

Psychology

Psychology is the study of the human and animal mind, thought processes and behavior. Psychology majors at Illinois Wesleyan study psychological theory, use observational methods to gain insights into cognition and behavior in various contexts and conduct behavioral and clinical research.

Why Psychology at Illinois Wesleyan?

- The curriculum helps develop individual creativity, critical thinking and character, in addition to introducing students to the science of behavior and mental processes.
- Students receive an understanding of human and animal behavior which is based upon conclusions drawn from systematic observation.
- Various opportunities exist for students to work in psychology laboratories and learn about the data collection process utilizing experimental methods.
- Courses focus on experimental laboratory techniques, observation procedures and measurement and statistical methods, which are all important tools of the psychologist in the study of behavior.
- Faculty have diverse research interests, including clinical, experimental, behavioral, cognitive, social, health, neuroscience, developmental and multicultural psychology.
- Undergraduate students have an opportunity to utilize all psychology facilities, including seven different labs, two observation rooms and a psychophysiology room.

Learning from a Quality Faculty

Psychology faculty will work closely with you, answering questions in and out of class, serving as your academic advisor and supervising your internship or research project. In addition, instructors' outside professional activities add an important dimension to their in-class teaching. Faculty members include:

- **Jason Themanson (Chair)**, *Associate Professor of Psychology*
Ph.D. — University of Illinois at Urbana – Champaign
Specializes in human cognitive neuroscience
- **Ellen Furlong**, *Assistant Professor of Psychology*
Ph.D. — Ohio State University
Specializes in cognition, judgement and decision-making processes
- **Abigail Kerr**, *Assistant Professor of Psychology*
Ph.D. — University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Specializes in the neurobiology of memory and motor skill learning



A Sampling of Courses Offered by Psychology

Lifespan Human Development
Animal Behavior
Learning and Conditioning
Behavioral Neuroscience
Abnormal Psychology
Psychology of Adolescence
Psychology of Gender
Psychology of Racism
Experimental Research in Cognitive Psychology
Advanced Behavioral Neuroscience
Neuropsychopharmacology
Social and Personality Development
Experimental Research in Cognitive Psychology
Psychological Disorders of Childhood
Counseling and Psychotherapy

Recent May Term Courses in Psychology

Animal Behavior
Child Abuse and Neglect
Helping Skills: Listening, Challenging, and Problem Solving
Human Neuroscience Laboratory
College Drugs of Abuse
Introduction to Counseling Skills
Psychology in Popular Media
Middle School Girls
Understanding Attraction

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“The Psychology Department at Illinois Wesleyan University fosters an environment where students can engage in diverse opportunities to develop themselves

- **Linda Kunce**, *Associate Professor of Psychology*
Ph.D. — SUNY at Buffalo
Specializes in children and families, assessment and treatment of a wide range of emotional and behavioral disorders and autism
- **Mignon Montpetit**, *Assistant Professor of Psychology*
Ph.D. — University of Notre Dame
Specializes in lifespan development, focusing on issues affecting the elderly population
- **Brad E. Sheese**, *Associate Professor of Psychology*
Ph.D. — Purdue University
Specializes in infancy and early childhood development
- **Mandy Vicary**, *Assistant Professor of Psychology*
Ph.D. — University of Illinois at Urbana – Champaign
Specializes in social psychology, including romantic relationships
- **Joseph Williams**, *Associate Professor of Psychology*
Ph.D. — The Ohio State University
Specializes in behavioral neuroscience

Putting Learning into Practice

- Psychology majors will have a number of excellent opportunities to gain “hands-on” experience in the field through a practicum or internship, including working at local public and private schools, crisis intervention agencies, and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). Other students have spent a semester off campus at treatment centers in Boulder, Colo., Brainerd, Minn., and Morgantown, N.C.
- Students are also encouraged to work with professors out of class, assisting them in their research or with the completion of an independent research project. Students often present research findings at our annual research conference before an audience of faculty, fellow students and members of the community.
- In recent years, psychology majors have been admitted to a variety of graduate and professional degree programs at the College of William & Mary, Michigan State, New York University, Purdue University, St. Louis University, Syracuse, Washington University, University of Chicago, and the Universities of Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Texas and Wisconsin.
- Graduates of the psychology program annually pursue highly competitive opportunities in the field of psychology, both professional and academic, as well as careers in other professional fields such as medicine, education, social work, law or business and industry.

both inside and outside the classroom in preparation for their future. Students are able to pursue active research projects with individual professors, participate in hands-on laboratory learning experiences with fellow students, seek internship opportunities in the community or participate in study abroad programs. Through these opportunities and experiences, our department prepares students for a wide variety of career paths including graduate school in psychology, medical school, law school, counseling, and occupational or physical therapy as well as careers in business, education, and the helping and health care professions.”

Dr. Jason Themanson

Associate Professor of Psychology
and Department Chair



ILLINOIS WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY

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