

2021-22 ACADEMIC CATALOG

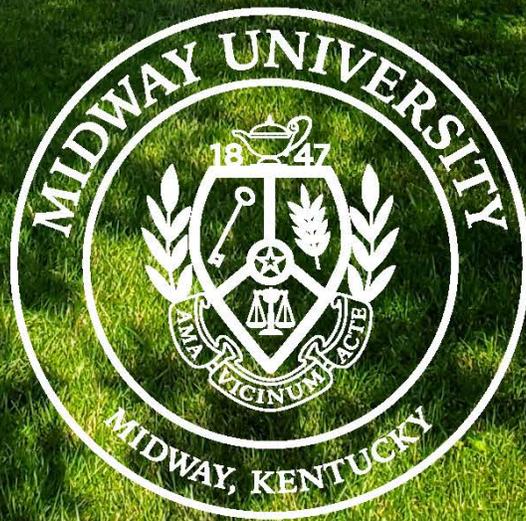


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Psychology involves the scientific study of individual behavior and mental processes. The Bachelor of Arts in Psychology is a generalist program emphasizing the breadth of the field of psychology. Completion of this degree program provides education for students who wish to pursue graduate study in the subfields of psychology, e.g., counseling, child development, or educational psychology. Students are also prepared for entry-level occupations in human services including therapeutic, industrial, educational, or governmental positions. Unique aspects of the psychology degree program include a three-part capstone experience in which the student learns about the psychology profession, participates in community service to develop service learning skills, and produces an original project that explores an area of personal interest.

Student Learning Outcomes of Program

Upon completion of the program, students will be able to:

- Develop a foundation of knowledge to support core studies in psychology, including basic knowledge of research methods and statistics, as well as applications of psychology.

- Demonstrate a broad knowledge of the core areas of psychology following the Guidelines for the Psychology Major established by the American Psychological Association, which establishes best practices by four-year colleges and universities.
- Demonstrate knowledge in specific areas of interest outside of the psychology core, such as awareness and appreciation of human diversity and sociocultural issues.
- Apply psychology to various professional environments, such as clinical settings, research populations, and community service organizations.

Students will explore the psychology profession through a capstone experience that integrates theory and practice, emphasizes service learning, and provides opportunities to evaluate future directions.

Courses

Major Course Requirements

PSY 180 - General Psychology

This course is designed as an introduction to major concepts and principles in the field of psychology and does not assume prior background in the discipline. This course will survey the range of major topics studied by psychologists, including neuroscience, lifespan development, social interaction, personality, cognition, learning and mental health issues. Emphasis is placed on practical illustrations and on integrating aspects of these sub-areas into a coherent understanding of human behavior.

Grade Basis: Letter Grade

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

PSY/EDU 260 - Human Growth and Development

Study of the theories and research related to human development from conception through adulthood, including the developmental stages of infancy, childhood, adolescence, young adulthood, middle adulthood, and late adulthood. The interaction among the physical, cognitive and social aspects of development as well as the major theories of development and current research are discussed.

Grade Basis: Letter Grade

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

PSY 312 - Social Psychology

This course involves increasing the understanding of the individual in group situations, including cooperative group interactions. Principles of scientific psychology are applied to the individual in a social situation. Topics include social attitudes, aggression, altruism, conformity, attribution, and understanding self and others. Prerequisite: PSY 180.

Grade Basis: Letter Grade

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

Prerequisites:

- PSY 180 - General Psychology
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PSY 315 - Physiological Psychology

As an examination of the biological bases for control of human behavior, this course includes considerations of the structure and functions of the nervous systems. A review of the biological bases of several areas of behavior including learning, emotions, eating and sexual behavior is included.

Prerequisite: PSY 180.

Grade Basis: Letter Grade

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

Prerequisites:

- PSY 180 - General Psychology
-

PSY 320 - Abnormal Psychology

This course surveys a range of psychological disorders describing mental, emotional, and behavioral symptoms along with an emphasis on discussing the continuum of “normal” to “abnormal” in human behavior. Symptoms, nature and causes of psychological disorders are considered in addition to classification systems used to understand these abnormalities. Some attention will also be given to an overview of major psychological tests and measurements of the clinical interview and to major theories and techniques of therapeutic intervention. Prerequisite: PSY 180.

Grade Basis: Letter Grade

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

Prerequisites:

- PSY 180 - General Psychology
-

PSY 330 - Personality and Adjustment

This course addresses the development of personality through various theoretical perspectives and current research, including examination of the mentally healthy personality. Theoretical facets of the course focus on the assumptions, basic principles and implications of selected theories of personality, including a treatment of the psychodynamic, social learning and humanistic-phenomenological perspectives. Course material is grounded in reference to our own lives by examining issues of the

“normal” personality problems of adjustment and notions of positive mental health. Prerequisite: PSY 180.

Grade Basis: Letter Grade

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

Prerequisites:

- PSY 180 - General Psychology
-

PSY 337 - Counseling Theory and Techniques

This course is designed to introduce students to the major schools of counseling and psychotherapy with an emphasis on theory and associated techniques. Through various modalities, students will learn the historical development of each major theoretical approach, including psychoanalytic, neo-analytic, person-centered, humanistic and affective, behavioral, cognitive, and family systems therapies. Students will also gain an understanding of the dynamics and complexity associated with counseling diverse populations in various settings. This includes cultivating an appreciation for the roles that diversity and personal values play in the counseling process. Prerequisite: PSY 180.

Grade Basis: Letter Grade

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

Prerequisites:

- PSY 180 - General Psychology
-

PSY 355 - Research Methods

This course covers research methods related to ethics, literature review, and both descriptive and experimental research. Students will learn to design experiments, gather and analyze data, interpret findings, and test hypotheses. Prerequisites: PSY 180 and MTH 245.

Grade Basis: Letter Grade

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

Prerequisites:

- PSY 180 - General Psychology
 - MTH 245 - Probability and Statistics
-

PSY 401 - History and Systems of Psychology

This course will cover the major theoretical paradigms in the history of psychology, illustrating the nature and development of psychology as a science. Emphasis will be on understanding

and evaluating psychological theory and texts in their historical context and appreciating the intercommunications among paradigms and the diversity of psychology. Prerequisite: PSY 180.

Grade Basis: Letter Grade

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

Prerequisites:

- PSY 180 - General Psychology
-

PSY 405 - The Psychology Profession

This course is one of the three senior capstone courses for psychology majors, which are designed to provide a final, intensive learning experience to assist graduating seniors with further exploration in several areas of psychology or a more in-depth immersion in a single area of interest. In this course, students will be given an overview of the numerous academic and professional aspects of the field of psychology, including the various options for careers related to psychology at each level of study (e.g., bachelor, master and doctoral levels). Professional associations, networking, and the costs and benefits of graduate study will also be addressed.

Grade Basis: Letter Grade

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

PSY 410 - Community Service Practicum

This course is one of the three senior capstone courses for psychology majors, which are designed to provide a final, intensive learning experience to assist graduating seniors with further exploration in several areas of psychology or a more in-depth immersion in a single area of interest. In this course, students are involved with their community in a way that applies their knowledge of psychology and allows them to learn related skills. This may be done through placement in a community agency or other work setting to gain “real-world” experience in the field of psychology while working under the supervision of a psychology professional. Alternatively, it may also be completed through community service or volunteer projects at one or more sites in which students may integrate their academic knowledge with practical experience. Practicum sites are chosen in consultation with the course instructor.

Grade Basis: Letter Grade

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

PSY 415 - Senior Project Demonstrating Excellence

This course is one of the three senior capstone courses for psychology majors, which are designed to provide a final, intensive learning experience to assist graduating seniors with further exploration in several areas of psychology or a more in-depth immersion in a single area of interest. In this

course, each student will outline, develop, and complete a detailed senior project. The project may be an original empirical study designed and carried out by the student with the results written up as a scholarly research paper or poster. Alternatively, students may complete an in-depth research based paper, as a literature review/critique in an area relevant to the field of psychology. Such a paper would explore the past, present, and future of an area of psychology in which they have an interest and would be based on a review of at least 20 empirical journal articles. Prerequisites: PSY 180 and PSY 355 and junior standing.

Grade Basis: Letter Grade

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

Prerequisites:

- PSY 180 - General Psychology
- PSY 335 - Cognition

MTH 245 - Probability and Statistics

This is a standard introductory course in probability and statistics. Topics include: working with random samples; organizing data into frequency distributions and histograms; computing various measures of central tendency and variation; elementary probability theory including compound events and conditional probability; working with random variables; the normal distribution; the sampling distribution of the mean; testing hypotheses using the sampling distribution of the mean. Prerequisite: MTH 140.

Grade Basis: Letter Grade

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

Prerequisites:

- MTH 140 - College Algebra

Choose two from among the following

PSY 265 - Multicultural Psychology

This course provides an evaluation of multicultural psychology and culturally appropriate practice with an emphasis on multicultural theories of personality and behavior beyond conventional Eurocentric perspectives. Topics in the course will include cultural sensitivity to human diversity, identity development, culturally appropriate assessment, as well as social justice issues, including discussions and personal growth activities focused on privilege and marginalization, oppression, racism, cultural bias, dominance in mainstream systems and systemic practices, advocacy, ethics, and intervention strategies.

Grade Basis: Letter Grade

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

PSY 301 - Patterns of Human Sexuality

This course is an introduction to sexual behavior and the individual and social forces that influence it. Study of how a heterogeneous society creates different values, perceptions, and practices concerning sexuality as well as the role of social institutions in generating rules governing sexuality. Topics include childhood, adolescence, and adult sexuality; coupling, sexual identity and orientation, sexual coercion, sexual variation, sex as business, and sexual variation behavior and the law. Prerequisite: PSY 180.

Grade Basis: Letter Grade

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

Prerequisites:

- PSY 180 - General Psychology

PSY 307 - Kinesic Interviewing

Students will be given the opportunity to demonstrate an understanding of the science of behavior analysis through the use of behavioral coding systems and behavioral observations. Other areas of focus include issues relevant to the reliability and validity of behavioral assessments, interpretations of credibility, the practice of kinesic interviewing and interrogation strategies, and the risks of inaccurate interpretations, false confessions, and wrongful convictions. Prerequisite: PSY 180.

Grade Basis: Letter Grade

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

Prerequisites:

- PSY 180 - General Psychology

PSY 321 - Psychology of Gender

This course overviews current research and theories on gender development, socialization, gender comparisons, sexuality, reproduction, work, and other major impacts on men's and women's psychological experiences throughout the lifespan. Prerequisite: PSY 180 or PSY/EDU 260.

Grade Basis: Letter Grade

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

Prerequisites:

- PSY 180 - General Psychology
- PSY/EDU 260 - Human Growth and Development

PSY 336 - Learning and Cognition

This course is an introduction to theories and empirical research explaining human and animal learning and cognitive processes, including attention, memory, language, perception, problem-solving, and information processing. Prerequisite: PSY 180.

Grade Basis: Letter Grade

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

Prerequisites:

- PSY 180 - General Psychology
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PSY 350 - Forensic Psychology

This course is designed to expand students' knowledge of general psychology into the interface of psychology and law, with a specific focus on forensic psychology. Students will be introduced to the various responsibilities of forensic psychologists including risk assessment, forensic evaluation, offender treatment, profiling, and expert testimony, as well as the different intercept points of psychology and the criminal justice system – including police, courts, and corrections. Students will also learn about history and development of forensic psychology as a field. Prerequisite: PSY 180.

Grade Basis: Letter Grade

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

Prerequisites:

- PSY 180 - General Psychology
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