Bachelor of Arts Degree Completion Program

in Psychology
B.A. Degree Completion Program in Psychology

Program Prerequisites: PSY 101 General Psychology and a minimum G.P.A. of 2.5. Psychology major program: 36 credits

Description: Psychology is the scientific study of mental processes and behavior. Perception, learning, thinking, and motivation are studied in the context of individual development. Students learn the nature of psychological inquiry and the psychological approach to various issues encountered in the social sciences, the humanities, and life sciences. The psychology degree completion program is designed for working people who already have an associate's degree. A bachelor's degree can be completed in 20 months with classes held 4-8 p.m. on Thursdays, in 10, eight-week sessions, beginning in August 2013. Students will join a cohort and remain in that group throughout the program. Classes are held at Mount Wachusett Community College, Gardner Campus, 444 Green Street, Gardner, MA 01440 as well as online.

Job Outlook: Employment growth will vary by specialty; for example, clinical, counseling, and school psychologists will have 22 percent growth; industrial-organizational psychologists, 35 percent growth; and 22 percent growth is expected for all other psychologists according to the Occupational Handbook 2012-2013 edition published by the U.S. Department of Labor.

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Course offered at community college rate
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COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

MWCC courses are distinguished by an asterisk following the course name. The number in parentheses denotes the credits awarded for the course.

ART 215 Art History II* (3) Online
This survey course focuses on the art of Western Europe from the early Renaissance through the rise of modernism, and includes contemporary trends in Europe and the United States. A special emphasis is placed on painting and sculpture and the relationship of art to social and political currents. Students will compare these works with examples of arts from non-Western cultures.

ENG 259 Literary Masterpieces I* (3) Online
This course is a study of representative literary masterpieces of Eastern and Western civilization for moral, philosophical, social, and psychological insights into the nature of modern man. Readings are taken from such sources as Aristotle, Greek drama, Plato, Milton, Chaucer, Machiavelli, Dante, and Shakespeare. The course complements courses in western civilization, art, and music history. Prerequisite: ENG102 or permission of division dean.

ENG 378 Detective Fiction (3) Online
Students will study classic and contemporary examples of a popular genre focusing on the way in which “investigation” mirrors the act of reading with the addition of an explicit moral/ethical agenda. The objectivity of the detective's investigation, and of our own reading, will be called into question through an examination of historical forces, gender roles, and national and cultural identity. Recommended to satisfy the core literature requirement.

HIS 123 History of Modern America* (3) Online
Students study the relationship between foreign and domestic events and the evolution of American history from 1945 to the present. Special emphasis is placed on the legacies of the New Deal, World War II, Vietnam and their influences on the presidents of the last sixty years. Prerequisites: ENG098, FYE101, RDG098, or placement.

HUM 240 Comparative Religion* (3) Online
The course will examine, compare, and contrast, in a non-judgmental way, the history and beliefs of the five major world religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Attention will also be given to Native American traditions. Prerequisite: ENG101.

PHL 201 Introduction to Philosophical Issues* (3) Online
This is an introduction to the nature and practice of philosophical reflection on such questions as the meaning of awareness in defining self, the nature of reality, the problem of knowledge, the development of moral standards, the existence of God, and people's place in the universe. Emphasis is on discussion of case studies dealing with such issues as “How do we come to know the real world?”, “What makes an action right or wrong?”, “Are we a spirit within a body or a body within a spirit?”, and “Do we have free will, or are all our actions determined?” Readings include historical and modern selections in philosophy and literature from both Western and Eastern traditions. Prerequisites: ENG098, FYE101, RDG098, or placement.

PSY 202 Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences (3)
This course is a critical component of the psychology major's research training. To this end, basic descriptive and univariate inferential procedures are covered, including measures of central tendency variability, relative standing, correlation, hypothesis testing, normal distribution, t-tests, ANOVA, and Chi-square. Additionally, basic issues in research design and methodology are covered, and the link is continually made between research design and the relevant statistical procedures.
PSY 206 Social Psychology (3) Online
Social psychology is the science of how we think about, influence, and relate to each other. Although firmly based in scientific research, this field is uniquely applicable to everyday life. Students will actively apply topics to their everyday lives with brief application papers and activities. Some of the topics to be covered include the self, attitude and belief formation, interpersonal relations, persuasion, conformity, prejudice, and attraction and intimacy.

PSY 210 Experimental Psychology (3)
Students will develop an understanding of the scientific method as it is applied to the study of human behavior. Students will learn to analyze, design, and conduct psychological research. Students will select, design, and conduct a class experiment on a behavior of current interest. This course is designated as a “communication intensive,” and fulfills that core requirement. Prerequisites: PSY 101 General Psychology and PSY 202 Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences.

PSY 240 Stress and Coping (3)
Students will learn about the nature of stress and its relationship to health and coping. Emphasis will be on assessment and prevention strategies aimed at reducing stress-related symptoms.

PSY 302 History and Systems (3)
Students will study the development of psychology from its antecedents to its current “schools” or “systems,” including topics such as the origins of behavioral, cognitive, and psychoanalytic perspectives. An emphasis is placed on connecting the historical aspects of psychology to current day practices and developments. Prerequisites: PSY 101 General Psychology and PSY 202 Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences.

PSY 304 Forensic Psychology (3)
This course will promote an understanding of the relationship between psychology and the law by showing how psychological research and theory inform the legal system. Topics include psychologists in the court, ethics in practice, criminal profiles, and assessment and rehabilitation approaches for criminal offenders. Prerequisite: PSY 101 General Psychology.

PSY 306 Educational Psychology (3)
This course is a study of the application of psychology to educational problems. It considers factors affecting learning and provides a theoretical background to help students evaluate and use educational methods properly. Topics of study include social, emotional, and cognitive development, learner differences, cultural diversity, motivation, and standardized and classroom assessment. Prerequisite: PSY 101 General Psychology.

PSY 307 Psychological Testing (3)
The major techniques used to measure psychological attributes, such as intelligence, motivation, attitudes, interests, and personality will be introduced. Test construction, reliability, and validity will also be presented. Prerequisites: PSY 101 General Psychology and PSY 202 Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences.

PSY 308 Cognitive Psychology (3)
Students will be introduced to the theory and research of mental processes from the initial sensation of information to the complex utilization of that information. Topics for study include sensation, perception, memory systems, comprehension, language, concept formation, and problem solving. Prerequisite: PSY 101 General Psychology.

PSY 313 Psychology of Behavioral Management (3) Online
This course provides the student with an introduction to the theories and principles of behavior modification. Students will learn the fundamentals of behavioral analysis and treatment. Prerequisite: PSY 101 General Psychology.

PSY 325 Personality Theory (3)
Students will be introduced to the field of personality. Major theories of personality will be covered, including those of Freud, Jung, Horney, Dollard and Miller, Wilson, Maslow, and Rogers. Contemporary applications and Internet resources will be integrated with historical perspectives in this fully on-line course using streaming audio lectures with PowerPoint slides, online discussions both live and asynchronous, web research, and online testing. Prerequisite: PSY 101 General Psychology.

PSY 401 Psychology Seminar (3)
The primary objective of this capstone course is to explore current issues in psychology, especially those that are of interest to students. Students will read, analyze, and discuss original research. A final project of a research paper and formal presentation is required. This course is designated as “communication intensive” and fulfills that core requirement. Seniors only.
SOC 125 Gender Issues* (3) Online
This course examines the social forces that influence the lives of men and women. One theme is that gender is a social formation. A second theme is that race and class relations intersect with gender relations to produce difference and inequality. Issues covered in this class will include gender identity, sexuality, body image, work, and intimate relationships. Prerequisites: ENG098, FYE101, RDG098, or placement.

SOC 210 Child Abuse and Neglect in American Society* (3) Online
Students investigate the growing problem of child abuse and neglect in American society. Psychodynamic and sociocultural factors that contribute to child abuse will be considered with an emphasis on prevention, reporting of abuse cases, intervention, and treatment. Prerequisite: SOC103.

For more information, contact:
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