

UC IRVINE

Options for the Study of Psychology



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Students interested in a psychology major or minor have two different options at the University of California, Irvine. The Department of Cognitive Sciences specializes in cognitive neuroscience, vision, hearing, attention, memory, decision-making, problem-solving, language, and development. The Department of Psychology and Social Behavior specializes in developmental psychology, health psychology, psychology and law, social and personality psychology, environmental psychology, and psychopathology and behavioral disorders. Read below to discover which psychology program best matches your interests.

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Department of Cognitive Sciences

The Department of Cognitive Sciences offers an undergraduate degree program (B.A.) in Psychology and a program of graduate study leading to a Ph.D. degree in Psychology or a Ph.D. degree in Psychology with a concentration in Cognitive Neuroscience. The Department's graduate program provides research concentrations in cognition and information processing, cognitive neuroscience, perception and action, and mathematical behavioral sciences. The dynamic and interdisciplinary nature of cognitive science is reflected in the research programs in the Department of Cognitive Sciences. These programs span a broad spectrum ranging from perceptual mechanisms, to language, memory, and attention, through to higher cognitive abilities such as reasoning and decision-making. The studies in these areas use a variety of methodological approaches including collection of behavioral data, psychophysics, computational modeling, neuropsychology, and functional brain imaging. The faculty emphasize formal models as instrumental in understanding the nature of the human mind.

Representative Areas for Coursework

Perception and Sensory Processes
Learning and Cognition
Language Sciences
Cognitive Neuroscience

Honors Opportunities

The Honors Program in Psychology (Cognitive Sciences) is an advanced educational and research program for outstanding undergraduate students in the major. The program is designed for students who are interested in pursuing graduate study in psychology or seeking challenging research experiences as a capstone to their undergraduate experience.

The program emphasizes advanced competence in scientific research and requires two years to complete. It begins in the fall quarter of the junior year and ends in the spring quarter of the senior year. The program includes advanced courses in Experimental Psychology, three seminar classes, and, crucially, research experience under faculty supervision that culminates in an honors thesis.

Career Opportunities

The psychology major gives students a strong foundation in general psychology and provides a suitable background for post-graduate training and careers in all branches of psychology. It also provides training in critical thinking, experimental design, and data analysis that are important in a wide range of other careers.

Department of Psychology and Social Behavior

The Department of Psychology and Social Behavior offers an undergraduate degree program (B.A.) in Psychology and Social Behavior and a graduate program leading to a Ph.D. in Psychology and Social Behavior in the following concentrations: Developmental Psychology, Health Psychology, Psychopathology and Behavioral Disorder, and Social/Personality/Environmental Psychology.

The faculty are prominent scholars whose specialties include developmental, social, personality, health, cognitive, clinical, cultural, and community psychology. Research and courses reflect an overarching interest in understanding the psychological, social, and biological origins of human behavior across the life course, across stressful life situations, and in diverse cultural contexts. Students learn how individual and group behavior is shaped by the varying contexts in which people live and function — families, schools, workplaces, neighborhoods, and cultures.

Representative Areas for Coursework

Developmental Psychology
Health Psychological
Preclinical Psychology
Social, Personality, and Environmental Psychology

Honors Opportunities

High-achieving students who intend to apply to graduate school and pursue academic or research-related careers have two options for earning honors in the department: The honor of Excellence in Research in Psychology and Social Behavior and The Social Ecology Honors Program are two options that include specialized courses and an independent research project that culminates in an honors thesis.

Career Opportunities

The major in psychology and social behavior provides students with a strong foundation in many areas of psychology, and provides preparation for students who choose to continue their education at the graduate level. Graduates have gone on to pursue advanced degrees in —psychology, education, human development, law, public health, social work, counseling, environmental design, program evaluation, and business. The major also prepares students to pursue a variety of careers. Graduates of the program have assumed positions in the public and private sectors, including schools, counseling centers, community agencies, hospitals, and other health-care settings, industry, and business.

Additional Information

Social Sciences Undergraduate Students Affairs

1201 Social & Behavioral Sciences Gateway
University of California, Irvine
Irvine, CA 92697-5100
Phone: (949) 824-6803
http://undergraduatestudies.ss.uci.edu/ugs_usa

School of Social Ecology/Student Services

Undergraduate Student Affairs Office
102 Social Ecology I
University of California, Irvine
Irvine, CA 92697-7055
Phone: (949) 824-6861
<http://students.soceco.uci.edu>

Admissions and Relations with Schools

260 Aldrich Hall
University of California
Irvine, CA 92697-1075
Telephone: (949) 824-6703
www.admissions.uci.edu

General Campus Information

Telephone: (949) 824-5011
www.uci.edu

UCI General Catalogue

UCI Bookstore
Telephone: (949) 824-2665
www.book.uci.edu
www.editor.uci.edu/catalogue (PDF Version)

Accommodations: Upon request, this publication will be made available in alternative formats for people with disabilities. Contact the UCI Disability Services Center; telephone (949) 824-7494, TDD 824-6272. The campus and all buildings are accessible by wheelchair.

Campus Safety: Pursuant to the Federal Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, UCI annually makes available to the public statistics on reported occurrences of criminal activity on and off campus and at UCI Medical Center at www.police.uci.edu/awareness/jca.html.

Nondiscrimination Policy: The University of California, in accordance with applicable Federal and State law and University policy, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer related or genetic characteristics), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or service in the uniformed services. The University also prohibits sexual harassment. This nondiscrimination policy covers admission, access, and treatment in University programs and activities. For more information, call (949) 824-5594.

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