

The Psychology Department at Augsburg College is a warm, vibrant community of faculty and students who are excited about the work that they are doing in the field of psychology. The faculty are deeply dedicated to mentoring students so that they are personally, practically and intellectually prepared for life after Augsburg. Specifically, the faculty is committed not only to teaching students about the individual disciplines in psychology, but they help students to become intellectual, thinking individuals who are aware of their responsibility to their community. This quality of socially conscious engagement and disciplined thinking serves students no matter what they choose to do later in life.

Our curriculum was designed to reflect the mission and vision of Augsburg College. Students first take Psy 105 (Principles of Psychology) which is the foundational course of our discipline and as such is Psychology's designated LAF course. We require two courses in research methods (Psy 215 and 315) which provide students a solid foundation in the scientific foundation of our discipline. From there, we require majors to take one course whose focus is on basic research and is mainly non-applied in nature (e.g., cognitive psychology) and one course whose focus is on the application of psychological principles in a practical setting (e.g., counseling psychology).

Our curriculum also has been strongly influenced by recommendations of Project Kaleidoscope and the National Science Foundation regarding the means to achieve exemplary science education through a research-rich learning environment. Each student undertakes at least one original research project while at Augsburg (most complete two projects). Students also have the opportunity to take Advanced Research Seminar (Psy 491) in which they are able to work on a high-level faculty-driven research project. In

addition, faculty collaborate with students on faculty-driven or student-driven research projects outside of the classroom setting. The goal for these projects is the production of quality work that can be presented to the professional community through conference presentations or publication in peer-reviewed journal articles.

The Psychology Department is committed to experimentally based learning and interdisciplinarity. Some of our 200 level electives are designated as Engaging Minneapolis or contain service learning projects. Furthermore, all psychology majors are required to take a community based internship. This time away from the classroom is not viewed simply as work experience. Students integrate practical experience and theory in the class attached to the internship; these connections help students to recognize the richness of psychology practically, personally, and intellectually. The internship also serves as the department's keystone course in which students actively grapple with issues of vocation. Most of our faculty are involved in the Augsburg Seminar program via interdisciplinary course pairs. Our department has been paired with Sociology, Religion, and English. We are currently working on offering a course pair with Social Work.

Students in our department learn to have confidence in their intellectual capacities as young psychologists. Our students graduate as highly trained, informed and competent individuals who engage the world with critical thinking, commitment to community, and a sense of excitement for life long learning.