B.A. Degree Completion Program in Psychology

Program Prerequisites: Associate’s degree and a minimum G.P.A. of 2.5. 42 residency credits are required for an Elms College degree.

Additional Requirement: PSY 105

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 2015. 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: Overall employment of psychologists is projected to grow 12 percent from 2012 to 2022, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Employment growth will vary by specialty. Employment of clinical, counseling, and school psychologists is projected to grow 11 percent from 2012 to 2022, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Greater demand for psychological services in schools, hospitals, mental health centers, and social services agencies should drive employment growth. Job prospects should be best for those who have a specialist degree or doctoral degree in school psychology. Employment of school psychologists will continue to grow because of the raised awareness of the connection between mental health and learning and the need for mental health services in schools. Given the limited number of graduates in this specialty and the growing need of mental health services in schools, school psychologists are expected to have good job opportunities.

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**Courses, sequence, and dates subject to change.**

Revised: 10/6/14
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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 105 Early American History* (3) Online
This course examines the main developments (political, economic, social, and religious) in American history from the pre-Columbian Era to the Civil War. 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.

PHI 100 Introduction to Philosophy (3) Online
Do we see things as they really are or are they only illusions? Are there any good reasons for being moral? Does might make right? Can the existence of God be proven? This course will help students develop their own answers to these questions and others.

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)
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.

REL 215 World Religions: Western Traditions (3) Online
Using both theological and sociological approaches, this course will attempt to enter into the thought and experience of the traditions commonly identified as Western. Judaism, Christianity and Islam will be studied. Sacred texts will be read and analyzed as well as secondary sources and electronic media materials. This course fulfills the core Religious Studies Requirement and the core Global Awareness requirement.

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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