

# Psychology





# What is Psychology?



**Psychology** is the scientific study of behaviour. The area of psychology you are probably most familiar with is the study of individuals with psychological problems (clinical psychology). However, psychologists examine behaviour from a variety of different perspectives ranging from how our brain controls our behaviour (behavioural cognitive neuroscience) to how we interact in small groups (social psychology). We look at how we perceive, process and remember information (cognitive psychology; sensation and perception) and how behaviour changes over our lifetime (developmental psychology). We examine individual differences in behaviour (personality psychology), and apply our knowledge of psychology to understanding behaviour in the workplace (industrial/organizational psychology). Even different kinds of animals are studied to see what insights they might offer into human behaviour. The Department of Psychology at Western offers a comprehensive undergraduate program providing courses in all these different branches of psychology.

## Areas of Study

- **Honors Specialization in Psychology**

We offer two honors degrees in psychology. Each takes a scientific approach to the study of behaviour. The Honors Bachelor of Arts degree provides a well-rounded education covering a broad range of areas in psychology, whereas the Bachelor of Science in Psychology degree focuses on courses that are more biologically oriented. Either degree would be an excellent choice for students who are interested in pursuing graduate school with the goal of a career in psychology.

- **Major in Psychology**

The major in psychology is designed to give students an understanding of the basic principles of psychology and how they can be applied to everyday life. This program is intended for students who are interested in psychology but are not necessarily thinking of going to graduate school.

- **Bachelor of Science – Animal Behaviour (Honors Specialization)**

The Animal Behaviour module includes courses that examine the science of animal behaviour, from the role of genes, hormones and the nervous system to the ecology and evolution of behaviour in the natural world. The module draws on teaching and research expertise in the Departments of Psychology and Biology.

Students have the opportunity upon finishing their undergraduate studies to pursue graduate studies in Psychology at Western and specialize in a specific area of study.

## Sample Courses:

### *Introductory Psychology*

The study of the methods and findings of modern scientific psychology. The following topics will be covered: history and methodology, biological psychology, sensation and perception, learning and motivation, verbal and cognitive processes, developmental psychology, social psychology, individual differences (intelligence and personality), and clinical psychology.

### *Social Psychology*

An introduction to the theories, findings, methods, and problems encountered in the study of people as social beings. Emphasis is placed on experimental research, conducted both in the laboratory and the field. Content areas include: attitudes and social cognition, social interaction and influence, group processes and applications of social psychology.

## After Graduation

Students who graduate with an undergraduate degree in Psychology often find employment in a related field or continue on in a related graduate studies program. The study of Psychology at the Bachelor's level also prepares students for further education in other professions, such as law, medicine and teaching.

## Careers of Graduates

- Behaviour Analyst
- Group Home Coordinator
- Human Resources Specialist
- Corrections Officer
- Child Care Worker
- Therapist
- Forensic Psychologist
- Criminologist
- Crisis Intervention
- Music/Art Therapist
- Industrial Psychologist
- Labour Relations Specialist



*"Western's Psychology program completely immersed me in the field of psychology, not only academically but also through the various volunteer opportunities and clubs. With the help of Western's excellent faculty, I was able to get hands-on experience in research across the many sub-disciplines of psychology. Not only did those experiences help me decide what I really wanted to specialize in, they also were the reason I got into a graduate program at the school of my choice! Western's Psychology program provided me with the education and experience I needed to start my career, and in the best possible way."*

Adam Guzzo  
B.Sc., Honors Specialization in Psychology



For more information on the  
**Department of Psychology**, please visit:  
<http://psychology.uwo.ca/>