

# Psychology

By the time we graduate high school, we have already had many years of experience in observing behavior and constructing our own theories about why people and animals think and act the way they do. In this sense, we are all psychologists. However, the academic field of psychological science involves the systematic study of theory and research in order come to a sound understanding of the causes and consequences of thought and behavior. In the Hiram College Department of Psychology, we urge students to compare, contrast, and integrate a variety of theoretical perspectives. Furthermore, our majors learn to think about psychological phenomena in a rigorous and organized fashion. Completion of a degree in psychology at Hiram College prepares students for a variety of challenging and stimulating careers, but also prepares them to be more conscientious consumers of information and thoughtful observers of social and psychological processes.

**Major & Minor.** Although psychology is often classified as a social science, it uses the same scientific methodology commonly associated with biology, chemistry, and physics. We offer a major and a minor in psychology, both of which provide students with a broad understanding of the field, as well as in-depth knowledge of areas of particular interest.

**The Program.** Departmental faculty members each have individual areas of expertise covering primary segments of the field. By coordinating this expertise, the psychology faculty implements an academic program that provides a foundation in the core aspects of the discipline. All majors are required to successfully complete a body of courses that introduce fundamental topics. Students are also encouraged to enrich their understanding by taking additional courses in their area of greatest interest. For independently motivated students, department faculty strongly advocate enrollment in an internship or independent research project. The psychology major culminates in the senior seminar, which requires students to complete an independent research project and presentation.

**Facilities.** Hiram's facilities for psychological experimentation, observation, and analysis give students the opportunity to participate in a range of research environments. Students interested in child and adolescent development, cognitive, or social psychology have the opportunity to assist with research in early cognitive development, trends among emerging adults, and issues of stereotyping and prejudice. The department also houses an animal learning lab where students and faculty can research important issues in animal behavior and cognition

**Hands-On Learning.** To complement classroom learning, Hiram psychology students have numerous opportunities to participate in faculty-led research and independent projects. Several recent research projects on which students have worked are:

- *Development of memory and reasoning abilities in young children*
- *The nature of emerging adulthood for disabled individuals*
- *Animal models of learning*
- *The uses of positive psychology in clinical efforts*

Hiram psychology students are also encouraged to pursue internships/field experiences with local organizations. Recently, students have interned at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital and Hattie Larlham Hospital for severely disabled children, Hopewell

Therapeutic Farm, and the Coleman Center in Ravenna, among many others. Our faculty have also led groups of studies on trips abroad to Peru, Guatemala, and Costa Rica. These trips offer Hiram students an excellent opportunity to broaden their knowledge.

**After Hiram.** Hiram's psychology program balances classroom scholarship with applied knowledge, thereby preparing students for success in graduate school and the professional workforce. Recent graduates of Hiram's psychology program are employed by crisis centers, in programs for delinquent youth, and as research assistants at prestigious institutions including University Hospitals in Cleveland and Case Western Reserve University. Sixty to 70 percent of alumni from Hiram's psychology program pursue graduate studies in psychology, social work, industrial relations, or law school. Recent alumni have enrolled in graduate programs at schools that include Case Western Reserve University, Indiana University, the Ohio State University, Ohio University, University of Dayton, and Syracuse University.

## Psychology Department Faculty

### **Amber M. Chenoweth**

Assistant Professor of Psychology

B.A., Albion College

M.A., Ph.D. Kent State University

Areas of Interest: Neurotransmitter systems and psychology; animal cognition and behavior; classical and instrumental conditioning; associative learning; strategy development.

### **Ryan D. Honomichl**

Assistant Professor of Psychology

B.A., University of Redlands

M.S., Ph.D., University of California at Davis

Areas of interest: Cognitive development in young children; analogical reasoning; self-regulation; temperament and personality

### **Michelle Nario-Redmond**

Associate Professor of Psychology, Chair

B.A., University of Tulsa

M.A., Ph.D., Kansas University

Area of interest: Social psychology; stereotyping and prejudice; social identity; emerging adulthood; disability studies

### **Acacia C. Parks**

Assistant Professor of Psychology

B.A., Reed College

M.A., Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania

Area of interest: Happiness; self-help; positive psychotherapy; internet research methodology; treatment of missing data

### **Lisa Shauver**

Research Teaching Associate

B.A., Hiram College

M. S., Bowling Green State University

### **For more information**

If you have specific questions about the psychology program at Hiram College or if you would like more information, please contact:

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