

Pathways Psychology Majors Committee

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

❖ **Component 1: Introduction to Psychology**

Appropriate to the level of an introductory course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze and evaluate research methods that make Psychology a science, including the advantages and disadvantages of each research method, as well as how they are complementary.
2. Articulate and assess ethical views and their underlying premises with regards to both research and therapy.
3. Understand basic psychological theories, principles, and concepts.
4. Explain how individual differences influence beliefs, values, and interactions with others.
5. Apply psychological concepts and principles to their own lives and experiences.

❖ **Component 2: Abnormal Psychology or Personality Psychology**

Abnormal Psychology: After taking this course students will be able to:

1. Understand the rationale for categorizing behavior as "normal" or "abnormal" and how views of the causation and treatment of mental illnesses have changed over time.
2. Demonstrate understanding of how major theoretical approaches, such as the biological, psychoanalytic, and cognitive, address the development, categorization, diagnosis, and treatment of mental illnesses.
3. Demonstrate understanding of the purposes and processes of clinical assessment and diagnosis based on presenting symptoms and other relevant information and recognize the benefits and disadvantages of making diagnoses in today's world.
4. Identify treatment options and the process used to select appropriate treatments as well as the current practical, legal, social, and ethical concerns regarding the treatment of the psychologically ill in modern society.

Personality Psychology: After taking this course students will be able to:

1. Identify, understand and critically evaluate the central theories and concepts in personality psychology.
2. Analyze hypotheses and research findings relating to achieving valid and reliable theories of personality from multiple conceptual perspectives.
3. Apply the theoretical concepts in personality psychology to human behavior.
4. Understand the ways personality can be assessed and the challenges that measurement can present.
5. Examine cultural, gender and individual differences in the study of personality psychology.

❖ **Component 3: Child Development or Lifespan Development**

Child Development: After taking this course students will be able to:

1. Critically evaluate the major theories of child development and demonstrate understanding of their influence on the field of psychology and related fields.
2. Critically analyze the significance of—and interactions between--the physical, cognitive, social and emotional domains in the process of child development.
3. Describe the research methodologies used to study child development, demonstrate understanding of the benefits and limitations of research in laboratory and non-laboratory settings, and critically evaluate relevant research.
4. Examine cultural, gender and individual differences in the study of child development.
5. Gain insight into child development and apply knowledge learned to current issues in the field and to the student's own life experiences.

Lifespan Development: After taking this course students will be able to:

1. Critically evaluate the major theories of lifespan development and demonstrate understanding of their influence on the field of psychology and related fields.
2. Critically analyze the significance of —and interactions between--the physical, cognitive, social and emotional domains in the process of lifespan development.
3. Describe the research methodology used to study lifespan development, demonstrate understanding of the benefits and limitations of research in laboratory and non-laboratory settings, and critically evaluate relevant research.
4. Examine cultural, gender and individual differences in the study of lifespan development.
5. Gain insight into lifespan development and apply knowledge learned to current issues in the field and to the student's own life experiences.