

Psychology Programs of Study

SDSU offers undergraduate Bachelor's degrees in psychology, Master's and Ph.D. programs, and an Open University Certificate Program in Industrial/Organizational (I/O) Psychology.

- **Bachelor's Degree (B.A.).** Students who graduate with a B.A. in psychology find employment in a wide range of sectors, including business, education, service industry, law enforcement, government agencies, and health-care services. Elective classes can be selected in accordance with different career goals. For more information on a B.A. Degree in Psychology, visit our undergraduate advising office and resource room in North Life Sciences 105. (619) 594-5412
- **Emphasis in Industrial and Organizational Psychology.** This emphasis offers students an opportunity to complete a four-course sequence (within the scope of a bachelor's degree in psychology) that will facilitate students' competitiveness in the job market and admission to graduate programs in industrial and organizational (I/O) psychology or related fields. Students will learn about theories, research, and practice in industrial and organizational psychology. Advanced courses will provide students with opportunities to complete applied projects and written assignments.
- h □ **Certificate Program in Industrial/Organizational Psychology.** Offered through the College of Extended Studies, the Open University Certificate Program in I/O Psychology provides non-degree seeking students with an introduction to theories, methods, and practice of I/O Psychology. More information can be found at <https://psychology.sdsu.edu/certificate-in-io-psychology/>
- **Master's Degrees in Psychology.** The Department offers a Master of Arts Program in Psychology, which includes a specialization in physical and/or mental health research, developmental psychology, behavioral and cognitive neuroscience, social/personality psychology and learning and cognition. A Master of Science in Psychology is also offered, which focuses on industrial/organizational or Quantitative Methods.
- **Ph.D. Program in Clinical Psychology.** The Department of Psychology, jointly with the Department of Psychiatry, University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine, offers an APA-accredited program of graduate study leading to the Doctor of Philosophy degree in clinical psychology with major program of study in behavioral medicine, neuropsychology, or experimental psychopathology. For more information on our graduate programs, visit our website at <http://clinpsyc.sdsu.edu/>

- SDSU is ranked among the nation's top psychology programs by U.S. News and World Report's "America's Best Graduate Schools 2023." Source: <https://www.usnews.com/best-graduate-schools>

Student Clubs and Community Services

Clubs for Psychology Students

Psychology Club: The Psychology Club organizes lectures, social events, and networking opportunities for qualifying psychology undergraduate students.

<https://sdsupsichi.wixsite.com/sdsupsichi>

Psi Chi: This national honor society strives to provide information, lectures, social events, and networking opportunities in the psychology department for our members.

<https://sdsupsichi.wixsite.com/sdsupsichi>

SDSU Psychology Alumni Chapter: The alumni chapter promotes communication and networking between psychology alumni, fellowship, professional growth and philanthropy.

<http://www.sdsualumni.org>

Support for Psychology Students

Faculty/Student Mentoring Program (FSMP): FSMP supports student engagement and development through undergraduate research, scholarship and creative initiatives.

<http://fsmp.sdsu.edu/>

Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC): MARC helps to develop talent and to increase the number of Ph. D. degrees awarded among certain ethnic groups that have long been underrepresented in the biomedical sciences.

<https://marc.sdsu.edu/>

Initiative for Maximizing Student Development Program (IMSD):

IMSD is a year-round mentoring program to prepare upper division undergraduates for direct entry into biomedical science Ph.D. programs. Students improve their communication skills, expand their scientific network, prepare graduate applications, and increase their overall competitiveness for Ph.D. program acceptance.

<https://casa.sdsu.edu/category/imsd/>

Psychology Clinic Open to the General Public

The SDSU Psychology Clinic provides treatment for a wide variety of psychological disorders. This low-cost clinic is open to the general public (including students at SDSU) and serves as a training facility for the SDSU/UCSD Joint Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology. Doctoral students provide treatment under the supervision of SDSU/UCSD faculty.

<https://psychologyclinic.sdsu.edu/>

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Department of Psychology

Teaching

Scholarship

Service

www.psychology.sdsu.edu

SDSU | San Diego State University

September 2024

SDSU at a Glance

Since it was founded in 1897, San Diego State University can take pride in more than a century of achievements in education, research, and service. SDSU's students can choose from 97 undergraduate majors, 84 master's programs and 23 doctoral programs.

SDSU's more than 35,000 students participate in an academic curriculum distinguished by direct contact with faculty and an increasing international emphasis that prepares students for global engagement.

History of the Department of Psychology

The Department of Psychology was established in 1956 when SDSU was known as San Diego State College (SDSC). Different from many other psychology departments across the U.S., our department was placed in the Division of Life Sciences along with bacteriology, botany, nursing, and zoology. Master's of Science and Master's of Art degrees in Psychology were established at the same time. Before 1956, psychology courses were taught in the Department of Psychology and Philosophy in the Division of Social Sciences.

On July 1, 1961 as a result of the Donahue Act, SDSC became a part of the California State College system. During the 1960s, SDSC more than doubled in size from a population of 10,700 in 1960 to 25,500 in 1970. Due to this enrollment increase, the Psychology Department hired sixteen tenure-track faculty between 1963 and 1966 alone.

In 1966, President Malcolm Love changed the structure of SDSC into Colleges, and Psychology became a department in the College of Sciences. In 1972, the California legislature approved the renaming of SDSC to CSU San Diego. But San Diego State officials were not happy with the name, and on January 1, 1974, it was renamed to San Diego State University.

In 1985, the Psychology Department established a joint doctoral program in clinical psychology in cooperation with the Department of Psychiatry at the UCSD Medical School. The program has been accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) since its inception. Within 30 years, the SDSU-UCSD Joint Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology has achieved an exceptional national and international reputation. The National Research Council ranked our Clinical Psychology Joint Doctoral Program 3rd out of 236 psychology doctoral programs for scholarly productivity - behind only Harvard and Princeton.

In the most recent academic year (2023-2024), psychology was the most popular field of study at SDSU with more than 2000 pre-majors, majors, master's, and doctoral students of diverse ethnic backgrounds. These students were taught and mentored by 38 tenure-track and tenured faculty members and 19 lecturers. Our faculty of teacher-scholars ranks among the top in the nation in terms of research productivity and teaching effectiveness.

Psychology Department at a Glance

Psychology is the scientific discipline that studies human behavior and mental processes: how human beings develop, learn, think, and feel.

- Psychology is the most popular Bachelor's Degree at SDSU.
- The Psychology Department ranked 50th in the nation and 7th in California in 2022 for graduating Hispanic Students with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology.

Students	Fall 2023	Spring 2024
Undergraduate Majors	2179	2036
Master's	61	60
PhD in Clinical Psychology	64	65
Total Psychology Students	2304	2161
Total College of Sciences Students	6447	5960
% of Psychology Students in College of Sciences	36%	36%

Source: <http://asir.sdsu.edu>

Degrees	Academic Year 23/24
Bachelor's	669
Master's	33
PhD in Clinical Psychology	18
Total Psychology Degrees	720
Total College of Sciences Degrees	1665
% of Psychology Degrees in College of Sciences	43%

Source: <http://asir.sdsu.edu>

In AY 2023-2024, 165 students participated in service-learning experience to apply their classroom training in an actual field setting and gain new skills. The department has agreements with 45 community agencies to provide internship opportunities for psychology students. Whether a student intends to apply to graduate school or begins looking for employment directly after graduation, field experience helps distinguish our graduates and provides a competitive edge.

Community Service Learning Organizations Where Students Have Been Placed:

- ARTS - A Reason to Survive
- Benito Juarez Elementary School
- Cyber Café - Gary and Mary West Senior Wellness Center
- People Assisting the Homeless (PATH)
- San Diego Youth Services
- Sierra School of San Diego
- The Elizabeth Hospice Children's Bereavement Program

Faculty and Student Research

Many areas of psychology require substantial funding for research success. Our faculty includes recognized leaders in their fields who have attracted major external funding to the University. **In 2020**, SDSU psychology department researchers obtained \$12 million in research funds from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and an additional \$7 million from other external sources. With respect to funding from the NIH, SDSU's Psychology Department ranks first among psychology departments in California and in the top 5 nationwide. In 2023, 38 psychology faculty members published 248 peer-reviewed research articles (Mean=6.5), the majority of which were co-authored with students.

Fiscal Year 2023 National Institutes of Health (NIH) Award Data for Top 20 Psychology Departments California Universities are bolded		
All Psychology Departments in U.S.	Amount (in millions)	Number of Awards
1. U of Washington	\$16.69	35
2. Florida State	\$13.31	30
3. Vanderbilt University	\$11.99	25
4. Pennsylvania State	\$11.76	25
5. U of Texas, Austin	\$10.88	23
6. U of Colorado	\$10.59	23
7. Duke University	\$10.18	24
8. U of Houston	\$9.84	28
9. U of Wisconsin-Madison	\$9.77	24
10. U of Arizona	\$9.53	13
11. San Diego State University	\$9.49	23
12. U of North Carolina Chapel Hill	\$9.40	29
13. Trustees of Indiana University	\$9.39	18
14. U of California Los Angeles	\$8.99	28
15. U of Oregon	\$8.91	18
16. U of Maryland, College Park	\$8.55	18
17. Johns Hopkins University	\$8.13	16
18. U of Michigan at Ann Arbor	\$7.83	14
19. Boston University (Charles River Campus)	\$7.64	21
20. U of Miami Coral Gables	\$6.79	15

Source: <https://projectreporter.nih.gov/reporter.cfm>

Our professors are enthusiastic about teaching and mentoring. Research conducted at SDSU creates exciting opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students. Many students work closely together with faculty members on projects at the forefront of psychological science. Each year, many undergraduate and graduate students are co-authors on peer-reviewed publications in scientific journals and present their research at national and international conferences.