



## Options for the Study of Psychology

### Undergraduate Areas of Study

#### School of Social Ecology

**Major**  
Psychology and Social Behavior, B.A.

**Minor**  
Psychology and Social Behavior

**Note:** Advising for major provided by School of Social Ecology Office of Student Services.

#### School of Social Sciences

**Major**  
Psychology, B.A.

**Minor**  
Psychology

**Note:** Advising for major provided by School of Social Sciences Undergraduate Counseling Office.

#### School of Biological Sciences

**Major**  
Neurobiology, B.S.

**Note:** Advising for major provided by School of Biological Sciences Undergraduate Counseling Office.

### Psychology in the School of Social Sciences

The curriculum for the psychology major in the Department of Cognitive Sciences is designed to provide students with a strong foundation in general psychology, and a suitable background for postgraduate training and careers in all branches of psychology. A three-quarter introductory course provides a comprehensive background in all major areas of psychology. Core courses are provided in many of the main specializations within psychology, including abnormal psychology, cognitive science, developmental psychology, learning theory, neuroscience, perception and sensory processes, and personality theory. Advanced courses are offered in most of these areas.

The distinguished faculty in cognitive sciences includes numerous recipients of prestigious research awards. The research interests of the faculty span a broad spectrum and include:

- Perceptual mechanisms — e.g., how can we determine the position and direction of motion of an animal we see or hear moving on a dark night?
- Language — e.g., what in-home practices work best to increase reading readiness in pre-school children?
- Memory — e.g., how can an Alzheimer's patient remember how to hit the ball while playing golf but forget why he/she is on a golf course?
- Reasoning — e.g., a Martian observing people driving cars notes that the speedometer moves to the right when the car speeds up and infers that the speedometer causes the changes in speed: why is this wrong?

All students are encouraged to become involved in research with one of the department's faculty members. In order to facilitate this, the department offers

a variety of research methods courses that train students in research project design, and provide students with the opportunity to create and perform their own research on a chosen topic. In addition, there are several field-work opportunities available through psychology courses linked to the following programs or centers: the Child Development Center, a school and clinic for attention-deficit-disordered children; HABLA (Language Intervention for Disadvantaged Children), the goal of which is to promote school readiness among children from low socioeconomic and low educational backgrounds; tutoring of children in local area K-12 schools and learning centers through Psychology 141A (Education and Children); and research assistantships in the Cognitive Development Lab, a laboratory studying language and conceptual development in preschoolers.

#### Honors Opportunities

The Honors Program in Psychology is designed for outstanding students who plan to undertake postgraduate education in some field of the psychological sciences. The program includes extensive training in research methods during the junior year. In the senior year, students carry out independent research projects leading to an honors thesis. Students who successfully complete the program graduate with honors in psychology.

Students may also distinguish themselves by being accepted into the department's chapter of Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in Psychology.

#### Career Opportunities

The major in psychology provides students with an educational foundation that can lead to a variety of career opportunities in both the private and public sectors. Many students pursue further education at the graduate level in psychology, cognitive sciences, artificial intelligence, human factors, human

development, or education. Some of the positions held by UCI graduates include clinical psychologist, industrial consultant, educator, human factors researcher, program evaluator, research technician, statistician, and vision researcher. Some of these positions require advanced education beyond the B.A. degree in psychology.

## Representative Courses in Psychology in the School of Social Sciences

### General Psychology

- Abnormal Psychology
- Developmental Psychology
- History of Psychology
- Personality Theories
- Theories of Motivation
- Clinical Psychology
- Experimental Psychology
- Research Methods in Psychology
- Introduction to Psychological Tests and Measurement
- Organizational/Industrial Psychology
- Behavioral Research

### Perception and Sensory Processes

- Vision
- Hearing
- Perception and Sensory Processes
- Perceptual Development
- Mind/Body Problem

### Learning and Cognition

- Cognitive Development Research
- Cognitive Science
- Principles of Learning Theory
- Cognitive Development
- Cognitive Neuroscience
- Perceptual Neuroscience
- Human Factors
- Human Problem Solving
- Cognitive Neuroscience of Vision
- Neurobiology of Learning and Memory
- Human Memory
- Human Memory Disorders
- Creative Learning in Children

### Semiotics and Language

- Language and the Brain
- Language Sciences Research
- Psychology of Language

### Interdisciplinary Studies

- Psychological Anthropology
- Asian American Psychology
- Psychology of the African American
- Chicano/Latino Psychology
- Political Psychology
- Psychology of a Diverse Society

## Psychology in the School of Social Ecology

The major in psychology and social behavior provides students with a strong foundation in psychology, acquired through a rich array of courses, research experiences, and internships. Students learn how human behavior is shaped by the varying contexts in which people live and function — families, schools, workplaces, neighborhoods, and cultures. Students also learn how people develop over the life span, from infancy to old age. A unique feature of the major is its emphasis on applying psychological knowledge to address important societal problems, and to improve human health and well-being. The major is appropriate for students who plan to pursue advanced graduate training in psychology or careers in psychology and related fields.

Students begin their program of study with core courses in developmental, social, abnormal, and health psychology. Advanced courses examine these fields in greater depth, and cover personality, clinical, cultural, and environmental psychology, and psychology and the law. A number of specialized courses delve into the psychological aspects of important societal and behavioral problems, such as child abuse, violence, prejudice and inequality, divorce, work and family issues, and illness and health.

Students also receive rigorous training in research methods and statistics, and are strongly encouraged to become involved in faculty research projects in order to enrich their undergraduate experience, become competent in the research process, and ready themselves for future careers and graduate study. Faculty have won awards for their research, and for their excellence in teaching and mentoring undergraduate researchers, and have an excellent record of research funding from prestigious sources such as the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

Current faculty research projects are investigating such questions as how day care arrangements affect children, how different cultures shape the way people develop and feel about their lives, what triggers aggression and violence, how exposure to violence affects adolescents, behaviors and environmental conditions that increase the risk of health problems, how people respond to stressful events (such as unemployment, divorce, or a natural disaster), how emotions influence memory and decision-making, how false memories are created, how problems related to loneliness can be alleviated in young adulthood and old age, how people make medical decisions at the end of life, why adolescents are susceptible to tobacco use, how emotional regulation changes in late adulthood, how people deal with life-course transitions, how psychopathy is measured in adolescents and adults, and how social stress affects the immune system.

## Honors Opportunities

The psychology and social behavior faculty is dedicated to educating and mentoring students who intend to apply to graduate school and pursue academic or research-related careers. High-achieving students majoring in psychology and social behavior can earn the honor of Excellence in Research in Psychology and Social Behavior by participating in a special program that consists of taking courses in research methods and statistics, conducting research supervised by a faculty member, and preparing a research thesis.

Another opportunity for honors is the Social Ecology Honors Program, a three-quarter sequence that provides the opportunity for a small group of selected upper-division students to pursue independent research. Students receive training in research design while working closely with the Social Ecology Honors Program director. In addition to meeting as a group, each student also works closely with a faculty member whose expertise coincides with the student's area of research. Students write an honors thesis that reports their research findings. The program culminates in the spring quarter with a presentation of findings at the Undergraduate Campuswide Research Symposium.

Students may also distinguish themselves by being accepted into UCI's chapter of Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in Psychology. Students may also be invited to join Sigma Xi, a national honor society for excellence in research in the sciences.

## Field Study

Another valuable and very popular feature of the major in psychology and social behavior is field study, a requirement that provides hands-on experience in a school, counseling center, legal setting, health-care setting, or community agency. Students have the opportunity to learn how a variety of societal and behavioral problems are addressed in community settings, to see how ideas presented in the classroom translate into actual practice, to gain experience conducting naturalistic observations and investigations, and to develop professional skills that will be useful in their future careers. Internships are available in more than 200 field placements throughout Orange County. Students often seek placements that mesh with their own interests in such areas as counseling, social work, law, health care, education, or program evaluation.

## 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.

### Minor Programs

Are you interested in studying psychology, but not majoring in it? You may want to consider the minors available in the Department of Psychology and Social Behavior and in the Department of Cognitive Sciences. These programs enable you to explore the field well beyond the introductory level but in less depth than the major.

### Research Opportunity

Research Seminar in Psychology and Social Behavior.

## Representative Courses in Psychology and Social Behavior

### Developmental Psychology

- Infant Development
- Child Development
- Adult Development
- Gerontology
- Cognition and Emotion
- Cognitive Development
- Human Sexuality
- Development of Gender Differences
- Perspectives on Child Rearing
- Human Development in Cross-Cultural Perspective
- Life Span Developmental Psychology

### Health and Preclinical Psychology

- Abnormal Behavior
- Human Stress
- Personality
- Forensic Psychology
- Clinical Psychology
- Clinical Child Psychology
- Developmental Psychopathology
- Clinical Health Psychology
- Introduction to Health Psychology
- Child Health Psychology
- Psychoneuroimmunology
- Strategies of Health Promotion
- Sports Psychology
- Beliefs, Attitudes, and Health Behaviors
- Behavioral Medicine
- The Human Pain Experience
- Foundations of Community Health
- Environmental and Occupational Health
- Community Health: An Epidemiological Approach
- Epidemiology I and II
- Behavioral Assessment
- Behavior Modification
- Counseling Theory
- Cognitive Behavior Therapy

- Child Therapies
- Existential Psychology
- Hardiness Approach to Stress Management
- Women's Peer Counseling I and II

### Social and Environmental Psychology

- Attitudes and Behavior
- The Social Animal
- Error and Bias in Social Judgment
- Social Relationships
- Leadership
- Psychology of Subjective Well-Being
- Psychology and the Law
- Eyewitness Testimony
- Interrogation, Confession and the Law
- Impacts of Divorce
- Work and Family
- The Family
- Family Law
- Family, Society, and Education
- Violence in Society
- Violence and Ideas Concerning the Social Order
- Environmental Psychology
- Environmental Research Methods
- Environmental and Occupational Health
- Environmental and Public Health Policy
- Advanced Environmental Psychology: Facilities Design for the Workplace

## Neurobiology in the School of Biological Sciences

The neurobiology major brings together a small group of students who are interested in the nervous system and who have already mastered many of the basic concepts in biology. Majors learn how neurobiologists use cellular, molecular, systems and behavioral analyses to improve our understanding of how the nervous system works. Students also develop their analytical and reasoning skills by in-depth exposure to the complex but fundamental research issues of experimental design and data interpretation.

The hallmark of the neurobiology major is a year-long exploration of the intellectual tools that neuroscientists use to create, advance, and disseminate knowledge about the nervous system. Admission to the major itself is limited to about 30 students annually who are entering their junior or senior year with strong academic track records.

Majors receive preference for enrolling in neuroscience satellite courses and are invited to all neuroscience-related seminars and colloquia at UCI. They also have opportunities to develop a forum for hosting speakers of their choice, to get to know each other, to find out about neuroscience research opportunities, to exchange information about graduate or professional schools, and to practice presentations. In short, they form a community of scholars.

## Special Resources and Opportunities

**Biological Sciences 199:** Students can pursue independent experimental laboratory or field research under the supervision of a professor in the School of Biological Sciences, the School of Medicine, the UCI Medical Center, or other off-campus clinical facilities.

**Excellence in Research Program in Biological Sciences:** Undergraduate student researchers may participate in the annual Biological Sciences Research Symposium, where they present the results of their research endeavors to peers and faculty via a formal research paper, an oral presentation, and a poster competition. Outstanding researchers are awarded the honor of "Excellence in Research," and selected research papers are published in the school's Journal of Undergraduate Research in Biological Sciences.

**UCI Developmental Biology Center:** Devoted to analyzing the cellular and genetic mechanisms underlying growth, development, and regeneration.

**UCI Center for the Neurobiology of Learning and Memory:** A research center for studies of the brain mechanisms underlying learning and memory.

**UCI School of Medicine:** Committed to developing and maintaining research programs in the health sciences.

### School of Biological Sciences Scholarships, Awards, and Prizes

The School of Biological Sciences is committed to recognizing the outstanding academic and research achievements of its undergraduates. Through generous donors, the school is able to present awards, prizes, and scholarships to its undergraduates each year. Many of these awards assist students in achieving their future academic endeavors in various areas of graduate work in the biological sciences and in the health professions. The recipients are recognized at the annual Biological Sciences Honors Convocation.

### Student Organizations

The school is home to a variety of organizations designed to promote interaction among students and foster interest in various health science fields. These include Chicanos for Creative Medicine and the Pharmacy Society, among others. Some organizations, such as the Flying Samaritans, provide health-care services to the community.

### Health-Care Advising

Advising for careers in the health sciences is a specialty of the Biological Sciences Student Affairs Office. Counselors check students' programs, give

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advice about appropriate elective courses, and provide deadline information about the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) and other entry examinations for graduate school.

The following research opportunities in neurobiology are available at UCI:

- Brain Imaging
- Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience
- Learning, Memory, and Synaptic Plasticity
- Neural Development
- Neurodegeneration and Aging
- Neuroethology
- Sensory Processing
- Systems Neurobiology

## Career Opportunities

Students completing the neurobiology major will be well qualified for admission to graduate or professional schools in preparation for careers in biological research, medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, nursing, and other related fields. Even without additional education, they will be competitive for positions in the pharmaceutical industry, or in medically or biologically related technologies. The major also provides valuable preparation for students interested in entering other disciplines that increasingly interface with biology and biotechnology, such as law, business administration, and governmental policy. Additionally, the major provides excellent preparation for students who wish to become high school science teachers.

## Applying to the Major

Students may apply for the neurobiology major only when they have reached junior-level standing and have a B average or better in Biological Sciences 110 and those courses required for the major that have been completed at the time of application.

## Representative Courses in Neurobiology

- Neurobiology and Behavior (and Laboratory)
- Neuroscience: Fundamental Concepts and Current Applications
- History of Neuroscience
- Muscles and Movement
- Neural Mechanisms of Arousal and Attention
- Development, Injury, and Repair of the Nervous System
- Topics in Neurobiology
- Neuropharmacology
- Molecular Neurobiology
- Neurobiology of Learning and Memory
- Animal Behavior
- Language and the Brain
- Cellular Neurophysiology

- Endocrinology, Neuroendocrinology and Behavior
- Functional Neuroanatomy
- Neurobiology of Transmitter Receptors
- Topics in Cortical Plasticity
- Vision

## Additional Information

### School of Biological Sciences

Undergraduate Counseling Office  
University of California  
Irvine, CA 92697-5100  
Telephone: (949) 824-5318  
[www.bio.uci.edu](http://www.bio.uci.edu)

### School of Social Ecology

Office of Student Services  
102 Social Ecology I  
University of California  
Irvine, CA 92697-7055  
Telephone: (949) 824-6861  
[www.socialecology.uci.edu](http://www.socialecology.uci.edu)

### School of Social Sciences

Undergraduate Counseling Office  
University of California  
Irvine, CA 92697-5100  
Telephone: (949) 824-6803  
[www.socsci.uci.edu](http://www.socsci.uci.edu)

### Admissions and Relations with Schools

204 Aldrich Hall  
University of California  
Irvine, CA 92697-1075  
Telephone: (949) 824-6703  
[www.admissions.uci.edu](http://www.admissions.uci.edu)

### General Campus Information

Telephone: (949) 824-5011  
[www.uci.edu](http://www.uci.edu)

### UCI General Catalogue

UCI Bookstore  
Telephone: (949) 824-2665  
[www.book.uci.edu](http://www.book.uci.edu)  
[www.editor.uci.edu/catalogue](http://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](http://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.