THE FIELD
Psychology is the science that focuses on behavior and mental processes. The scope of psychology is extremely broad and the faculty members in the department reflect great diversity. The major areas of interest represented in the department are behavioral neuroscience, clinical psychology, cognition and cognitive neuroscience, developmental science, and social psychology.

A minor in psychology is available.

THE MAJOR
Students select psychology as a major for many reasons. Some wish to prepare themselves for graduate study and careers as professional psychologists, physicians, or lawyers. Others have general interests in fields such as social work and community mental health, or may wish to work with young children, adolescents, or the elderly. Many students aspire to careers in business and perceive the psychology major as a marketable background. Others derive great satisfaction from developing insights into human behavior and view the science of psychology as an important component of their liberal arts education.

The major consists of 40 credits in psychology courses. These include an introductory course; two methodology courses; four core courses chosen from a range of subjects including cognitive psychology, behavioral neuroscience, and developmental psychology; the Junior Year Writing requirement; an advanced departmental psychology laboratory course, departmental seminar, or designated departmental small course; the integrative experience; and at least two psychology elective courses numbered 200 and above.

PSYCHOLOGY/NEUROSCIENCE TRACK
The psychology/neuroscience track is an undergraduate program offered within the department that emphasizes the biological and neurological bases of human and animal behavior. This program is particularly suited for students planning a professional career in any of the neurosciences (e.g., neurobiology, neuropharmacology, behavioral neuroscience, or cognitive neuroscience) or individuals enrolled in pre-medical or pre-veterinary studies who are interested in neuroscience and behavior. The course requirements differ from the requirements of the general psychology major, as core psychology courses are supplemented with advanced electives and laboratory experience in neuroscience, as well as extensive natural science and mathematics courses. Students interested in this track should contact the neuroscience track advisor in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences.

SPECIALIZATION IN DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND HUMAN SERVICES
The letter of specialization in developmental disabilities and human services is designed for psychology majors who may work after graduation in the field of human services, particularly with intellectually disabled individuals. By taking a specific combination of courses and fulfilling a one-semester, three-credit internship, psychology majors can enhance their skills and future employment opportunities. At the conclusion of the program, participants receive a letter from the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences certifying their participation in the program.

JOINT MAJOR IN PSYCHOLOGY AND LINGUISTICS
Students may also choose a joint major in psychology and linguistics. Contact the Department of Linguistics (umass.edu/linguist) for more information.

HONORS COURSES
The Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences tries to offer approximately four honors courses each semester. These are small classes (25 students) intended to be intensive learning experiences. Admission to psychology honors courses is generally restricted to declared honors students.
RESEARCH EXPERIENCE
The psychology major also offers diverse research opportunities allowing students to participate in research, collect and analyze data, and prepare the findings for publication.

STUDY ABROAD
UMass Amherst offers a wide variety of international exchange and overseas study programs. Traditionally, psychology majors have been well represented in such programs, studying in various institutions in Great Britain, Japan, Germany, France, Israel, Italy, Australia, Spain, and Canada. Psychology majors must complete PSYCH 240 and PSYCH 241 prior to embarking on exchange. Contact the International Programs Office (413-545-2710, umass.edu/ipo) for information on available programs.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
The undergraduate major in psychology is not a professional or vocational program that trains or prepares students for a specific job. However, a bachelor’s degree will lead to employment possibilities in schools, hospitals, agencies, government, and business. To become a professional psychologist a student must go on to graduate school. In most cases this means earning a doctorate (approximately four years) or at least a master’s degree (approximately two years). Psychology majors often enter graduate programs in related areas such as social work, gerontology, legal studies, or medically oriented fields.

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES
The College of Natural Sciences unites the life, environmental, computational, and physical sciences on campus. Students take advantage of a range of inquiry-based classroom and laboratory experiences, hands-on undergraduate research opportunities, multidisciplinary and cross-departmental education and research initiatives, and a variety of science student organizations. In addition, they are encouraged to develop strong written and oral communication skills, as well as leadership and problem-solving abilities.

Office: 501 Tobin Hall
Phone: 413-545-0377
Website: umass.edu/pbs/undergraduate-program