



PSYCHOLOGY

The Department of Psychology provides students with the opportunity to develop an understanding of human behavior and experience a variety of theoretical perspectives. The psychology faculty specialize in a wide variety of psychological topics including physiological, clinical, health, cognitive, social, developmental psychology and education. The department offers several courses of general interest to nonmajors and students in related fields.

Curriculum

The Department of Psychology seeks to help its majors develop an understanding of the theories and methods that guide the science and practice of psychology by (1) integrating readings from major theoretical perspectives and discussion of theoretical and applied issues, (2) practice in empirical methods and involvement in ongoing research and (3) participation in community interventions and psychological services. Students may concentrate on developing research skills that prepare them for postbaccalaureate employment, or research experience and scholarship that prepares them for graduate or professional training in psychology, health-related fields, business, law or education.

Equipment and Facilities

Faculty offices and classrooms for the Department of Psychology are housed in Clough Hall. Facilities include three laboratories: Social and Community Psychology Research, Human Psychophysiology, and Language and Learning Technologies.

Outside the Classroom: Research

Majors have the opportunity to participate in the ongoing research of the Rhodes Psychology faculty, or with scientists at the University of Memphis, University of Tennessee Medical School or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Each year 15-20 Psychology majors participate on research teams working with a faculty member on one or more related projects. Most teams include one or two seniors doing honors research or independent studies, one or two second year students who assist older students in data collection, coding, etc., while learning research skills, and one or two third-year students who are designing and preparing for their senior projects.

Outside the Classroom: Internships

Majors often take advantage of internships, which are offered for academic credit to gain practical experience in their particular area of interest. Internships are customized to each individual's career goals. On average, 10 majors conduct internships each year in a variety of environments including the University of Tennessee Center for Health Sciences, LeBonheur Children's Medical Center, Memphis area schools and many clinical, business and human services agencies in the city.

Faculty

The Psychology faculty are actively engaged in research projects that reflect the diversity in the field, including investigations of the following: brain mechanisms that mediate cognitive function in normal and impaired populations; effects of exercise on neurodegenerative disorders; illusions and biases in people's judgments about themselves and others, especially racial biases and efforts to eliminate them; adolescent parenting and interventions with disadvantaged youth, and collaborative work with community organizations; instructional dialogues, especially in tutoring sessions, and the use of computers in instruction; the construction of narratives about personal experience by children and adults.

Mark V. Smith, (Program Director for Education), Distinguished Service Professor; Ed.D., University of Memphis. Specialties: *School improvement and accreditation*

Marsha D. Walton, Professor of Psychology; Ph.D., University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Specialties: *Developmental psychology, psychology of women, language and social interaction.*



Rhodes College

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Bette J. Ackerman, Associate Professor of Psychology; Ph.D., University of Florida. Specialties: *Social psychology, health psychology, assessment.*

Anita A. Davis, (Director, African American Studies Program), Associate Professor of Psychology; Ph.D., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Specialties: *Clinical/community psychology, social development, adolescent motherhood, campus climate.*

Natalie K. Person, (Chair, Director of the Language and Learning Technologies Laboratory), Associate Professor of Psychology; Ph.D., University of Memphis. Specialties: *Cognitive psychology, learning sciences, education.*

Robert J. Strandburg, (Dean of Academic Affairs for Curriculum, Director of Rhodes CARES), Associate Professor of Psychology; Ph.D., University of California at Los Angeles. Specialties: *Physiological psychology, cognition and perception, psychopathology.*

Christopher G. Wetzel, Associate Professor of Psychology; Ph.D., University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Specialties: *Social psychology, biases, prejudice.*

Kimberly Gerecke, Assistant Professor of Psychology; Ph.D., University of Alabama-Birmingham. Specialties: *Neurobiology, neuroprotective mechanisms in the CNS.*

Janet E. Panter, Assistant Professor of Psychology; Ph.D., University of Memphis. Specialties: *School psychology, psychological assessment.*

Katherine Russell, Assistant Professor of Psychology; Ph.D. University of Memphis. Specialties: *Development psychology, children's aggression, friendships.*

Julie Steel, Assistant Professor of Psychology; Ph.D., University of Arkansas. Specialties: *Social psychology, justice-seeking, social dilemmas.*

Graduates

Approximately 60% take full-time jobs.

Recent graduates have taken positions in business, social services and not-for-profit organizations, in education, the arts and research laboratories.

Approximately 35% pursue graduate or professional degrees.

Programs recently attended include the University of Alabama-Birmingham, University of Virginia, Tulane University, University of Texas-Austin, University of South Carolina, Pennsylvania State University, Eastern Kentucky University and University of Florida. Rhodes is in the top 10 institutions in the nation in the percent of graduates who hold the Ph.D. in Psychology.

Often Psychology majors choose graduate programs in related fields such as law, business, medicine and other health care professions. Graduates in the last three years have gone to professional schools at University of New Mexico (medicine), Vanderbilt (nursing), University of Minnesota (management), Southern Methodist University (law), University of Memphis (criminal justice) and University of Tennessee (dentistry).

What do they do later?

At recent gatherings at our homecoming receptions, current students have had the opportunity to meet alums who are ministers, sculptors, research scientists, university professors, aid workers in Africa, elected officials, high school principals, physicians, community volunteers, retail buyers, members of the military, real estate developers, actors and ski instructors – along with a healthy number of psychologists.

For more information

Please contact the Department of Psychology at (901) 843-3930 or Admissions at 1-800-844-5969. Information is available via the Internet at rhodes.edu. You can also explore the Psychology Department Web page at rhodes.edu/academics/1572.asp.