Psychology is the science of behavior and cognition. With hundreds of different areas of psychological research being conducted, the notion of “psychologist” is not just one of a clinician speaking with clients about their problems. In fact, a psychologist is involved in a variety of ways to change lives and communities, whether it is studying the relationships between different types of people, or how the environment, aging and technology impact lives. A psychologist is a trained researcher, investigating both behaviors and mental states. Our undergraduate psychology program gives you both a breadth and depth of knowledge through a variety of courses. For the major, we require completion of four areas of courses.

First, our major includes three required courses. General Psychology is the prerequisite for all our psychology courses. Psychological Statistics is the mathematical component of psychology, and helps psychologists understand, organize and analyze the behavioral cognitive data psychologists collect during their empirical investigations. The third required class is Research Methods in Psychology which applies the scientific method to the study of psychology and allows you to become actively involved in a research project of your choosing. These courses should be taken in sequence and at the beginning of psychology course work.

Second, we require you to take at least five courses from our list of eight core courses. The eight core courses are: Biological, Learning, Cognitive, Social, Personality and Developmental, Psychology Systems and Theories, and Testing and Measurement.

Finally, we require an additional six hours of psychology from courses numbered 300 or above—excluding PSY 481, Cooperative Education. These additional six hours could include any of the core courses above the five required, or even—with special permission—Independent Study, Fieldwork in Psychology or Psychology Workshop. The psychology course numbers are intended to convey the order in which courses should be taken. Psychology 111 is prerequisite to all other courses and must be taken first and alone. The 300-level courses needed for the major should be taken next. With the foundation provided by taking these courses you are prepared to select courses 400 and above.

Our psychology program is designed to prepare you for either postgraduate work or a career related to psychology. You might find work in management training and personnel or another position in business and industry that requires an employee with a social science and liberal arts background. Any career will require you to work and interact with people, and psychology is a great major to help you in any work environment.

Admission
When you choose to study psychology, you will be admitted to the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. You will meet with either the psychology department’s undergraduate coordinator or assistant chair, who will help you develop your program of study and who will outline specific departmental requirements. You will also meet with a Liberal Arts and Sciences advisor, who will guide you through the university and LAS general education requirements.

Related Opportunities
You may earn academic credit and practical experience by participating in cooperative education and fieldwork courses. If you are eligible, you may join the national honor society for psychology majors, Psi Chi. If eligible, you may be selected for university academic honor societies such as Phi Kappa Phi and Mortar Board.

General Education Program Requirements
What is the overall goal?
The goal of general education is to enable you to live a rich, meaningful life by developing: an informed appreciation of the arts, humanities, and natural and social sciences; an ability to intelligently follow and participate in current events; and a sensitive and tutored appreciation of diverse cultures and ways of living.

What are the expected outcomes?
Embedded throughout general education and furthered in the major are the skills that enable graduates to contribute productively to society and the on-going culture. Therefore, upon graduation the faculty expects you to:

- Have acquired knowledge in the arts, humanities, and natural and social sciences
- Think critically and independently
- Write and speak effectively
- Employ analytical reasoning and problem solving techniques
Major Requirements
31 hours minimum of the following courses
- All required courses - 13 credit hours
- General Psychology - 3 credit hours
- Psychological Statistics - 3 credit hours
- Research Methods in Psychology - 4 credit hours

Five courses from the following:
- Biological Psychology - 3 credit hours
- Psychology of Learning - 3 credit hours
- Cognitive Psychology - 3 credit hours
- Social Psychology - 3 credit hours
- Psychology of Personality - 3 credit hours
- Developmental Psychology - 3 credit hours
- Systems & Theories in Psychology - 3 credit hours
- Psychological Testing & Measurements - 3 credit hours

Plus an additional six hours of electives from courses numbered 300 or above (excluding Psy 481) must be taken to complete the major.

Minor requirements: Any 15 hours of psychology courses.
For inquiries about our undergraduate psychology program, contact Dr. Ackerman at (316) 978-3170.