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, and conduct scientific research to gain insights into cognition and behavior in various contexts.

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, and developmental 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), 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

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A Sampling of Courses Offered by Psychology

- Lifespan Human Development
- Learning and Conditioning
- Behavioral Neuroscience
- Abnormal Psychology
- Psychology of Gender
- Experimental Research in Cognitive Psychology
- Advanced Behavioral Neuroscience
- Neuropsychopharmacology
- Experimental Research in Cognitive Psychology
- Counseling and Psychotherapy
- Brain Injury and Recovery
- Social Psychology
- Mental Health and Aging
- Psychology and the Environment
- Lifespan Development
- Virtual Reality
- Child Development
- Sport Psychology

Recent May Term Courses in Psychology

- Helping Skills
- Human Neuroscience Laboratory
- College Drugs of Abuse
- Introduction to Counseling Skills
- Ape Sapiens
The Psychology Department at Illinois Wesleyan University fosters an environment where students can engage in diverse opportunities to develop themselves 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
Professor of Psychology and Department Chair