

# **What Can I Do With A Major in Psychology (From Majors At Miami Handbook 1998-99 Edition)**

## **PSYCHOLOGY**

Psychology is the science that studies behavior, thought, feelings, and interactions. It is the study of human and animal behavior (normal and abnormal), and the psychological, social and biological processes related to that behavior.

A major in this area provides a framework in psychological theory along with background in research and statistical methodology. The curriculum introduces students to psychobiological, cognitive, developmental, social, and individual/ clinical aspects of psychology.

## **INTERESTS**

Psychologists are interested in the biological foundations of behavior; perception, learning, thinking, and memory; emotions and motivation; personality and abnormal behavior; and social interaction. Psychologists are curious about why people act the way they do; are interested in the scientific study of the mind, brain and behavior; and have a desire to alleviate human suffering in order to increase general well-being and improve the quality of life.

## **COMPETENCIES**

### **Human Relations**

Interpersonal skills  
Behavior modification  
Analyzing behavior  
Motivating oneself and others  
Understanding individual differences  
Group dynamics  
Attitude assessment  
Empathy

### **Communication**

Verbal/ written skill  
Observing people/ data/ things  
Influencing/ persuading others  
Informing/ explaining to others  
Mediating/ negotiating with others

### **Research**

Framing the central question  
Clarifying/ developing ideas and theories  
Comparing/ synthesizing theories  
Isolating potentially causal factors  
Gathering information  
Organizing and analyzing data  
Summarizing data/ information  
Evaluating theories and evidence

### **Creativity**

Trouble shooting  
Defining problem areas  
Setting up a system to analyze data  
Offering new perspectives  
Developing new agendas for old problems  
Interfacing with community

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

### Human Services

Youth counselor  
Rehabilitation worker  
Inmate worker  
Case worker  
Day care center director  
Behavioral technician  
Volunteer services coordinator  
School counselor  
Employment counselor  
Physician  
Psychiatric social worker  
Psychotherapist  
Psychometrist  
Criminologist  
Development officer  
Senior citizen program coordinator  
Medical case worker  
Physical therapist  
Occupational therapist

### Psychologists

Biological  
Developmental  
Cognitive  
Counseling  
Industrial/ organizational  
Clinical  
Social  
Statistical  
Engineering  
Educational  
Environmental

### Business

Industrial relations coordinator  
Organizational psychologist  
Personnel administrator  
Placement counselor  
Interviewer  
Job analyst  
Advertising agent  
Market research analyst  
Consumer psychologist  
Labor relations coordinator  
Sales representative

### Communication

Consumer researcher  
Statistical report writer  
Technical writer  
Legal descriptive writer  
Media administrator  
Public opinion pollster

### Public Administration

Affirmative action officer  
Community organization worker  
Community planning specialist  
Police officer  
Relocation worker  
Policy analyst  
Friend of the court  
Intelligence specialist  
Health policy planner

### General

Curriculum designer  
Corrections administrator  
Animal ecologist  
Histology technician  
Hospital admissions counselor

NOTE: Some of the listed career options may require additional education and/or training beyond the bachelor's degree.

## **GRADUATE/ PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES**

Psychology students may go on to master's degree programs in social work, counseling, school psychology, rehabilitation therapy, family and marriage therapy, etc., or they may continue on to a doctorate degree in clinical, cognitive, biological, developmental, social, industrial, or counseling psychology. Psychology is also an excellent undergraduate training for graduate/ professional study in neuroscience, medicine, law, business, education, gerontology, and a variety of other professions.

## **EXPERIENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES**

Summer, volunteer, or part time work in human services (e.g. senior citizen centers, hospitals, juvenile delinquent group homes, summer camps,) governmental agencies, or businesses; independent study and special laboratory projects, undergraduate research and fellows programs, departmental employment (e.g. secretarial/ clerk positions, laboratory assistantships), tutoring, and involvement in the Psychology Club.

## **SOURCES OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **Department of Psychology**

136 Benton, 529-2400

- Curriculum Requirements
- Career Opportunities

### **Arts and Science Academic Advising**

146 Upham, 529-3031

- Miami Plan & College of Arts and Science Requirements
- Course Selection
- Career Decision Making

### **Student Counseling Services**

30 Warfield, 529-4634

- Career Counseling
- Career Assistance Center
- Computerized Career Development Program
- Dictionary of Occupational Titles
- Occupational Outlook Handbook

### **Career Planning and Placement**

228 Hoyt, 529-3831

- Career Resource Center
- Dictionary of Occupational Titles
- Occupational Outlook Handbook