

# PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology is a broad field that encompasses the biological influences, social pressures, and environmental factors that affect how people think, act, and feel. It includes the study of human thought, behavior, development, personality, emotion, and more. It's common to think of psychologists interviewing people in clinical settings, but they also research and investigate thoughts and behaviors to answer questions across a wide variety of fields and settings. Psychologists apply their skills and methods to help support positive change within individuals, communities and society.

## STUDENT EXPERIENCE

### Learn and Do More at RWU

With a focus on experiential learning at RWU, Psychology majors can:

- Collaborate on research with faculty members who are experts in their field. Research areas that regularly involve students include: balancing the responsibilities of work and family life; examining gender; teenagers' decisions on health-related issues (substance use, sexual behavior), and multicultural aspects of sexual aggression.
- Partner with community organizations and businesses to solve problems that matter. Examples include promoting mental health well-being with youth in Jamaica, working with the Bristol Health Equity Zone to study the impact of community cooking demonstrations, and analyzing policies and programs at an elementary school in Providence and at Head Start in Fall River.
- Sharpen their research presentation skills at regional, national, and international conferences like the Association for Psychological Sciences, the Eastern Psychological Association, the Society for Research in Child Development, and the American Psychology-Law Society; and participate in Brain Week RI!, which brings interactive neuroscience lessons to local grade schools (K-12).



+ Do you find yourself analyzing what drives people's actions?

+ Are you interested in concepts like the relationship between stress and illness or how drugs affect behavior?

## CAREER OUTLOOK

RWU Psychology grads are working in the following fields:

- Forensic Psychology
- Counseling and clinical therapy
- Human resources
- Public relations
- Institutional research
- Marketing

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

👏👏 *I got to do a lot of hands-on projects really early on. I've been doing psychology research since the beginning of my sophomore year. You can take a class with a professor and have them ask you to participate in their research.* 🗨️

Abby Maxwell '20  
Graduate Student at American University, Washington, D.C.  
Majors: Psychology and International Relations

## CURRICULUM

During your first two years, you will learn the major psychological theories and understand what psychologists do and the methods they use to conduct their research. You'll also learn how to use software-based statistical techniques to answer psychological questions in research projects.

Your third and fourth years focus on research methodology and dive deep into specialized areas of Psychology. You'll learn descriptive and experimental methodology, how to conduct observations and surveys, examine case studies, and develop a research proposal. Through group research or an individual thesis project, you will take a research question through the scientific process including sample development, data collection, and analysis. You will then present your findings to peers and faculty members.

### Special Courses

You'll also choose from many electives, including:

- Health Psychology
- Brain and Behavior
- Child Development
- Psychology and Law
- Art Therapy

### Internship Opportunities

Psychology majors complete a guaranteed internship. RWU students have worked as:

- Behavior Specialist at Perspectives Corporation
- Direct Professional Support at L.I.F.E., Inc.
- Antenatal Care Unit
- Helpline Advocate at Day One

### Earn a Graduate Degree

RWU offers a Master of Arts in Forensic Mental Health Counseling, which prepares students for clinical work or for a Psy.D. program. For information on our master's program please visit the department website.

**OVER 80% OF  
RWU STUDENTS  
GRADUATE WITH  
MORE THAN JUST  
A SINGLE MAJOR**

Multiply your career opportunities by combining **Psychology** with:

- Criminal Justice
- Legal Studies
- Education
- Marketing



*Last Updated: March 2022*