2. Students ordinarily undertake independent study during the junior or senior year. It is not advisable to initiate independent study in the last term of the senior year, since an uncompleted project would cause a delay in the student's graduation.

3. In order to undertake empirical research, the student should have completed PSYC 204 and Psyc 205. Under rare circumstances, a senior may be permitted to conduct an empirical study while enrolled in either PSYC 204 or 205.

**Procedures for Enrolling in Independent Study**
1. The student must obtain a faculty sponsor.

2. The student must complete both the Application for Research in the Department and Independent Study Application forms.

3. The student must submit a written proposal to the psychology faculty at least three weeks before the date of registration for the term in which the study is to be conducted.

4. The psychology faculty will discuss the student's proposal and either accept or reject the student's plan. The student may be asked to defend the proposal orally at a department meeting.

5. The student may enroll in independent study only after a proposal has been accepted by the psychology faculty.

For more information see [http://goo.gl/EkpVB](http://goo.gl/EkpVB)

**Honors in Psychology**
A student may receive a B.A. degree with Honors in Psychology or a B.S. degree with Honors in Psychology by meeting the following standards.

**College Standards for Honors in the Major**

1. The student must have at least a 3.4 GPA in the major at the time of application for honors work and must have at least a 3.4 GPA in the major at the time of application in order to receive the designation of "Honors" on the diploma.

2. The student must complete an Honors Project which must consist of at least one unit of work and receive a grade of at least "A*" (if the project fails to receive an A*). Independent Study credit will be granted in the place of Honors credit. The project must be undertaken in the senior year or in the summer prior to the senior year. It may be completed in one semester as one unit or in two semesters as two 1/2 units. While it may be based on previous work, such as an independent study, it must represent a "significant and original project over and above any past work."

3. The student must have a committee of at least three faculty members, one of whom will serve as primary

**Student Qualifications**

1. A student must have an overall GPA of at least 3.0 and a psychology GPA of at least 3.0 at the time the independent study is proposed.

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**College Standards for Honors in the Major**

1. The student must have at least a 3.4 GPA in the major at the time of application for honors work and must have at least a 3.4 GPA in the major at the time of application in order to receive the designation of "Honors" on the diploma.

2. The student must complete an Honors Project which must consist of at least one unit of work and receive a grade of at least "A*" (if the project fails to receive an A*). Independent Study credit will be granted in the place of Honors credit. The project must be undertaken in the senior year or in the summer prior to the senior year. It may be completed in one semester as one unit or in two semesters as two 1/2 units. While it may be based on previous work, such as an independent study, it must represent a "significant and original project over and above any past work."

3. The student must have a committee of at least three faculty members, one of whom will serve as primary
advisors. The other members may include a faculty member from outside the student’s major. To apply for Honors, the student submits a proposal to the committee. After approval by the committee, permission to enroll in Honors work in the following term will be granted. The committee’s evaluation of the project will be based on the final product and an oral examination; the primary advisor will assign a letter grade to the project, after consultation with the other committee members.

Requirements for Honors in Psychology

1. For Honors in Psychology, the student must complete 12 units in Psychology, one of which will be Independent Study and one of which will be an Honors Project.

2. The Honors Project must be an empirical study carried out in one semester (as PSYC 496) or in two semesters (as PSYC 495 and 497, which are 1/2 unit designations).

3. The Honors project must be based on an Independent Study (PSYC 406) which may be undertaken in the junior year, the summer before the senior year, or the fall of the senior year. The Independent Study may be either a Literature Review Independent Study or an Empirical Independent Study. In either case, the Independent Study must provide the background for the empirical research in the Honors Project and usually will include as one of its products the proposal for the Honors Project. PSYC 406 is a prerequisite for PSYC 496 and PSYC 495/497.

*Requires Honors Committee approval of an Honors Proposal and permission of Department.

For more information see http://goo.gl/57Gpf

Psychology Internships

Internships are designed to provide students with practical experience in work settings in which their knowledge of psychology may be applied. Placements are made in community agencies, schools, hospitals, clinics, businesses, and other similar organizations. A description of current placement sites is available from the Internship Director, Dr. Jan Lynch (Life Sciences, 509F).

Value of Internships for Future Employment and Graduate School

Internships are recommended for students who plan to seek employment with their Bachelor of Arts degree. According to the recent article, “How Do I Maximize My Chances of Getting a Good Job with an Undergraduate Psychology Degree?” (Morgan & Korschgen, 1998), “Internships enable you to gain relevant work experience before you graduate, they provide you with employers who are often willing to give you strong recommendations, and they enable you to think through your career options and learn about the atmosphere of a work environment. Overall, they enhance your marketability. We know of many employers who will not even consider a recent graduate for employment unless she or he has had an internship while they were an undergraduate” (p. 28).

Internships are also recommended for students who plan to pursue a Master's degree in counseling psychology, social work, industrial-organizational psychology, human resource management, or any area of human development. Your application to graduate school will be enhanced if you can demonstrate that you have knowledge of and commitment to the field you plan to enter.

Comments from recent interns include the following:

“It was such a learning experience, not only through observation but also real hands-on. It was very useful in helping me learn about real applications of psychology.”

“The internship gave me a wealth of examples of careers in psychology. It reinforced my desire to work with children in a helping profession.”

“I think everyone should do an internship. The ‘real world’ is a lot different than college. Why not have a head start?”

“This internship was probably the best thing I did at college. It was certainly the most fun and rewarding. I would recommend an internship for anyone who really wants to know more about what they think they want to do. It could make a big difference in your future.”

It was a great opportunity to try out a possible career before you are actually in the real world. My internship helped me reevaluate my career choice and I realized that another career path would be more rewarding. I’m glad I had a chance to discover this while I was still in college.

Guidelines for Psychology Internships

Students may take two Internships (PSYC 316 and 317); one counts as an elective in the Major, and one counts as a General Elective. All Internships are taken on a Pass-Fail basis. Students may participate in an Internship as Juniors or Seniors. Applicants must have a GPA of 2.5 or better in their major as well as overall. Students may not receive remuneration for work done as a Psychology Intern.

Placement Sites for recent Psychology Interns include the following:

Salem Head Start, Roanoke Montessori School, Roanoke County Police Crimes Against Women Unit, Veterans’ Care Center, Roanoke City Juvenile Court Services Unit, West End Youth Center, Roanoke city Police, Domestic Violence Unit, Carilion Hospital, Behavioral Unit Catawba Hospital, Commonwealth Attorney’s Office, Roanoke City, Virginia Department of Rehabilitation Services, Thompson’s Brain Injury Center, School Psychologist, Salem City Schools, Total Action Against Poverty, Oak Grove Elementary School Special Education, Youth Haven II, Mt. View Elementary School special Education, Planned Parenthood, Virginia Baptist Children’s Home, Sanctuary Roanoke County Police, Criminal Investigation Division, TRUST, Roanoke Valley Interfaith Hospitality Network, The Magic Place/YMCA, Lewis Gale Occupational Therapy Center, Crisis Pregnancy Center, Child Abuse and Prevention Council, Young Life.

For more information see http://goo.gl/fQkjA

Departmental Student Assistants

The psychology faculty selects several students annually to be departmental assistants. Psychology majors who have at least a
2.5 GPA overall, and a 2.5 GPA in psychology may apply. Applications are taken in the spring for the summer term and regular term.

Departmental assistants work 6 to 10 hours a week, with “on duty” hours arranged to accommodate the professors’ and the assistants’ class schedules. During duty hours, the assistant is available for assignments such as grading multiple-choice tests, running errands, and other miscellaneous tasks. In addition, routine tasks include collection and distribution of the department’s mail, delivering the outgoing mail, and making photocopies.

The position of assistant requires integrity and dependability. Assistants are expected to be conscientious in meeting their scheduled duty hours and to maintain confidentiality of grades, tests, and any other course-related or student-related information to which they may have access.

Assistants are paid monthly at an hourly rate of Federal minimum wage. Work-study students are eligible

**Student Organizations**

**The Roanoke College Psychology Association**

The Roanoke College Psychology Association (RCPA) is open to all students in psychology. The RCPA is involved in a number of social, scholarly and philanthropic events each year. Members elect student officers and the RCPA has faculty sponsorship within the department. Recent activities include spring picnics, promotion of graduate school and employment workshops, and movie nights among others.

**Psi Chi National Honor Society**

Psi Chi is the national honor society in psychology. To be eligible, a student must have completed at least four units in psychology with at least a 3.0 GPA and must be in the upper 35% of his or her class. Psychology majors who meet these qualifications may apply for membership and are inducted annually.

The Roanoke College Chapter of Psi Chi elects officers annually. It sponsors academic events during the year and selects a recipient of the Psi Chi Achievement Award from among its members.

More information for both of these organizations can be found at [http://goo.gl/hjOn8](http://goo.gl/hjOn8)

**Awards in Psychology**

The following awards are given to recognize outstanding Psychology majors at the annual College Awards Banquet in April.

**Senior Scholar**

The psychology major who has the highest overall grade point average (a minimum of 3.2 is required) after completion of at least 27 units is designated as the Senior Scholar in Psychology.

**Karl W. Beck Memorial Prize**

The faculty selects a psychology major to receive the Karl W. Beck Memorial Prize, which is given for excellence in psychology. The recipient is awarded a prize of money, which is made possible by gifts of friends in memory of the late Dr. Karl W. Beck, professor and first chairperson of the Roanoke College Psychology Department. The recipient’s name is engraved on a plaque which is located in the department reception room.

**Outstanding Junior Psychology Major**

The faculty selects one or more juniors who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and potential for continued success in psychology. A certificate and gift are given by the Department.

**Psi Chi Achievement Award**

The Roanoke College Chapter of Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in psychology, selects from its membership a student who has best exemplified excellence in scholarship, leadership, and service. A gift and certificate are given by Psi Chi.

**Outstanding Student in the Human Development Concentration**

The faculty selects a student who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement in the concentration and potential for continued success.

**Outstanding Student in the Neuroscience Concentration**

The faculty selects a student who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement in the concentration and potential for continued success.

**The Psychology Major and Careers**

The Psychology program at Roanoke College will provide a broad liberal arts back-ground from which you may seek employment in a variety of fields. Depending upon your selection of courses, you may also pursue post-graduate study in psychology, education, law, social work, criminal justice, business administration, or medicine.

At least a Master’s degree is required for all careers in Psychology; in some specialties, a Doctorate is required, either for licensure (for example, Clinical Psychology) or for employment (for example, in colleges and universities).

**Graduate School in Psychology**

In general, one may expect to spend at least one year, usually two, in full-time graduate study to attain a Master’s degree; three years may be required for programs which require an internship, such as School Psychology.

One may expect to spend at least four years, sometimes more, to obtain a Doctorate. The Ph.D. is the “Doctor of Philosophy” degree, which requires two or three years of study beyond the Master’s degree and a dissertation, which is a significant empirical research project. One may obtain a Ph.D. in any area of Psychology, including Clinical Psychology and Counseling Psychology. The Psy.D. is the “Doctor of Psychology” degree, which can be obtained in Clinical Psychology; it requires a clinical dissertation, rather than a research dissertation.

Students who are interested in obtaining a Ph.D. in Neuropsychology, Experimental Psychology, or Psychometrics may choose to combine the B. S. Psychology Major with a second major or a minor in biology, chemistry, biochemistry, computer science, or mathematics.
Resources

Students who are considering the possibility of graduate study should discuss their intentions with their Psychology Advisor so that an appropriate course schedule can be planned.

For advice on selecting a specialty in psychology, selecting courses, selecting a graduate school, and preparing application materials, students should consult one or both of these publications, which are available from the Department Chair: (1) Preparing for Graduate Study in Psychology: Not for Seniors Only! And (2) Getting In: A Step-by-Step Plan for Gaining Admission to Graduate School in Psychology.

A third book to be consulted is Graduate Study in Psychology, published annually by the American Psychological Association; it contains a description of all the Psychology graduate programs in the United States, along with the admissions criteria for each program. A copy is available in the Department Chair’s office.

Also available in the Department Chair’s office are Insider’s Guide to Graduate Programs in Clinical and Counseling Psychology and Careers in Social Work.

Relevant Experience. Master’s programs look favorably on Internships and research experience. Doctoral programs require evidence of research ability, which can best be demonstrated by Research Practicum, Independent Study, and Honors Project.

Timeline for Applying to Graduate School

Junior Year
Fall and Spring
- take advanced psychology courses to prepare for the Psychology Subject Test
- study for the GRE General Test and Psychology Subject Test
Summer
- take the GRE General Test
- examine and compare key variables for your programs of interest

Senior Year
August
- narrow your list of programs to 20-25 and review each detail
- develop your vita and a personal statement that can be adapted to each program
- ask potential writers if they can provide a strong letter of recommendation

September
- finalize your list of programs (a total of 10-15 is optimal in most situations
- determine which professor(s) you are interested in and read their current work
- contact professors of interest to see if they are taking students the next year
- finalize your vita and personal statements
- deliver information packets to the faculty writing letters of recommendation

October
- take the Psychology Subject Test
- order official transcripts for each program
- order GRE scores for each program

Psychology-Related Careers

Psychology graduates have pursued a variety of careers with the Bachelor’s degree. In addition to the knowledge of Psychology one learns, the skills that one develops in Psychology courses (such as the ability to locate information, analyze data, think critically, and write clearly) are valued by employers.

The following is a list of careers in which Psychology plays a role. This is not an exhaustive list, but is meant to give you an idea of the kinds of careers that you might pursue with a B. A. or B. S. in Psychology.

- residential counselor in group home
- advertising copywriter
- juvenile probation officer
- patient representative (hospital)
- social welfare caseworker
- sales associate
- school teacher
- child care worker
- human resource manager
- parole officer
- recreational therapist
- nursing home recreation supervisor
- psychiatric technician
- workers’ compensation investigator
- public relations specialist
- consumer loan officer (bank)
- opinion survey researcher
- college alumni relations coordinator
- college admissions counselor
- peace corps volunteer

Related Second Majors, Minors, and Concentrations

Many Psychology students select a second major, a minor, or a concentration to provide an additional set of competencies and increase their career options. Many Psychology students obtain teacher certification, which gives them two career possibilities. Your Psychology Advisor will assist you in selecting courses and will discuss with you the options for double majors, minors, and concentrations.

The following is a list of programs which are most likely to support psychology-related careers.

- Biology
- Health Care Delivery
- Business
Important Links

Academic Catalog: http://goo.gl/AKPL1
Block Schedule: http://goo.gl/YICBC
Health Profession Advisory Group: http://goo.gl/giUqC
Program Declaration: http://goo.gl/nm3wo
Psychology Facebook Page: http://goo.gl/AgZLd
Registration Materials: http://goo.gl/KpCif
Roanoke College Psychology Page: http://goo.gl/4Z7Av
SONA: http://goo.gl/Eo4Zb