PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM

University *of* Mary Washington

The University of Mary Washington's **Department of Psychological Science** offers a cutting-edge curriculum taught by engaging faculty, who are experts in their fields, in state-of-the-art facilities.

OUR CURRICULUM

- General psychology.
- Content courses that include developmental psychology (e.g., psychology of aging), cognitive psychology (e.g., learning and motivation), biological psychology (e.g., cognitive neuroscience, psychopharmacology), social psychology, personality, and abnormal psychology.
- A year-long statistics sequence that prepare majors for future academic work as well as diverse careers.
- Research methods.
- Elective courses that include forensic psychology, psychology of women, psychology of mass trauma, positive psychology, health psychology, and sports psychology.
- Senior seminar. Recent topics have included:
  - Personality and social media
  - Trauma and sexual assault
  - Helicopter parenting
  - Objectification and body image
  - Animal learning
- Individual research. Up to 40 majors annually work one-on-one with faculty on a year-long project.
- Internships and/or community service learning.

OUR FACULTY

- 14 full time faculty nationally and internationally recognized in their fields.
- Areas of expertise include:
  Trauma and sexual assault, eating behaviors, animal learning, cheating behavior, helicopter parenting, perfectionism, objectification and sexualization, feminism, sleep, errors in news reports, and parenting stress in autism.
- Published in top journals, have authored books and textbooks, and have been quoted in publications such as *The New York Times*.

RESEARCH

- All students do at least two research projects as part of the major.
- Students have the opportunity to collaborate with faculty mentors on cuting-edge research.
- In the past several years over **40** students have had articles published with UMW faculty in peer-reviewed journals and over **90** students have presented papers at national or international conferences.
- Many students receive funding from UMW to attend the Association for Psychological Science conference.

INTERNSHIPS

- We offer more than 50 internship opportunities at local agencies including:
  - Lighthouse Counseling
  - Fredericksburg Counseling Services
  - Capital Caring (Hospice)
  - Brain Injury Services
  - Commonwealth Attorney's offices in Fredericksburg and Stafford
  - Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice
  - Big Brothers Big Sisters

You will be hard pressed to find another faculty who so clearly love their jobs and are as committed to the success of their students. Nothing beats professors who inspire their students through their passion for the material. That's exactly what occurs in the psychology classes at UMW. Every day I use the skills I developed at UMW.

– Robyn Ellis, '16

Without the psychology department, I would have no idea how to get published or give a professional presentation. I have lived in four different states since I graduated and was surprised at the name recognition such a small school has. I am very proud to be an alum from UMW's psychology department.

– Dixie Turner '06

STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES

- Mercer Hall, home of the Department of Psychological Science, was renovated in 2015 specifically to meet the needs of our majors.
- In addition to classrooms and faculty offices, the building includes:
  - An animal lab
  - An observational lab with one-way mirrors
  - Collaboration rooms for research and student use
  - Computer labs for classes and student use
  - A physiology lab with state-of-the-art equipment
  - An eye-tracker lab

I think the most important thing about the UMW psychology department is how well it prepares you for the real world.

– Michelle DuTeil '16

PSI CHI

- Psi Chi is the international honor society for psychology.
- The UMW chapter has won multiple awards including:
  - Ruth Hubbard Cousin Award given to the top chapter in the organization (achieved in both 2006 and 2018)
  - Florence Denmark Faculty Advisor Award (top advisor in the organization)
  - Regional Chapter Award
- Psi Chi Events at UMW include;
  - Bi-annual inductions
  - A career forum
  - A graduate school forum
  - Workshops on topics such as creating a resume and writing a graduate school essay
  - A two-day research symposium during which students of all levels present their research

The UMW psychology department provided me with an amazing education, that made graduate school feel like a walk in the park. The research opportunities especially put me ahead of my peers while pursuing my masters degree. The professors are some of the most caring and inspiring individuals.

– Hester Godfrey '14

The education I received in the UMW Psychology department prepared me beyond my wildest imagination for graduate school. The faculty truly shaped my life and career, and I love that I can consider them colleagues and friends who continue to provide guidance and mentorship even years after I graduated.

– Alex Zelin '11

FUN WITH OUR MAJORS

We have fun with our majors through a variety of opportunities to socialize and get to know each other.

Picnics • Parties • Senior happy hour • Game show at our Psi Chi Symposium

ONE-OF-A-KIND OPPORTUNITIES

Our department offers unique and wonderful experiences for students. These include:

- Psychology in Europe – an opportunity to spend two weeks in the summer learning the history of psychology as you travel through Europe.
- Mentoring Children at Risk – a program that allows students to serve as mentors at a week-long camp for children of incarcerated parents.
- New England Center for Children – a semester-long program at this renowned center outside of Boston taking classes and learning to do Applied Behavior Analysis for children with autism.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Our department offers our top majors (rising juniors and seniors) more than $20,000 in scholarships annually. Scholarships are based on academic achievement as well as other qualities, such as engagement in community service and intention to teach.

OUR ALUMNI

UMW psychology majors achieve academic, career, and personal success. They can be found as:

- Psychology professors and research scientists at top institutions
- Professional clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors
- Teachers
- Lawyers and doctors
- Occupational and physical therapists
- Nonprofit staff members
- Professionals in human resources, advertising, and management

Being a psych major at UMW means you don't have to dread your 8 a.m.'s. (You look forward to them!) You don't have to worry about writing a paper because the topic is always interesting to you. You meet lifelong friends in your classes, and professors become mentors even after you graduate. I loved being a psychology student at Mary Washington, and I can honestly say it completely changed my life for the better.

– Megan Champion '14

I am beyond lucky to have been in a program that is so rigorous with stats and research. When I graduated, I felt fully prepared to work in research. The skills and foundation I learned there has carried over in all types of research I've worked in over the last 16 years.

– April Yanuzo Buttaccio '02

For more information about the programs offered by the department, please contact:

Dr. Miriam Liss, Chair
Department of Psychological Science
University of Mary Washington
1301 College Avenue
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401
540/654-1054
www.umw.edu/cas/psychology

For an academic catalog and an application for admission, please contact:

Office of Admissions
University of Mary Washington
1301 College Avenue • Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401
540/654-2000 • 1-800/468-5614
www.umw.edu/admissions

18/19-015