

STUDENT GUIDE TO THE PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR

WESTERN CONNECTICUT
STATE UNIVERSITY
2023-2024

THIS GUIDE CONTAINS:

- PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR PROGRAM SHEET
- MINOR IN PSYCHOLOGY
- SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELING COURSES
- GET INVOLVED! PSYCHOLOGY STUDENT ASSOCIATION & PSI CHI
- POTENTIAL CAREERS IN PSYCHOLOGY



@WCSUPSYCHOLOGY



WCSU PSYCHOLOGY



WCSU PSYCHOLOGY
STUDENTS & AULUMNI



PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR PROGRAM SHEET

Advisor _____

Name _____

BA - Psychology - 120 Credits Required



A minimum of 30 credits must be taken at WCSU.

A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.3 is required.

Complete a foreign language at an elementary II level or above. Students who have completed three years of language in high school with at least a 'C' average have satisfied this requirement. Consult your advisor. (IC)

Part 1: General Education Competency Requirements

Students must complete each of the competencies listed below. In addition, students must complete 3 of the competencies a second time excluding First Year (FY), WRT 101 (WI), Writing Intensive Tier II (W2) and Writing Intensive Tier III (W3).

Creative Process (CP)	_____	_____
Critical Thinking (CT)	_____	_____
Oral Communication (OC)	_____	_____
Health and Wellness (HW)	_____	_____
Scientific Inquiry (SI)	PSY 324	_____
Intercultural Competence (IC)	_____	_____
Information Literacy (IL)	_____	_____
First Year Experience (FY)	PSY 110	_____
Culminating Experience (CE)	_____	_____
Writing Course (WRT 101)	WRT 101	_____
Writing Intensive II (W2)	_____	_____
Writing Intensive III (W3)	_____	_____
Quantitative Reasoning (QR)	PSY 204	_____

Part 2: General Education Exploration

40 credits are required.

WRT 101 Composition I: Habits of Writing

Scientific Inquiry course outside of Psychology _____

Quantitative Reasoning course outside of Psychology _____

30 to 31 Credits in courses outside of Psychology major	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____

Part 3: Major in Psychology

39-45 credits are required.

Minimum 2.0 major GPA

A minimum of 20 major credits must be taken at WCSU.

PSYCHOLOGY CORE - COMPLETE IN ORDER!

A student who enrolls twice in a course in the research sequence (PSY 204, 324) and does not pass that course shall not continue in the major. A student can appeal to the chair to be reinstated by the department.

PSY 100 Introduction to Psychology *BREADTH REQUIREMENTS*

PSY 110 Orientation to the Psychology *Area A: Cognitive*: PSY 220 or 251

Major (FY) *Area B: Biological*: PSY 230, 349 or 352

PSY 204 Psychological Statistics (C- or *Area C: Developmental*: PSY 210, 211 or 222/322

better) (QR) *Area D: Social-Personality*: PSY 205 or 215

PSY 324 Experimental Psychology (SI) *Area E: Clinical-Counseling*: PSY 202, 203 or 260

PSY 412, 415, 425, 426, 439 or 450 Two 300-400 Level Psychology Electives

Advanced Seminar One Psychology Elective - Any Level (Except PSY 991)

It is recommended that students seeking a career in applied, clinical or counseling psychology, or graduate school in those areas, take PSY 306-Internship in Psychology. Students seeking an academic or research career and planning on applying to graduate school

Part 4: 42 Free Elective Credits should complete research with a faculty member via PSY 299, 450, 460, or the Honors track (PSY 475 & 476).

_____	_____	_____
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REQUIREMENTS FOR A MINOR IN PSYCHOLOGY:

TAKE ANY 18 CREDITS IN PSYCHOLOGY, INCLUDING PSY 100, AT LEAST NINE OF WHICH MUST BE TAKEN AT WCSU, WITH A MINIMUM GPA OF 2.0.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELORS (CADC):

WE OFFER FOUR COURSES IN SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELING (PSY 392, 393, 394 AND 395) WHICH TOGETHER MEET THE ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELORS AS DEFINED BY THE CONNECTICUT CERTIFICATION BOARD (CRB). OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION ARE 6,000 HOURS OF PAID SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELING EXPERIENCE AND A PASSING SCORE ON A WRITTEN TEST. PLEASE CHECK THE CONNECTICUT CERTIFICATION BOARD HOME PAGE FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE CERTIFICATION INFORMATION.

PSYCHOLOGY WITH DISTINCTION OPTION (FOR PSYCHOLOGY MAJORS ONLY)

THE PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT OFFERS A PSYCHOLOGY WITH DISTINCTION OPTION TO HIGHLY MOTIVATED PSYCHOLOGY MAJORS INTERESTED IN PURSUING A ONE-YEAR, TWO-COURSE HONORS READING AND RESEARCH PROJECT IN ADDITION TO ALL OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR A PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR. THIS OPTION PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPLEMENT THE PSYCHOLOGY DEGREE BY CONDUCTING A SUBSTANTIAL, INDEPENDENT EMPIRICAL PROJECT UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A PSYCHOLOGY FACULTY MEMBER. COMPLETION OF THIS OPTION REQUIRES PRIOR APPROVAL FROM A PSYCHOLOGY FACULTY MEMBER, AND ENTAILS A TWO-SEMESTER SEQUENCE OF COURSES: AN HONORS GUIDED READING (PSY 475) AND AN HONORS THESIS (PSY 476).

GET INVOLVED!



@WCSUPSYCHALLIANCE

ABOUT PSYCHALLIANCE

PSYCHALLIANCE IS THE COMBINATION OF THE WCSU'S CHAPTER OF THE PSI CHI INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY AND THE PSYCHOLOGY STUDENT ASSOCIATION (PSA). THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS OPERATE TOGETHER TO FORM ONE STUDENT-LED CLUB IN PSYCHOLOGY; PROVIDING A MIX OF EDUCATIONAL, SOCIAL, AND WELLNESS EVENTS TO THE WCSU COMMUNITY

WHO CAN JOIN

ANYONE WITH AN INTEREST IN PSYCHOLOGY, INCLUDING NON-PSYCHOLOGY MAJORS AND MINORS AS WELL AS PSYCHOLOGY MAJORS AND MINORS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE PSYCHALLIANCE BUSINESS MEETINGS TO FIND OUT ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROVIDE INPUT ON EVENT PLANNING.

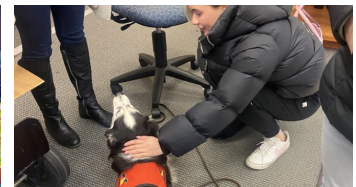
EXAMPLE EVENTS:

- ALUMNI PANEL
- STUDENT-LED DISCUSSIONS
- PUMPKIN SMASH DE-STRESS EVENT
- GRADUATE SCHOOL WORKSHOP
- RESUME WORKSHOP
- HEART OF ART
- PIE A PROFESSOR FUNDRAISER
- SELF-CARE PACKAGES
- MOVIE NIGHTS



BENEFITS OF JOINING

- NETWORK WITH ALUMNI AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS IN THE FIELD
- LEARN ABOUT UPDATED RESEARCH AND NEW TRENDS IN PSYCHOLOGY
- DEVELOP LEADERSHIP SKILLS THROUGH LEADING DISCUSSIONS, PLANNING EVENTS, OR SERVING AS AN OFFICER
- HAVE FUN AND CONNECT WITH FELLOW PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS!



POTENTIAL CAREERS IN PSYCHOLOGY

LICENSED ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR

- PROVIDE COUNSELING AND SUPPORT TO INDIVIDUALS DEALING WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE ISSUES. THIS MAY INVOLVE COUNSELING INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, OR GROUPS, AS WELL AS PARTICIPATING IN PREVENTION INITIATIVES
- MASTERS DEGREE REQUIRED
- AVERAGE SALARY IN CT: \$62,380

MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPIST

- EVALUATE AND ADDRESS COGNITIVE, MENTAL, OR BEHAVIORAL DISORDERS IN THE CONTEXT OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY DYNAMICS. USE PSYCHOTHERAPEUTIC AND FAMILY SYSTEMS APPROACHES TO TREAT INDIVIDUALS, COUPLES, AND FAMILIES
- MASTERS DEGREE REQUIRED
- AVERAGE SALARY IN CT: \$59,360

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

- DIAGNOSE AND APPLY INTERVENTIONS FOR EDUCATIONAL, BEHAVIORAL, OR DEVELOPMENTAL CHALLENGES AFFECTING STUDENTS' LEARNING. COUNSEL STUDENTS AND FAMILIES, CREATE PERFORMANCE PLANS, ASSESS PROGRESS, AND COLLABORATE WITH OTHER SCHOOL STAFF
- MASTERS DEGREE REQUIRED
- AVERAGE SALARY IN CT: \$92,300

CLINICAL/COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGIST

- EVALUATE MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL DISORDERS IN INDIVIDUALS THROUGH OBSERVATION, INTERVIEWS, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENTS. DESIGN BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION PLANS, OFFER COUNSELING, AND WORK ON TREATMENT STRATEGIES
- DOCTORAL DEGREE REQUIRED
- AVERAGE SALARY IN CT: \$102,000

BOARD CERTIFIED BEHAVIOR ANALYST

- APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS THERAPISTS USE BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION TECHNIQUES TO HELP INDIVIDUALS, OFTEN CHILDREN WITH AUTISM OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS, LEARN AND IMPROVE THEIR SOCIAL, COMMUNICATION, AND DAILY LIVING SKILLS
- MASTERS DEGREE REQUIRED
- AVERAGE SALARY IN CT: \$70,000

INDUSTRIAL-ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST

- APPLY PSYCHOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES TO HUMAN RESOURCES, ADMINISTRATION, AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES. TASKS INVOLVE POLICY PLANNING, EMPLOYEE TESTING, TRAINING, ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND COLLABORATING WITH MANAGEMENT TO ENHANCE WORKPLACE PRODUCTIVITY
- MASTERS DEGREE REQUIRED
- AVERAGE SALARY IN CT: \$132,280

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

