The Department of Psychology

Trailblazing Psychology’s Next 100 Years

It’s been a dynamic and productive century for the University’s Department of Psychology. Since our founding in 1917, we’ve conferred degrees on more than 20,000 undergraduate and graduate students and distinguished ourselves as one of the top ten programs in the country. Now, on the threshold of our second century, we’re building on our hallmark strengths: quantification and measurement in both theoretical and applied psychology with an emphasis on the study of individual differences.

Today’s department includes 1,500 undergraduates, as well as 42 full-time faculty, and 150 PhD students who are pushing the boundaries of research into exciting tomorrows, supported by new technologies that are opening windows into the human mind. The department is organized into eight areas that support our research and graduate training:

► Personality, Individual Differences, and Behavior Genetics
► Biological Psychopathology
► Clinical Science and Psychopathology Research
► Cognitive and Brain Science
► Industrial and Organizational Psychology
► Social Psychology
► Quantitative and Psychometric Methods
► Counseling Psychology

Several of our areas are consistently ranked among the very top graduate training programs in the nation.

Fueling Research and Innovation

With your support, we will sustain our tradition of producing groundbreaking scholarship and imaginative solutions to the most challenging problems facing our discipline. We want to be the first choice for the best young faculty and graduate students in the field. This means investing in innovative ideas, taking measured risks, and leveraging your gifts into large national grants.

Student Success

Psychology Internship Program

Experiential learning is a requirement for today’s students. We want to expand our initial efforts, reaching out to employers to create excellent connections and opportunities for our students in all sectors. We also want to counsel our students on how to turn these internships into career paths. Your gifts for internship scholarships are vital to making these experiences possible for our under-resourced students.

eLearning Initiative

We’re expanding our successful online minor in health psychology, which attracts non-majors with health-related career interests to the discipline. With your support,
we’ll increase the reach of our program, further highlighting the interdisciplinary nature and relevance of psychology in today’s world.

**Graduate Student Fellowships**

Graduate students are essential for creating new knowledge and developing innovative teaching methods. Right now, the reputation of our faculty and alumni is a key attraction for top candidates. With your gifts, we can offer stronger fellowship packages and beat our Big 10 and Ivy League peers in recruiting tomorrow’s academic and industry leaders.

Your gifts will launch projects that have strong potential to be transformative in nature, encouraging faculty to be ambitious, pursue external funding, and generate findings that improve lives. As an Engdahl Family Research Award recipient, Traci Mann’s groundbreaking research on self-control and dieting has wide implications and applications.

“We have helped organizations such as the USDA and NASA promote eating in children and astronauts respectively. [Our] continued work will update current knowledge about weight loss and may lead to creative solutions to encourage healthy eating rather than excessive dieting. Our fixation on weight is keeping us from doing things to help people get healthy.”

—Traci Mann, Engdahl Faculty Research Award Recipient and Professor of Psychology

Undergraduate student Mary K. Onchiri traveled to Ecuador to complete an internship at Centro de Apoyo Integral-Las Tres Manuelas where she worked on issues of children’s education and community development.

Before her experience abroad, Onchiri wanted to do more applied work with her psychology degree, such as counseling or social work. Now she hopes to become a professor. “I came into my undergraduate program not really knowing what I wanted to do. I feel like I’m leaving with a strong sense of purpose,” says Onchiri. “I don’t have any professors that look like me. I want to be that for other students—for them to see that they can do this, too.”
Engaging Every Voice in the Drive to Discover

We’re also expanding our critical diversity initiatives to recruit high-quality graduate students from all walks of life. With your support, we’ll expand new programs like our highly successful diversity recruitment weekend to help students from underrepresented backgrounds navigate the graduate admissions process and learn how to build a comprehensive program plan.

The department annually invites promising young scholars to campus as part of a diversity recruitment weekend. The program features a coordinated set of formal and informal experiences designed to familiarize participants with strategies for constructing successful graduate school applications, and to provide them with the opportunity to learn more about programs at the U in particular.

“We are committed to providing students from underrepresented backgrounds with the chance to pursue graduate education here and to become the next generation of leaders in the field of psychology.”

Richard M. Lee, Professor of Psychology