

Recommendations for Undergraduates Wishing to Pursue Social Psychology

In addition to the required curriculum for psychology majors (e.g., PSY 101, 200, 210, 240, etc.), students who wish to pursue a career in social psychology should prepare themselves for graduate school by completing Introduction of Social Psychology (PSY 360) and at least two of the following:

1. Social Psychologically Oriented Courses:

ANTH 101: Introduction to Anthropology
ANTH 417: Evolution and Culture
PSY 406: Intermediate Statistics
PSY 430: Developmental Psychology
PSY 431: Multicultural Psychology
PSY 435: Personality
PSY 465: Small Group Behavior
PSY 470: Health Psychology
SOC 101: Introduction to Sociology

2. Social Psychologically Oriented Research:

Conduct laboratory work with several psychology faculty members who are investigating social behavior (e.g., persuasion, aggression, altruism, group process, evolutionary basis of social behavior) or topics related to social psychology (e.g., development of social behavior, health promotion). This work should start in the sophomore year by taking Independent Study and Independent Research classes. If possible, assist the professor in the analyses of data sets collected in your Independent Research classes and the subsequent writing of manuscripts. Students would benefit by expanding their research into an Honor's Thesis.

3. Presentation of Research:

Help prepare and present papers at psychology conferences regarding your social psychological research.

4. Other Recommendations:

Get involved in Psi Chi, the national honor society for psychology students, as well as the McNair Scholar program, the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, the UNLV Honors College, and the UNLV Department of Psychology OUMP program.

Get ongoing advice from one or more faculty mentors about deciding on career options, writing a letter of intent, and choosing graduate schools of interest.

Find out which graduate schools might best fit your interests, and tailor your application toward a specific faculty member or two who would best match your interests.

Review information provided for students by the American Psychological Association (Washington, D.C.) such as the book *Graduate Study in Psychology* and the “Careers in Psychology” brochure (www.apa.org/topics/psychologycareer.html#aparesources).

Read the books *What Can You Do with a Major in Psychology: Real People, Real Jobs, Real Rewards* (New York: Wiley) by Shelley O’Hara.

Ask questions and get as much information as possible!