

Psychology

Do you have an interest in learning about why people behave the way they do? Or possibly learning about therapies for mental illnesses? Are you interested in finding out how the human mind works and working to develop cures/treatments for certain disorders? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, then maybe a career in Psychology is for you.

The Department of Psychological Science at NMU promotes discovery, communication, and application of the scientific principles in the field of Psychology within the university and community. As a Psychology major, you will learn the basic techniques related to the field, and then focus your knowledge on an area of emphasis.

The list of career opportunities as a Psychology major are vast, and depend strongly on the competencies and skills you acquire through your academic work and extracurricular activities.

Skills and Competencies

Specifically, your communication, analytical, social, and technical skills will be challenged and strengthened. Strong communication skills are, after all, necessary in every field. Psychology is no exception. You will need to develop effective writing, oral presentation, and persuasiveness skills. The ability to think critically and analytically are also beneficial. You can expect to be exposed to course work and experiences that challenge and develop these skills in you. The curriculum at NMU prepares students for the broad professional fields of teaching, lab work, or for graduate studies.

Course Work

Core

PSY100 Introduction to Psychological Science
PSY160 Seminar for Psychology Majors
PSY201 Psych Res I:Statistical Applications
PSY202 Psych Res II:Exp Design & Applications
PSY489 Graduate Assessment for Psychology Majors

Breadth Areas

PSY210 Developmental Psychology
PSY220 Social Psychology
PSY230 Learning & Cognition
PSY250 Brain & Behavior

Choose a Concentration Area

Brain & Behavior Concentration
(PSY460A Research in Brain & Behavior and take two: PSY350 Neuropsychology, PSY450 Methods in Psychophysiology, PSY451 Sensation & Perception, PSY 453 Affective Neuroscience, or PSY457 Psychopharmacology.)

Developmental Psychology Concentration
(PSY460B Research in Developmental Psychology & take two: PSY312 Child Psychology, PSY314 Adolescent Psychology, PSY316 Psychology of Adulthood & Aging)

Mental Health/Pre-Clinical Psychology Concentration
(PSY460C Practicum in Clinical Psychology, PSY240 Abnormal Psychology, and take two: PSY340 Practice of Clinical Psychology, PSY342 Health Psychology, PSY440 Psych Assessment, or PSY457 Psychopharmacology)

Social/Personality Psychology Concentration
(PSY460D Research in Social or Personality Psychology and take two: PSY322 Social Cognition, PSY325 Psychology of Personality, PSY420 Psych Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Culture)

Interdisciplinary Concentration
(take two psychology electives)

Career Development

You should begin the resume-building process as soon as you can. The Academic and Career Advisement Center can assist you with career planning, while Career Services will help you fine tune your resume and look for jobs related to your field. In the meantime, the more hands-on experience you have, the better the chances are that you will find a job. Becoming involved in a professional related internship is a way to develop your professional skills and gain experience. Your academic course work is important as well, so be sure to maintain a high grade point average.

Additional Considerations

The occupations listed offer great benefits, but some may require education beyond the baccalaureate level. Strong communication skills, patience, understanding, and organization are beneficial to these occupations. Many of these occupations require further education and training in the field. With experience, many fields can lead to management level positions. For most job opportunities in the education fields, one must be certified in the appropriate area. Completion of at least a master’s degree is a standard credential in this line of work. Seek advice of faculty in psychology department for graduate school preparation.

Job Outlook

Starting salaries are contingent upon geographic location and the individual applicants work experience and initiative, and usually range from \$30,000 to \$45,000. The Psychology field is expected to grow faster than average at a 15% rate.

Potential Careers

NMU's Psychology Program prepares students for employment in the following careers:

- Civil Service Fields
- Consultant
- Court System
- Department of Defense
- Employment Counselor
- Hospitals
- Human Resources
- Independent Practice
- Management
- Marketing
- Mental Health Clinics
- Probation Officer
- Psychometrics
- Rehabilitation Centers
- Social Services
- State Health Departments
- State Employment Agencies

Additional Resources and Information

For Career Planning and Opportunities:
Academic & Career Advisement Center
3302.1 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2971
www.nmu.edu/acac

Department of Psychological Science
1001 New Science Facility
906-227-2935
www.nmu.edu/psychology

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:
Career Services
3302.3 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2800
www.nmu.edu/careers

For Information about NMU Student Organizations Associated with this Major Contact:
Center for Student Enrichment
1206 University Center
906-227-2439
www.nmu.edu/cse

Student Psychological Association

Internet Resource Links:
www.careers.org
www.bls.gov

For Career Information with National Organizations:
www.apa.org -American Psychological Assoc.
www.nasponline.org -National Association of School Psychologists



**NORTHERN MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY**

MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

The Academic & Career Advisement Center
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