

Program Overview: Bachelor of Arts, Psychology General and Counseling Psychology Concentrations

About This Major . . .

The Psychology program offers a General Psychology concentration and a concentration in Counseling. Students pursuing either concentration complete some laboratory coursework in which they conduct psychological science research. Practica are required for counseling students and are available at nearby human service agencies and treatment centers. The Psychology program provides students with a working knowledge of the methods and findings of modern psychology. Students majoring in psychology are prepared to work in a wide variety of settings, including human services (counseling and social work), public affairs, business, sales, criminal justice, and (following graduate study) psychotherapy, teaching and research. The psychology program provides a strong foundation for graduate study in psychology and related disciplines.

Psychology students have the unique opportunity to conduct original research with faculty supervisors. Many psychology students present their research at the annual regional professional conference, Rocky Mountain Psychological Association (RMPA). In addition, the psychology program sponsors a Psychology Club and a local chapter of the international honor society in psychology, Psi Chi. Through active membership in these organizations, students are encouraged to become involved in community service and to attend RMPA and other regional conferences.

All CMU baccalaureate graduates are expected to demonstrate proficiency in critical thinking, communication fluency, quantitative fluency, and specialized knowledge/applied learning. Accordingly, the following learning objectives are desired outcomes upon completion of the Psychology degree as specified by the Psychology Faculty.

1. Graduates will demonstrate specialized knowledge in psychology. For example, understanding how the rise of Nazism in the mid-20th century contributed to the development of Social Psychology.
2. Graduates will be able to communicate clearly in written and oral presentations. For example, giving a presentation at the regional psychological conference.
3. Graduates will be able to demonstrate the application of critical thinking to problem solving in psychological areas of analysis (including quantitative reasoning). For example, learning how to be a wise consumer of psychological research.

Program Highlights:

Get Involved in the Community

All Counseling Psychology students work in the community during their practicum experience. Some recent practicum placements have been with Mesa County Workforce Center, Mesa County Department of Human Services, Hilltop Community Resources, Strive, St. Mary's Family Practice, Western Colorado Suicide Prevention Foundation, Riverside Educational Center, Mosaic, the House, and Hopewest Hospice among others.

Get Involved with Research

Faculty in the Psychology program work with many students to produce quality primary research studies which have been accepted to professional, peer-reviewed conferences.

Get Involved in a Club

The Psychology program sponsors an active Psychology Club and a local chapter of the international honor society in psychology, Psi Chi.

After Graduation

Many Psychology students go on to graduate school after completing their degree. These include Masters, PhD and EdD programs, medical school, and law school.



Program Requirements

A student must follow CMU graduation requirements by completing 120 semester credit hours, including 40 credits of coursework at the 300+ level. See the “Undergraduate Graduation Requirements” in the catalog for additional graduation information. Students should work closely with a faculty advisor when selecting and scheduling courses prior to registration. In general, CMU’s programs of study are based on two curriculum groups:

1. Essential Learning

CMU’s Essential Learning program provides the foundation of skills and information that cuts across all fields of study and the support for advanced concepts that students will later encounter in their majors. Before moving into work at the 300+ level, students complete the Maverick Milestone and its co-requirement, Essential Speech. This pair of courses is a capstone experience where students integrate what they have learned from their foundation courses by making connections among diverse areas of knowledge. The capstone is also an opportunity for students to work with disparate ideas, a critical skill expected of all CMU graduates that will aid them in solving the complex and unscripted problems they will encounter in their personal, professional, and civic lives.

2. What You Will Study in This Major. . .

Psychology Core

- General Psychology
- Orientation to the Psychology Major
- Statistics for the Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Research Methods in Psychology and Lab
- History of Psychology
- Memory and Cognition

Counseling Concentration Courses

- Social Psychology
- Abnormal Psychology
- Psychological Testing
- Personality
- Career Development
- Counseling Processes and Techniques
- Psychological Interviewing
- Group Processes
- Practicum
- Cross-Cultural Psychology or Multicultural Service Learning

Electives in topical areas: Psychology majors are required to take at least one course from each area, but may choose to take more for a greater depth of knowledge in that particular area.

Developmental Area

- Child Psychology
- Psychology of Adolescence/
Emerging Adulthood
- Psychology of Adulthood

Behavioral Neuroscience Area

- Sensation and Perception
- Psychology of Learning
- Biopsychology

Diversity Area

- Cross-Cultural Psychology
- Psychology of Women
- Human Sexuality
- Forensic Psychology

Additional Electives

Psychology course(s) may also be taken from the following:

- Psychological Testing
- Topics
- Internship
- Applied Ethics
- Suicide Intervention
- Structured Research
- Independent Study

For more information about this major, go to: <http://www.coloradomesa.edu/sbs/psychology.html> or contact the Academic Department Head for Social and Behavioral Sciences, 414 Lowell Heiny Hall, 970.248.1932.