

*Psychology is the study of mind and behavior. Psychologists seek to describe, explain and optimize human behavior through a wide variety of scientific methodologies and a diverse array of theoretical frameworks. The study of psychology will address the development of the individual across the lifespan, including motivation, emotion, personality, and the ways that the individual makes sense of their social world. Psychology is, fundamentally, the science of being human.*

#### **THE PROGRAM**

Due to the interdisciplinary nature of the subject and its historical relationship to philosophy and biology, psychology is well suited as a major for students seeking a diversified education that will advance their understanding of themselves and others. Students desiring to enter a specialty field of professional psychology that requires a master's or doctoral degree will find that the undergraduate curriculum provides thorough preparation for graduate study.

#### **THE MAJOR**

Students may choose to pursue either a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology at VWU. Though scientific literacy is part of the core curriculum of both the B.A. and B.S. tracts, courses in the B.S. prepare students for graduate work and careers in the sciences, with additional course requirements in statistics, research methods, and the natural sciences. Students who are considering the psychology major should work closely with their academic advisers in selecting general studies and elective courses that will provide them with necessary background knowledge. Courses in the humanities and the natural sciences are particularly appropriate. To complete the requirements of the psychology major, students are encouraged to pursue independent studies and research under a faculty mentor.

#### **THE COURSES**

Classes at VWU are small and interactive. Some of the courses within the psychology program include Adult Psychopathology, Biological Psychology, Social Psychology, Lifespan Developmental Psychology, and Theories of Personality. Special topics include Adult Development and Aging, Psychology of Eating Disorders, Psychology in Film, Memoir, and Science, and Psychology of Gender.

#### **INTERSHIPS/RESEARCH/STUDY AWAY**

Students who opt to pursue the Bachelor of Science degree, as part of their curriculum, work one-on-one with a faculty member to design an independent research study, collect real data and present their results. All psychology majors have the option of working independently in an agency, organization, department, or other applied setting that allows for hands-on application of concepts and skills developed during their coursework in psychology. Students meet together weekly to process their experiences and complete integrative final projects regarding their experiences at the end of the semester. Psychology majors looking for study away experiences work with their major advisor and the The Lighthouse in selecting courses at their host institutions that satisfy VWU degree requirements and keep them on pace for graduation.

#### **BEYOND THE CLASSROOM**

A degree in psychology from Virginia Wesleyan can take one very far. Many of our graduates have continued their education, obtaining professional degrees in law, business and education, as well as scientific and applied fields of psychology. Psychology majors seeking employment immediately after graduation have found themselves well positioned for a variety of careers.

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#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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