

WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH A MAJOR IN...

psychobiology

Recent advances in technology for studying psychology's relation to the biology of the nervous system have contributed to the joining of the biology and psychology disciplines. Psychobiology therefore, is the study of the biology of behavior and mental processes. Because this field overlaps with areas of psychology and biology it enables one to follow many career paths. Some careers that students with this training follow are neurosciences, medicine, psychopharmacology, behavioral genetics, ethology, comparative psychology, neuroendocrinology, psychoneuroimmunology, physiological psychology and developmental psychobiology.

Psychobiology arose from the identification of brain areas involved in certain behaviors and emotions; from the discovery in the 1950's that some psychological problems can be treated chemically; and from the subsequent identification of chemicals, called neurotransmitters, that pass neural messages from one brain cell to the next. Psychobiologists are often interested in human and animal behavior: learning, thinking, feeling, as well as overt behavior.

Topics studied in psychobiology are as diverse as: whale and dolphin behavior, psychosomatic illnesses, structure and function of the nervous system, chemical dependency, and animal learning. It is a relatively new field and it occasionally appears under the rubric "Biopsychology," or sometimes even "Neuroscience." All these names refer to roughly the same thing, although the emphasis is often slightly different.

As mentioned above, the Psychobiology major provides preparation for a variety of careers including those involving laboratory and field work. The major can lead to graduate studies in physiological psychology, animal behavior, neuroscience, and behavioral ecology. Some students find this major suitable as preparation for teaching, counseling, or medical and allied health fields.

Chapman offers a Bachelor of Science in Psychobiology. This is a split program at Chapman, allowing students to take courses in both psychology and biology. You will be required to take a mix of psychology courses, biology courses and additional science courses.

The Psychobiology major offers strong preparation in basic science, and the upper-division courses provide information about the internal mechanisms and processes of humans and other animals. Counselors and clinicians who complete this major should be better qualified to consider underlying causes of patient behavior. For reasons such as this, some students with an interest in counseling or clinical psychology select the Psychobiology major and then include some specialized elective courses such as Learning Theory, Sensation and Perception, Psychopharmacology, Developmental Biology, or Abnormal Psychology.

Related Majors

Biological Science, Chemistry,
Psychology, Sociology, Athletic Training,
Liberal Studies

Chapman Clubs and Organizations

Psi Chi www.psiichi.org.

This is the National Honors Society in Psychology that provides national recognition for academic excellence. Psi Chi also actively supports the development and maintenance of a curriculum high in quality and educational effectiveness and promotes student research.

Student Scientific Society

The Student Scientific Society is a group of students from all the sciences. The goals of the society are to provide service opportunities, to promote scholarly endeavors, and to sponsor social events.

While Still in College...

If you are looking to pursue a career in psychobiology, while in college, it is a good idea to participate in Psi Chi, attend local or regional seminars or conferences to learn about psychobiology, and gain student membership in professional organizations. If you are interested in pursuing graduate school, it is highly recommended that you get involved in research activities. In addition, to gain valuable experience, you can do an internship, volunteer, or do an independent study with a professor or other professionals in the field.

...at the professional level

Associations provide a venue for people to share professional interests while also educating the public about their field. Look for details about salaries, training opportunities, membership benefits, and job resources.

American Psychological Association (APA) www.psych.org

A medical society specializing in the diagnosis and treatment of mental and emotional illnesses and substance use disorders.

American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) www.aibs.org

AIBS seeks to facilitate communication and interactions among biologists, professional biological societies, biological and other scientific disciplines, as well as to serve and advance the interests of biology in the broader scientific community and in other components of society.

American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

www.aaas.org

The American Association for the Advancement of Science, "Triple A-S" (AAAS), is the world's largest general scientific society, publisher of Science.

Is It Good Match For You?

Do you enjoy interacting with people or animals?

Do you enjoy critically evaluating theories, doing research, and applying the results of this research to solve problems?

Do you want to understand the human body and human behavior?

Vital Skills

Ability to analyze problems on the basis of biological and psychological principles

Ability to work well under pressure

Ability to think critically

Ability to acquire, organize, maintain, interpret, and evaluate information

Potential Employment With...

Hospitals, Research Laboratories, Government Facilities, Rehabilitation Facilities, Zoological Parks, Aquariums, Public and Private industry, Educational Institutions

Related Occupations

Some of these occupations may require additional education and training.

Biochemist	Cell Biology
Biofeedback Technician	Dentistry
Clinical Researcher	Environmental Consulting
Dietician	Environmental Impact Analysis
Director of Health Service Program	Fisheries management
Various Types of Medical Specialists such as Psychiatrists	Government Regulatory Agencies
Medical Officer-Military	Government Research
Occupational Therapist	Law
Pharmacist	Marine Biology
Psychologist	Medical Technology
Physician's Assistant	Mental Health
Research Analyst	Optometry
School Psychologist	Pharmaceutical Research
Special Education Teacher	Physiology
Speech Pathologist	Public Health
Teacher	Scientific Writing
Animal Husbandry	Space Industry
Biochemistry	Veterinary Medicine
Biomedical Research	

Choosing Your Major...

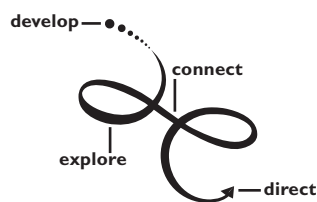
Choosing a major can be a difficult decision. If you need assistance in choosing your major or emphasis, the Career Development Center offers individual career counseling and provides career testing and assessment for current students. In addition, involvement in leadership activities, internships, part-time work, clubs and organizations and student government will expose you to different work and learning environments which will aid you in your decision making.

For Further Information

Wilkinson College of Letters and Sciences, Department of Psychology

www.chapman.edu/wilkinson/psych

(714) 997-6780 • Georg Eifert, Chair



Career Development Center

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