Psychology Majors Handbook 2012
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The psychology program contributes to the liberal education of Reed students by emphasizing the application of empirical methods to the study of cognitive, affective, social, and behavioral processes. Students are exposed to the science of mind, behavior and relationships, are asked to engage in library and "hands-on" research projects, and are given many opportunities to improve their abilities to read and critique research articles, to write, and to present materials orally.

Students choose courses in psychology for a variety of reasons. Some take psychology courses as an aid to understanding themselves and their social environment. Others are interested in careers in clinical work, psychological research or teaching. Many take psychology courses because they seek to expand their knowledge of the behavioral, cognitive, biological, or social sciences in general. Applying the scientific method to the study of psychology provides a solid analytic background for meeting each of these objectives.

Majors choosing a career in psychology often go on to graduate school, as teaching, research and most clinical work require an advanced degree. Graduate school programs in every specialty in psychology favor applicants who have a broad, research-oriented background.

Although we expect majors to gain a broad overview and understanding of psychology, we do not want students to concentrate exclusively on psychology courses. In fact, we believe that the study of psychology often benefits from simultaneous study of related disciplines. We require 11 units in psychology (including the 2-unit senior thesis), and promote the study of other allied fields in our major requirements (See REQUIREMENTS FOR A PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR for additional information).
PSYCHOLOGY FACULTY AND INTERESTS

At the present time there are twelve faculty members in the Psychology Department:

KRISTEN ANDERSON
    Developmental psychopathology, addictive behaviors, clinical psychology
ENRIQUETA CANSECO-GONZALEZ
    Psycholinguistics, neuropsychology, cognitive neuroscience, bilingualism
JENNIFER CORPUS (on leave, 2012-13)
    Developmental psychology, academic motivation
PAUL J. CURRIE
    Neuroscience, neuropharmacology, appetitive behavior
TIM FLEMMING
    Behavior analysis, comparative cognition
TIMOTHY HACKENBERG (on sabbatical, 2012-13)
    Behavior analysis, comparative cognition, behavioral economics
CARA LANEY
    Applied issues in psychology
ALLEN NEURINGER (Emeritus)
    Behavioral variability, volition, self-experimentation, self-control
KATHRYN OLESON
    Social psychology, interpersonal perception and relations, social cognition
MICHAEL PITTS (on leave, fall 2012)
    Cognitive neuroscience, sensation and perception, attention and consciousness
DANIEL REISBERG (Department Chair)
    Cognitive psychology, perception, memory, imagery
DELL RHODES (Emerita)
    Emotions, perception and attention, cognitive and social neuroscience

The psychology professors at Reed are involved in a wide range of research areas, and this broad view of psychology is reflected in our courses. Refer to the Reed College Catalog for a list of courses and their descriptions, at http://administration.reed.edu/registrar/schedule.taf.

Psychology professors have active research programs that frequently involve students. See Appendices A & B for recent presentations and publications co-authored by Reed students.
COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS

We maintain an email list through which we post bulletins regarding departmental events, interesting local events, and job and internship opportunities. Postings to the list are made only by the list administrator, Dan Reisberg. It is a good idea to get your name on this list!

WEB RESOURCES FOR PSYCHOLOGY MAJORS

Be sure to bookmark the Psychology Department’s website: http://academic.reed.edu/psychology. You will find links to current events and departmental news, faculty CVs, and psychology links and resources.

The American Psychological Association maintains a website with many useful resources for psychology students: http://www.apa.org/.

DECLARING A MAJOR

Students must declare a major by the end of their sophomore year. Students are granted upper-class status once they have declared a major and completed at least thirteen units of course work at Reed or elsewhere. Psychology students must complete both the Declaration of Major Form and the Declaration of Allied Field Form, which can be found on the Registrar’s Office website: http://www.reed.edu/registrar/forms.html. These forms must be signed by a faculty member in psychology and returned to the Registrar (Eliot 311).
REQUIREMENTS FOR A PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR

1. Divisional requirements: None

2. Departmental requirements: Eleven units (minimum) in psychology including:
   a. Psy 121 and Psy 122
   b. Four of the following eight “core” courses:
      - Psy 322 (Social Psychology)
      - Psy 333 (Behavioral Neuroscience)
      - Psy 351 (Psychopathology)
      - Psy 361 (Developmental Psychology)
      - Psy 366 (Cognitive Processes)
      - Psy 373 (Learning)
      - Psy 381 (Sensation & Perception)
      - Psy 393 (Psycholinguistics)
   c. Psy 470 (Thesis)
   d. Psy 348 (Research Design and Data Analysis)
   e. Six units in an allied field selected from the fields below, approved by the advisor when the major is declared. Students can petition the department for exceptions to the allied fields requirement. Cross-listed courses taught by psychology faculty may not be used to meet this requirement. Students can see an advisor for more details.
      i. Arts and Literature - six units in the following allied disciplines, to include at least two units from each of two separate disciplines: art, creative writing, dance, Humanities (210, 220, 230), music, literature, theatre. No more than four applied courses (i.e., studio art, creative writing, applied courses in dance and music, acting and design courses in theatre) may be counted.
      ii. Biological, Physical & Computational Sciences – six units in the following disciplines, to include at least two units from each of two separate disciplines: biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, economics.
      iii. Cognitive Science – six units in the following disciplines, to include at least two units from each of two separate disciplines: philosophy, linguistics, biology, anthropology, computer science courses in mathematics.
      iv. Cross-cultural studies – six units to include a foreign language at the 200-level plus four additional units. The language requirement can be met by placement exam, in which case six additional units are required. Students should select from courses with an ethnic or international focus in history and social sciences or in literature and languages, Humanities 230, religion, a second foreign language at the 200-level (cannot be met by placement exam).
      v. History and Social Sciences – six units in the following disciplines, to include at least two units from each of two separate disciplines: anthropology, economics, history, Humanities (210, 220, 230), political science, religion, sociology.
THE JUNIOR QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

Students at Reed take a Qualifying Examination during the semester before their final year. Successful completion of the examination is prerequisite to becoming a senior. In the psychology Junior Qual, students are asked to summarize and evaluate a research article, and to design a research proposal to answer a question suggested by the research article.

Psychology majors are required to complete five Psychology courses, two of which must be core courses, before they can take the Qualifying Examination.

The Junior Qualifying Examination is administered during an announced period in the spring semester, and during the second quarter of the fall semester for students who will begin a mid-year thesis. If the student is asked to resubmit the Qual, the revision must be turned in before the end of the same semester in which the Qual was taken. A student must have passed the Qual before registering for the senior thesis. Note: Interdisciplinary programs generally require taking a Qual from each participating discipline or a single special qualifying examination prepared by the two departments.

THE SENIOR YEAR

Thesis

Getting Started

We strongly encourage students to carry out an empirical research project for the senior thesis. Occasionally, students petition the Department to do a library (non-empirical) thesis, providing a clear rationale. Non-empirical theses may include, for example, a library research review of previous studies in a difficult-to-research area or a theoretical analysis of a major psychological problem. In all cases, the library thesis must include a detailed empirical research proposal designed to clarify issues raised in the thesis.

There are several ways to identify a feasible research topic. Many psychology majors will have already begun an interesting line of research as part of a course project. It is a good idea to establish and maintain a file of interesting research questions starting with your first psychology course. The PsycINFO database can be perused to find an interest area, names of researchers in the particular field, and periodicals that often publish articles about the particular topic. Psychological periodicals in the Reed Library such as the Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis, the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, the Journal of Experimental Psychology, the Psychological Review and the Psychological Bulletin, among many others, stimulate good research ideas. Also consult the hard-backed volumes of The Annual Review of Psychology, which are in the Reed Library in the regular stacks. Each chapter summarizes and evaluates the most significant research of the preceding year on a wide range of current topics in psychology and provides excellent suggestions for next steps in research and very good references.

The Portland State University and the Oregon Health Sciences University libraries also have periodicals that may be helpful. (The latter is especially good in the areas of physiological and abnormal psychology.) Seniors may request books and articles from journals not in the Reed library via the Interlibrary Loan Office located within the reference room.

Finally, we are glad to discuss ideas with students who have completed the Junior Qual and are searching for a topic. It is frequently possible to collaborate with one or more of us in our ongoing research as
part of the Senior Thesis. We may also be able to help a student form a collaborative relationship with a laboratory or research program at another facility in Portland (e.g., at OHSU, the Primate Center, or in a clinical setting).

For some titles of recent Reed Senior Theses, see Appendix C.

During the 1st week of the fall semester, we hold a meeting with seniors to discuss the process of choosing a thesis advisor, thesis deadlines, and tips for writing a senior thesis. It is a good idea for students to talk with faculty about possible senior thesis topics at the end of the junior year, during orientation week, or during the 1st week of classes. Sometime between the end of the 1st and 2nd week of classes, we will ask each senior to submit in writing a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice for both thesis topic and advisor. We do our best to provide each senior with his or her 1st choice of advisor, but this is sometimes not possible (e.g., if too many students request a single advisor). In all cases, though, we are committed to providing each senior with an advisor competent to supervise research in the domain in which the senior will be working.

**Deadlines**

Early in the senior year, usually at the beginning of the 5th week of the semester, each student submits a detailed thesis proposal to the Chair of the Division, via Kathy Kennedy, the Division’s Administrative Assistant, and to the thesis advisor (this is a deadline imposed by the Division). The proposal should include:

- a. statement of the research problem
- b. design of the investigation
- c. necessary equipment, facilities, and subjects, including a preliminary budget
- d. data to be collected
- e. data analysis to be employed
- f. brief annotated bibliography
- g. calendar setting projected deadlines for completing each portion of the thesis

Most senior thesis projects will require review and approval by either Reed’s Human Subjects Research Committee or by the Animal Care Committee. Although review procedures vary from year to year, the Human Subjects Research Committee [http://web.reed.edu/human_subjects/index.html](http://web.reed.edu/human_subjects/index.html) has a series of deadlines and return dates for research proposals submitted in the fall, and for proposals submitted in the spring. Students should consult with their advisor as soon as possible about whether a project will require review.

The Psychology Department also requires that a draft of the first chapter of the thesis be submitted to the thesis advisor by the last day of classes of the first semester. Requirements for this chapter should be discussed with the thesis advisor.

A typed first draft of the completed thesis, including abstract, figures, statistics where appropriate, and bibliography must be submitted four weeks before the college-wide deadline for the final manuscript to the Chair of the Division, via Kathy Kennedy, the Division’s Administrative Assistant, and to the thesis advisor. These drafts are normally returned within one week, with suggestions for revision. A senior in our Division not meeting this first draft deadline will not graduate at the end of the semester.
Writing the Thesis

It is not unusual to encounter interrelated problems in undertaking thesis work: 1) time budgeting and designing a manageable and feasible thesis that can be completed in two semesters; and 2) making efficient and effective use of library resources. A common error is to spend too long at the beginning of the year gathering references instead of beginning the research project itself. Don't forget that this is an undergraduate 'course' of two units and not a doctoral dissertation, and that research always takes much longer than expected.

Psychology theses are written in the general format of journal articles as established by the American Psychological Association. There must be an Abstract, Introduction and Review of the Literature, a Methods chapter (Participants, Materials, Procedure), Results, and Discussion. The latter section can, in some cases, be combined with Results, and should include consideration of sources of error and limitations of the research, suggestions for future research, and a conclusion. Consult the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association and the "Guide to Writing Empirical Research Reports" usually distributed in Psy 121 but also available from Joan Meyer in Psy 116. A website with links to guides to APA style is: http://www.apastyle.org/. Students may also want to ask faculty advisors to suggest previous theses to use as examples.

The department also strongly urges that students make use of EndNote -- a program that's free for on-campus use, and which will help in tracking down papers relevant to a student’s thesis. (EndNote can search through Psych Abstracts, for example, or MedLine, which will also help in taking notes.) EndNote will automatically copy particulars of an article, including the abstract, onto a student’s hard-drive AND will help in writing the paper, specifically, in forming the bibliography.

In writing a thesis, students should remember that a non-psychologist will be on the Orals Board, and should therefore define technical terms carefully.

There are strict formatting requirements for the thesis document. These are described in a document distributed to seniors by the Registrar's Office, and an electronic "thesis template" is available at http://web.reed.edu/cis/help/thesis.html.

It's also worth saying that some software tools will be particularly useful if relied on FROM THE START, rather than shifting over to them later. This is true, for example, with regard to using "styles" in MSWord, in formatting a thesis, and it is also true with regard to using EndNote.

The College requires seniors to take at least 6 units during the two semesters of their final year and no fewer than 2 units in either semester. The best plan is 4-2 or 3-3. It is advisable to take a relatively light course load when writing a thesis. It is also a good idea to plan ahead and finish Departmental and College Distribution requirements before the senior year so that, as a thesis student, you are free to take electives in other fields.
Thesis Poster Session

Soon after the thesis first draft deadline (usually the following Friday), we host a Senior Thesis Poster Session. Poster formats are informal, consisting, for example, of: a statement of purpose and summary of expected findings or conclusions; a diagram showing stimulus displays, testing apparatus, or a copy of a questionnaire; a Figure displaying preliminary results. The goal is to provide for others an idea of what the student’s been working on to promote conversation. We understand that theses will be at various stages of completion, and we do not require elaborate mountings and artwork. Although participation in the poster session is optional, students report it to be a fun and helpful way to organize their thinking about their thesis in preparation for the oral examination.

Oral Examination

The Oral Examination focuses on the thesis, but is not necessarily confined to it. It normally occurs during Reading Week for a period of two hours. The examining committee usually consists of four members: the thesis advisor, two other members of the Psychology Department, and one other faculty member from outside the Division of Philosophy, Religion, Psychology, and Linguistics. Departmental members of the Orals Board are selected by the faculty, although student preferences can be voiced through their advisor. The "outside" Board member is selected and invited by the candidate. The schedule of psychology Orals is posted approximately three weeks before the end of the semester to provide adequate time for students to invite their “outside member.”

With the approval of the faculty advisor, the candidate may also invite an individual from off-campus (for example, a clinical professional with whom the student has worked). When the participation of such an individual is important, the candidate should obtain the schedule of the off-campus individual before the department schedules Orals and communicate the schedule to the faculty advisor. This individual does not replace the "outside member" of the Orals Board.

Also, with the approval of the faculty advisor, candidates may invite one or two student guests, especially psychology juniors, who appreciate the chance to see what a senior Oral in psychology is really like.

Often, candidates begin the Oral Exam by stating how they became interested in the topic, and then summarize the thesis project. The student may be asked questions both during and after this summary. Members of the Orals Board may also ask questions on any aspect of the student's academic experience at Reed.

At the end of the examination, the student is asked to leave the room for a brief period so that the Board can discuss the thesis and the examination. The student is then informed by the Board of the results of its “deliberations.” The student makes whatever changes or corrections are requested in the thesis as a result of the Oral Examination, and the advisor confirms these and signs the thesis copies before they are bound. Two bound copies go to the library, one to the advisor, and one to Joan Meyer, in Psy 116, for the Departmental collection. An electronic version also goes to Joan, in case the student needs a copy to be sent somewhere electronically in the future. The student decides whether to have any extra copies bound. Binding can be done by the Printing Department.
Some apprehensiveness about the thesis Orals is unavoidable; however, most seniors find the Orals to be stimulating and enjoyable (at least after the first few minutes). Rarely does a candidate fail the Oral Examination.

GRADUATE SCHOOLS AND EMPLOYMENT IN PSYCHOLOGY

We hold a meeting for seniors several weeks into the fall semester concerning graduate schools and career options. The Career Services Center is an excellent source of information concerning career possibilities. The office maintains a library that contains a wide array of career and internship directories as well as national job listings.

Internship and Employment Opportunities

For psychology majors who have not yet graduated (or who plan to take time off before going to graduate school) there are many summer internships available that provide useful experience. Some offer stipends, some do not. Files and directories in the Career Services Center list a wide range of opportunities. The websites of Professional Societies and of funding agencies such as the NSF and NIH often provide links to summer internship information, as well.

With a B.A. in psychology, you are qualified for a number of job opportunities in the private and public sector. Psychology-related jobs held by recent Reed alums include: teacher in a Montessori school; research assistant at NIH; counselor in a group home for emotionally disturbed children; alcohol and drug abuse counselor; laboratory assistant at Oregon Health Sciences University; college admissions counselor; child care worker for runaways; and houseparent in a group home for single teenage parents. Non-psychology-related positions include: computer programmer; political aide; English teacher overseas; and insurance company employee.

The Job Search

Students should begin the job search process early! It is important that students alert the Career Services staff when commencing career exploration so they can be informed about seminars and workshops that will be of assistance. Also, a strong alumni network exists to support students and soon-to-be graduates in their job search strategies. Scheduling employment interviews with recruiters visiting campus is beneficial, as well.

Students should periodically check the Psychology Department bulletin boards for announcements of job and fellowship opportunities. Fellowship and award materials can be found in the Career Services Center and on the Web.

Graduate Study

Students intending to go into psychology as a profession generally need graduate training. Other fields for which psychology is a desirable background include social work, counseling, education, sociology, criminology, international relations, law, business administration, public administration, journalism, computer
administration & support, biology, neuroscience, public health, medicine, nursing. The emphasis on independent research at Reed provides excellent preparation for graduate school.

The Graduate Record Exam

Students wanting to attend graduate school should take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) at the end of their junior year or early in the fall of their senior year. Complete information can be obtained from the Career Services Center. We strongly recommend that students planning to take time off before applying to graduate school take the GRE before leaving college, because students who do so usually do better.

Application Timeline and Process

Students who plan to attend graduate school immediately after leaving Reed should spend time early in the fall semester obtaining information and applications, and later in the semester should fill out and submit the application forms. A few schools (especially in California) have application deadlines in December; most are at the end of December through the middle of January.

There is no rule concerning how many programs students should apply to; however, they should consider applying not only to preferred programs, but also to graduate programs that may be 2nd and 3rd choices. The APA website provides a good set of links to graduate schools, as does http://www.psychwww.com/index.html. Students can determine how competitive particular programs are by comparing information in Graduate Study in Psychology (available for checkout from Joan Meyer in Psy 116) about applications/acceptance ratios, number of openings, and GPA requirements. The Career Services Center also maintains an alumni volunteer database in which alumni have offered to advise students about the graduate programs they attended or are attending.

Graduate Fellowship Programs

Also available through the Career Services Center is information about competitive graduate fellowship programs such as the National Science Foundation Graduate Awards program. The Fellowships and Awards Committee holds an informative meeting early in the fall semester. Deadlines for fellowship programs are usually earlier than those for graduate schools, so you need to obtain the necessary information early in the fall semester if you plan on applying for these fellowships.

Letters of Recommendation

Students should request letters of recommendation as early as possible in order to give professors plenty of time. It will help professors formulate the most helpful letter if they are provided a relevant statement of goals and are clear about what attracts students to the relevant programs, jobs, or fellowships. In addition to any forms that must be filled out, students should provide a stamped, addressed envelope for each recommendation letter.
Preparing for Your Career and for Graduate School

Doing fieldwork in clinical settings (with children, adolescents, or adults), whether as a volunteer or for pay, is extremely helpful for gaining admission to graduate programs in clinical psychology or human development. Fieldwork can also sometimes be done either as a project for a psychology course (e.g., Psychopathology, Developmental Psychology, Clinical Psychology) or as a part of the senior thesis.

We encourage students to get a broad background in psychology as well as in other areas in order to enhance career options. Computer skills, for example, often make a psychology major very attractive to prospective employers as well as to graduate schools. So, too, do statistical skills. The psychology faculty can be very helpful in providing graduate school and job counseling, but students should determine their own future direction long before graduation.
Appendix A: Talks Co-Presented by Reed Psychology Students and Current Faculty Within the Last Five Years at Professional Meetings and Conferences
(Students’ names appear in bold type.)


Appendix B: Publications Co-Authored by Reed College Students and Current Faculty Within the Last Ten Years
(Students' names appear in bold type.)


Appendix C:
A Representative List of Recent Senior Thesis Topics

2003  The effect of affect: the influence of an affective priming manipulation on the cross-race search asymmetry
2003  Perceived relatedness and students’ emotional and academic well-being
2003  Metavariability: interrelationships with creativity, depression and SAT/ GPA
2003  Mornings are distasteful: circadian susceptibility to acquisition of a conditioned taste aversion paradigm
2004  Early adolescents’ learning behaviors in group situations: The impact of social goals and group composition
2004  Prejudice reduction and the salience effect: More than a black or white issue
2004  The affective component of cross-race faces in priming and visual search paradigms
2004  The psychophysics of voluntary behavior
2005  The taste of science: How sweet can it be?
2005  Acting in others’ best interests: Self-handicapping and other-enhancement for friends and strangers
2005  Motivational regulation strategies in elementary school populations
2005  Combining concepts in language
2006  Individual differences in visualization: Not a binary categorization
2006  Ceiling effects in assessments of choice variables
2006  The interactive effect of regulatory focus and self-construal on global-local processing
2006  Heterosexism and attitudes toward same-sex parenting
2007  Investigating intolerance of uncertainty in social anxiety
2007  A time-course study of access to semantic vs. language information in English-Spanish bilinguals
2007  Social identity influence on advertising perception
2007  Profiles of intrinsic and extrinsic motivations: A holistic study of motivation and its correlates
2009  Serotonin attenuates the orexigenic and anxiogenic actions of ghrelin within the paraventricular nucleus of the hypothalamus
2009  Strategies for Regulating Motivation: The Role of Interest Expectations
2009  The black hole of motherhood: a decrease in perceived competence and hirability for female physics job candidates with children
2010  Eyewitness Identification Procedures in Oregon Policework and the Impact of the Appearance-Change Instruction on Identification Accuracy
2010  Metacognition in Rats
2010  Motivation, Incentive Sensitization and College Drinking: An Eye-Tracking Study of Attentional Processes
2011  An Investigation of Perceptual and Behavioral Confirmation within Friendship Dyads
2011  Discovering the key to unlocking tool-use in a non-tool-using species
2011  The Functionality of Cross-Modal Activation in Word Identification
2011  Thinking Through Change: The Effect of Implicit Trait Theories on Goals and Well-Being
2012  Detecting Deception and False Memories in Transcripts and Videos
2012  The Effects of Auditory Bandwidth and Spatial Congruence on Early Audiovisual Interactions
2012  Every American’s Goal: A Self-Determination Approach to Promoting Healthy Eating Behavior
2012  The Contribution of Belongingness Uncertainty, Self-Doubt, and Perceived Effort Expenditure to Domain Identification and Persistence of Women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Fields
2012  Evaluating the Transdiagnostic Cognitive-Behavioral Model of Eating Disorders with Student Athletes