

RU Interested in . . .

PSYCHOLOGY

AT A GLANCE . . .

Department at RU:	Psychology
Office Location:	Russell 335
Telephone	(540) 831-5361
Faculty Liaison:	Dr. Hilary Lips, Chairperson
College at RU:	College of Arts and Sciences
Degree Type:	Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science

AREA OF STUDY

Students majoring in Psychology have an opportunity to select a course of study suitable for a variety of educational goals. The program is designed to provide a basic foundation for entry into graduate programs in psychology or education fields and careers involving human services or research.

QUESTIONS STUDENTS OFTEN ASK

- **What can I do with a degree in Psychology?**

Students receiving a degree in psychology may work in any environment requiring human relations skills. Many have served as members of therapeutic teams, mental health therapy aids, probation officers, and human service assistants.
- **What courses must I take as a Psychology major?**

An overall survey of psychology is provided through the course: Introduction to Psychology. More focused coverage of specific areas is obtained through a wide variety of courses; these courses include research methods, child, adolescent, maturity and aging, work behavior, history and systems, diversity, principles of learning, social, personality, and abnormal. At the undergraduate level there is no specialization, although students may take several courses in one particular area.
- **Is there an introductory course or experience that you would suggest that will introduce me to the field of psychology?**

Introduction to Psychology, 121. (3 hours credit). This course is a prerequisite to all other courses in psychology providing an introduction to the essentials of psychology, from physiological facts and experimental methods to classical themes and concepts. Areas covered include motivation, learning, personality, social, and abnormal psychology. Demonstrations are used.
- **Specifically, what kinds of employment have RU Psychology graduates been able to secure?**
 - Psychiatric Aide
 - Mental Health Worker
 - Youth Counselor
 - Sales Representative (in a variety of areas)
 - Personnel Services Representative
 - Probation Officer
 - Nursing Home Supervisor
 - Golf Coordinator/Travel Representative
- **What is the current employment outlook for psychology majors?**

According to a recent survey, published in the Wall Street Journal, the outlook is very good. Many of Radford's graduates go on for further study in Psychology and other fields. Students from Radford have gone on to graduate study in various universities in Virginia and throughout the United States.

- **What minors or concentrations would enhance my education as a Psychology Major?**

A wide variety of minors or concentrations can be useful, depending on your career goals. Many common minors that can be obtained outside the department are those in biology, mathematics and statistics, sociology, criminal justice, and special education.

- **What additional graduate/professional study or certification is commonly required in this field?**

The Bachelor's degree is not the entry-level degree for psychology. Masters, educational specialist, or a doctorate is required by most employers for the practice of psychology.

- **What experiential opportunities are available for me in this field?**

Independent studies and internships either in research or practicum-like settings are available. Opportunities also exist for research with faculty and graduate students. In the past, many students have had the opportunity to have their work presented at psychology conferences.

- **Are internships or other experiential learning opportunities available?**

In the past, students have gained a variety of experiences working at such locations as psychiatric hospitals, police departments, student affairs offices on campus, and military installations. Research performed by students in conjunction with faculty has involved research in the fields of medicine, sports, law, and business. Such opportunities are awarded under academic credit through the department.

- **What special skills or abilities will I develop as a psychology major in a liberal arts context?**

As students become more aware of human behavior, they develop the ability to establish and maintain different types of relationships with people. In addition, they become better decision-makers and problem-solvers, and gain an appreciation for diversity. Students will also learn research skills applicable to a wide variety of situations.

- **What personal characteristics should I possess to succeed in the field of psychology?**

- intelligence
- critical thinking skills
- sufficient knowledge of oneself
- listening skills
- effective communication skills
- empathy
- openness
- a supportive, trusting personality
- reliability
- perseverance
- dedication
- compassion
- honesty

- **Where can I obtain more information about the field of Psychology?**

- RU Department of Psychology Advising Center
- RU Center for Experiential Learning and Career Development
- RU McConnell Library
- RU Advising Centers

**For an application to Radford University
contact the RU Admissions Office**



Radford University Office of Admissions
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