

NIPISSING

U N I V E R S I T Y

North Bay

www.nipissingu.ca

Psychology



Program Description

Are you fascinated by why people act, think, and feel the way they do? Are you interested in learning how people cope with stress, why people feel happy, or how people remember information? These are some of the fundamental questions that you will discover when you study Psychology at Nipissing University in the Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree programs.

As a Psychology student, you will study the mind and human nature through courses like: Applied Developmental Psychology; Introduction to Psychology; Childhood Development; Theories of Personality; Biological Psychology, Health Psychology, and Behavioural Neuroscience. You may also take courses that help you to understand psychological problems like Childhood Disorders, Psychopathology, or Counseling. You will learn the science behind assessment, and the art of developing testing and criteria that assist with tracking your data and measuring your results.

You will have opportunities as an undergraduate student to acquire practical, hands-on experience in community settings through our practicum placements in Applied Behaviour Analysis and Program Evaluation and Applied Research. You will also have the opportunity to conduct hands-on research in many of our active research labs including: the Neuroscience Research Unit (NRU); the Northern Centre for Research on Aging and Communication (NCRAC); the Human Evolution Lab; the Laboratory of Social Neuroendocrinology; the Neural Plasticity Laboratory and

the Program Evaluation & Applied Research (PEAR) Lab. You will work alongside faculty to investigate topics like the brain's ability to be shaped by its environment, factors that influence how younger and older adults process and understand speech, the functions of brain cells, issues involving human biology, behaviour and mating, or the mechanisms involved in human competitive and aggressive behaviour.

Our Teaching Approach

Our Psychology department prides itself on being student-centred, which means our focus is on your learning experience and progress. You will have opportunities to do primary research and lab work under the guidance of our award-winning faculty. You will develop a set of technical skills in lab procedures, statistics, and data analysis, which is a great advantage when applying to graduate school. You may also gain summer and part-time employment — as well as volunteer opportunities — in our labs, which help to build a strong résumé.

You will have the option of earning a Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Psychology degree, depending on where your interests lie. The main difference between the two degree options is in the electives you choose. BA students will take humanities and social science elective courses (e.g., English, Philosophy, Criminal Justice, Sociology, and History), while BSc students will take electives from the sciences (e.g., Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, and Physics). Whichever degree option you choose, you will benefit from our extensive breadth of choices among Psychology courses.



Program and Faculty

- Honours Specialization
- Specialization
- Major
- Minor

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

Consider the BA in Psychology if you are most interested in the social sciences. You will be attracted to topics that explore personality development and disorders; theories related to motivation in humans and animals; physical, intellectual and language development; or universal principles of behaviour. In addition, the BA is a great option if you are interested in furthering your education at graduate school, or if you want to pursue a professional degree in business, law, counselling, or social work.

Bachelor of Science in Psychology

Consider the BSc in Psychology if you are interested in taking elective courses from the sciences. You will earn your Psychology degree with courses like Neuropharmacology; Psychological Measurement; Biology; Calculus; Chemistry; and Physics. In upper years, you can opt for more specific courses like Advanced Neuroanatomy; Psychopathology; Behavioural Neuroscience; Biological Psychology; and Scientific Method and Analysis.

You will study in state-of-the-art labs, including two neuroscience labs, a Human Evolution Laboratory, a social psychology lab, and a stress lab. You will work with professors whose research investigates how human mating, social behavior, and physiology has evolved over time, testosterone and its effects on behaviour; aging and communication and the factors that influence how younger and older adults process and understand speech; neural plasticity and how the brain expresses its adaptability; the neurobiology of learning and memory; or the determinants of stress and happiness. The BSc is a great option if you intend to go on to graduate school, or plan to attend medical school.

In both the BA and BSc programs, your first year will consist of comprehensive introductory psychology courses that include a lab component. The lab will have you participating in hands-on demonstrations, learning the fundamentals of psychological measurement and statistical analysis, and preparing for upper-year lab work. Our upper-year classes and labs have capped sizes so they never get too big, which ensures that you get individualized attention and help if you need it. In your fourth year, you will also have the opportunity to do a thesis course in your interest area, which will give you a significant advantage as you pursue graduate studies.

Certificate in Neuroscience

If you are most interested in studying the brain and nervous system functions, and successfully complete specific courses within the Honours BSc in Psychology program, you can earn a certificate in Neuroscience at Nipissing University. The required courses provide you with an opportunity for interdisciplinary research that explores the processes of the brain at all phylogenetic levels and will help to prepare you for graduate school in Neuroscience or a related field.

Certificates in Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA)

You may be interested in our ABA certificates if you are interested in: Making a meaningful difference in the lives of others through the science and application of behaviorism; Being well-equipped to work in a variety of settings such as schools, hospitals, long-term care facilities, treatment and rehabilitation centres, and other human and social services sectors; Helping atypically developing individuals with safety and independence, those living with developmental disabilities, dual diagnoses, neurodevelopmental disorders, dementia and cognitive decline associated with aging, mental health issues, or acquired brain injuries; Are interested in helping typically developing learners, in supporting classroom management, or using organizational behaviour management to maximize the performance of human service organizations. Our ABA Certificate courses, include applied behaviour analysis, ethics, intervention and assessment, applied developmental neuropsychology, autism spectrum and fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, and you can complete these concurrently with your Major, Honours, or Specialized Honours BA or BSc.

Certificate in Program Evaluation & Applied Research (PEAR)

You may be interested in our PEAR Certificate if you are interested in: The systematic investigation and quality improvement of programs, projects, or services that support individuals across the lifespan; Becoming equipped to work across multiple sectors like schools, hospitals, social and community service agencies, public health agencies, justice, government, and private or corporate spheres; Improving the health outcomes of individuals receiving human and social services by improving the programs that offer those services; Engaging in practicum or applied research with community agencies that help answer questions critical to client service and care. Our PEAR courses will provide you with theory and real world experience in an agency setting where you will contribute to evidence-informed decisions, be involved in process and outcomes level decision-making, carry out formative and/or summative evaluations, and help support conclusions about development, implementation, and outcomes of programs and services. You will learn about organizational assessment and development, quality improvement, evaluation standards, ethics, and capacity building in response to needs of individuals and agencies. You will learn to analyze programs and services, ultimately contributing to organizational and social value and enhanced client outcomes.

Bachelor of Education: The Schulich School of Education

If you want to earn a Bachelor of Education (BEd) degree, you can choose from the Concurrent route (available with all honours undergraduate programs except Nursing and Social Work), or the Consecutive Program (once you've completed your undergraduate degree).

The Schulich School of Education is one of the best education programs in Ontario. It will prepare you to teach in both traditional and non-traditional environments, and you will gain communication and collaborative skills that can be used in any career.

Our teacher candidates are immersed in an active professional learning environment with support and resources available through our Professional Learning Centre.

Each term a calendar of opportunities is made available, and you will be invited to participate in a series of real-world professional experiences that help you to hone skills, strategies and activities that integrate digital technology resources, enhance school community involvement, develop a personal résumé, portfolio and interview techniques, and much more.

All professional learning opportunities are designed to support and supplement course content by broadening teaching/learning skills and by building your confidence and readiness for the teaching profession.

Why Nipissing?

You will feel right at home the minute you step onto campus. Becoming a part of our community is just one of the many perks of attending Nipissing. You will also benefit from small class sizes where you will have a name and a voice. Should you need help, you will have access to our supportive professors, even outside of classroom hours.



Nipissing is focused on student success. Nipissing is focused on student success, and consequently, you will have access to a full range of student services that will help you succeed academically, financially, and personally. In addition, we have some of the best residences in Canada, with a guaranteed private room for all first-year students coming directly from high school. We encourage you to come and see for yourself that Nipissing is right where you belong.

Where Can I Go From Here?

If your goal is to continue on to graduate school and become a licensed psychologist, you will be pleased to know that Nipissing's Honours Psychology grads have a very high rate of acceptance into excellent national and international graduate programs. Many also receive prestigious scholarships at both provincial and national levels.

Many other graduates continue on to successful careers in community development, social work, education, speech pathology, medicine, law, journalism, human resources, public relations, research, and counselling. A degree from our Psychology department can also lead you to work at organizations such as the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA).

For further information visit: www.nipissingu.ca/psychology



ONE STUDENT AT A TIME

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