



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Department of Psychology helps students establish a strong scientific and research foundation in psychology. This curriculum not only makes students competitive for graduate programs, it also prepares them to be thoughtful, discerning problem-solvers. The program examines the most up-to-date psychological research and theory and provides opportunities for direct involvement in ongoing research programs. Members of our faculty conduct research in diverse areas including cognitive science, normal and abnormal development, social interaction, spatial orientation, neurological bases of sensation, perception, memory, emotion, life-span development and aging, and the effects of brain damage.

What makes the program distinctive?

The psychology department at Brandeis offers the opportunity for students to engage in cutting-edge research on all aspects of behavior,

from neuroscience to social interaction. Students also pursue applied internships in business, public health and clinical psychology.

FAST FACTS

Current number of majors and minors: 244

Number of faculty: 17

Can you minor in this program? Informally, yes.

Emphasis within the major: laboratory research

Popular second majors: business, neuroscience, sociology

Website: brandeis.edu/departments/psych

ACADEMICS AND RESEARCH

Independent research

Students are encouraged to develop independent, self-generated research projects. For example, Elizabeth S. '10 presented the results of her study on the role of ADHD in hypersexuality at four national professional conferences. She is currently working on a draft of a manuscript that will be submitted for publication.

Community-engaged learning

In the yearlong clinical practicum course, students volunteer in community programs such as hospitals, mental health centers and halfway homes. This practical experience helps to guide their career choices and provides an opportunity for them to contribute to the community.

Faculty research

Examples of some ongoing research in Brandeis' psychology laboratories include Paul Dizio's research on the basic neural mechanisms of human motor control and spatial orientation; Robert Sekular's studies in visual perception and visual memory; and Margie Lachman's research on optimizing cognitive functioning and health in midlife and old age.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

The Psychology Club

The Psychology Club is an active student-run group that organizes film screenings, guest speakers and discussions relating to psychology. The club also hosts informational evenings on topics such as career planning and application to graduate programs.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Distinguished faculty

In 2009 Professor Derek Isaacowitz was the winner of the Margret M. and Paul B. Baltes Award for Early Career Contributions in Behavioral and Social Gerontology for his efforts and research in the field of social psychology. Professor Angela Gutchess has been awarded a prestigious Fulbright Fellowship and will spend a semester in Turkey studying the effects of age and culture on memory and social cognition using a combination of behavioral and neuroimaging methods.

Published authors

Since 2000, 19 undergraduate psychology majors have co-authored papers published in national and international journals. Recent papers have included "Cultural influences on memory" in *Progress in Brain Research* and "Perceptual organization in schizophrenia: The processing of symmetrical configurations" in the *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*.

Recognized senior theses

Maggie K. '08 studied the developmental neurological deficits that contribute to child molestation; her thesis won the Shalom Award for Original Research in social sciences and the National Psi Chi Award for best student research of 2008. Jess K. '07 won the Anne Anastasi Award for outstanding student research at the Annual Conference of the American Psychological Association for her honors thesis on psychopathy.

AFTER BRANDEIS

Diverse career fields

Our bachelor's degree graduates have pursued a wide range of fields, including psychiatry; elementary, secondary and special education; clinical and counseling psychology; clinical research and biostatistical analyses; neuroscience research; advertising, finance, accounting and investment banking; law enforcement; human resources; corporate management; health care; public health policy research and consulting; and internal medicine and surgery.

Distinguished graduates

Many undergraduate psychology majors have gone on to have distinguished careers. Elliot Aronson '54, a pioneer in the field of social psychology, is a prominent example. He is the only person ever to have received all three of the American Psychological Association's major awards: one each for writing, teaching and research.

"The psychology department at Brandeis gives students a variety of opportunities that enhance both learning and research. What makes the department unique is that students are able to collaborate with a professor's lab to pursue their own intellectual and research interests. This allows students interested in psychology to team up with other undergraduates, graduates and professors and contribute to various ongoing studies while also developing and pursuing their own research ideas."

Nina L. '12

