

Biopsychology



**MESSIAH
COLLEGE**

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SCIENCES



The Biopsychology Major

Biopsychology is the scientific study of the biology of behavior and mental processes. Most biopsychologists are trained experimental psychologists who have brought their knowledge of biology to the study of psychological phenomena. These phenomena include behavior and underlying psychological processes, such as learning, memory, perception, attention, motivation, emotion, and cognition.

Students who are interested in biopsychology often end up studying in any of the following fields: medicine, psychiatry, clinical psychology, cognitive neuroscience, psychopharmacology, neuropsychology, behavioral genetics, evolutionary psychology, or comparative psychology.

Curriculum

Credit hours shown in parentheses

Biopsychology Major (61–63 credits)

Genetics (4)
Neuroscience (3)
General Chemistry I (4)
General Chemistry II (4)

*One of the following series of courses
(8–10 credits total):*

- A. Biology I (4)
Biology II (2)
Biology III (4)
- B. Human Anatomy & Physiology I (4)
Human Anatomy & Physiology II (4)

*One of the following sets of courses
(4–8 credits total):*

- A. Introduction to Organic Chemistry (4)
- B. Organic Chemistry I (4)
Organic Chemistry II (4)

*Three to seven credits from the following
courses:*

- Developmental Biology (3)
- Microbiology for Health Professions (4)
- Pathophysiology (3)
- Physiology (4)
- Human Anatomy (4)
- Cell Biology (4)
- Introduction to Immunology (4)

NOTE: Students must take 34–36 credits from the biology and chemistry component of the major.

Introduction to Psychology (3)
Introduction to Social Research (3)
Life Span Development (3)
Biological Basis of Behavior (3)
Experimental Psychology (3)

One of the following:

Statistical Methods in Psychology (3)
Introductory Statistics (3)

Two of the following:

Cognition (3)
Abnormal Psychology (3)
Sensation and Perception (3)

One of the following:

Capstone: Natural Sciences (3)
Psychology Seminar (3)

“A great faculty! Knowledgeable, caring, invested in us, encouraging.”

“The curriculum is challenging and interesting. The professors are great —professionally and personally!”

“Rigorous classes, rich amount of information, Christian attitude, and a fair representation of the world of psychological theory are all important strengths of the psychology department.”

—quotes from recent graduates



As a biopsychology major at Messiah College, you will have the opportunity to learn the connections between the mind and behavior in an environment that encourages you to challenge and solidify the integration of your Christian faith and the professional field of psychology. By combining academic theory with practical hands-on experience, our program helps prepare you for your postgraduate aspirations of entering the workforce or continuing your education through graduate-level studies.

Although majors and course requirements may change from time to time, as stated in the College catalog, the preceding information is correct according to the 2005–2006 catalog.



**MESSIAH
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Department of Psychology

The Department of Psychology offers you three majors and two minors from which to choose:

Majors

- **Biopsychology**
- **Psychology B.A.**
- **Psychology B.S.**

Minors

- **Counseling**
- **Psychology**

Our Faculty

The Department of Psychology is composed of seven full-time faculty members and a number of part-time faculty members.

All full-time members of the psychology faculty have earned doctorates and have different specialty areas within the field of psychology. Students say that our psychology professors care deeply about their students both in and out of the classroom; they are well-trained in their field and are both challenging and interesting in the classroom.

Faculty research areas include studying Amish adolescents, adolescents' understanding of God, children's views of parents, issues in Christian higher education, research ethics, multicultural approaches to marriage, cognitive processes involved with distracting tasks, the psychological effects of technology, and the physiological responses to stress during learning.

Our Graduates

While many of our graduates pursue human service jobs with their undergraduate degrees, others choose to continue their studies at respected graduate schools across the country.

Upon graduation from Messiah, our graduates have secured jobs in areas such as foster care and adoption, mental health, senior centers, youth ministry, group homes for children and youth, and corrections. Those who pursued a graduate education have reported that their classroom, internship, and research experiences here at Messiah College prepared them well for advanced studies.

Our Facilities

Boyer Hall houses all of the psychology faculty offices and most of the department's classes. Each classroom offers state-of-the-art equipment and an ideal setting for learning.

In addition, interview and observation rooms allow students to participate in practice counseling/interviewing connected with classes, to observe children at play, or to work with faculty members on research projects. Our psychology lab is outfitted with up-to-date equipment that allows students to explore the many connections between the mind and the body by measuring heart rate, brain waves, breathing, and galvanic skin response.

Opportunities

The Department of Psychology at Messiah College offers students many different opportunities.

On-Campus Opportunities—Our student-run Psychology Club gives you the chance to network and socialize with other students and professionals in the field. Lectures, presentations, open-forum discussions, social activities, and service events arranged by the club will give you the opportunity to discuss

key issues in the field of psychology. As a psychology major you will also have the opportunity to graduate with departmental honors, to become a member of Psi Chi (psychology's National Honor Society), and to become a student member of a national organization like the APA (American Psychological Association) or CAPS (Christian Association for Psychological Studies). In addition, a number of our students work side by side with professors to conduct research and to prepare and present papers and research findings at professional conferences.

Off-Campus Opportunities—To enhance your educational experience, we strongly recommend that all psychology majors take advantage of the many off-campus opportunities offered by Messiah College. These opportunities include local internships and practicums (opportunities to work in fields related to psychology and receive academic credit) as well as study programs in other locations like Philadelphia, England, Greece, and Africa. Psychology majors have considerable flexibility in choosing their elective classes, which makes these off-campus opportunities quite accessible.

Student Awards—Every year, a number of psychology majors are nominated to become members of Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities (a nationally competitive award) or to become Boyer Scholars (a selective award given by Messiah College). Both awards require students to show high academic achievement, leadership, character, and service to the Messiah community. In addition, the Department of Psychology presents the CAPS (Christian Association for Psychological Studies) award and the Outstanding Student Award to two top graduating students who have shown exemplary academic, leadership, and service abilities.

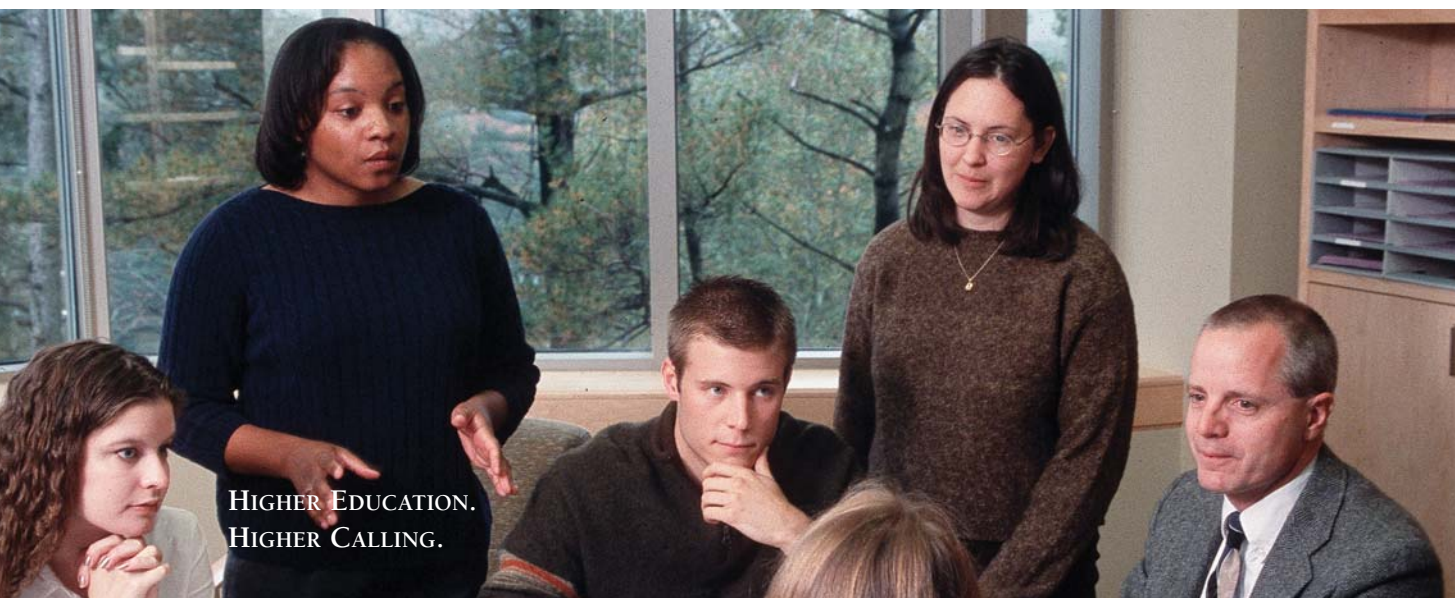
The Future

A number of books and materials are available to help students as they consider careers in psychology or graduate school.

Some of these resources are available in the resource room on the south end of the third floor of Boyer Hall. Other resources can be found in the Career Center on the main level of the Eisenhower Campus Center. In addition, handouts about various careers are available from any member of the Department of Psychology. Students are strongly encouraged to talk to faculty members and the staff in the Career Center about the many options available upon graduation.

Messiah College does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, color, age, disability, or national or ethnic origin.

Office of Admissions, P.O. Box 3005, One College Avenue, Grantham, PA 17027 • 1-800-233-4220 • www.messiah.edu



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