

Outside the Classroom

Psychology Department, Union College

The Psychology Department is proud to offer students a variety of opportunities to gain practical experience outside of the classroom. Below are some of these opportunities.

►**Psychology Research Practicum** allows students to work under the supervision of a member of the psychology department. Duties will be determined individually with the research supervisor, and may include such endeavors as designing or testing research materials, interacting with research participants, collecting data, or analyzing data. Expectations include at least four hours per week devoted to the research, as well as attendance at Psychology Speaker Series seminars. All practicum terms are graded on a pass/fail basis. In order to receive credit equivalent to one course, the student must earn passing grades in three terms. Research Practicum is not open to students currently enrolled in psy480 through psy499, except by permission of the department chair. Credits do not fulfill department requirements but do fulfill College requirements. (**psy291, 292, 293**).

►**Clinical Psychology 3: Internship** is a practicum course to include 100 hours of experiential learning in a community-based human services internship (e.g., placements may include: clinical, healthcare, mental health, substance/recovery, educational, occupational, forensic, and neuroscience-related settings). Individual supervision is provided on site and group supervision during the weekly class meeting. Activities include seminar discussion of case conceptualizations, service learning project, and review of systems issues in the provision of human services. Emphasis is on the theoretical understanding of psychological assessment and intervention. Prerequisite(s): Permission of the instructor, with application due in term prior, along with completion of placement-relevant courses (e.g., ideally, students would complete psy351 previously, and courses relevant to planned internship placement, such as for interning at/with: psychiatric unit psy250/350; neuropsychologist psy210/213; school psychologist psy240; hospice psy242) and any necessary documentation or training required by the agency. (**psy451**)

►**Internship in Psychology** allows students to gain real-world experience working in locations such as a hospital, psychiatric facility, advertising agency, or school. Students complete 100 hours of such applied experience per term, and undertake a significant academic project that is arranged with the faculty supervisor. Students may not be paid by the host organization. (One-term internship: **psy480**. A two-term internship spans two terms and earns two course credits. The first term is graded pass/fail; a comprehensive grade is assigned for both terms at the end of the second term: **psy481** and **psy482**).

►**Independent Study** involves a commitment commensurate with that of a typical course, typically involves a lengthy term paper or research report, and is awarded a letter grade and one course credit. Details of the project will be determined by the student and the faculty supervisor. Only one course of this type may count towards the twelve courses needed for the psychology major. (**psy490** or **psy491** or **psy492**. A two-term independent study spans two terms and earns two course credits. The first term is graded pass/fail; a comprehensive grade is assigned for both terms at the end of the second term: **psy493** and **psy494**).

►**Senior Project** is a scholarly endeavor that does not necessarily involve the collection or analysis of primary data. The project is outlined in consultation with a faculty supervisor and typically requires an in-depth literature review on a topic or question or interest. (One-term senior project earns one course credit: **psy495**. Two-term senior project spans two terms and earns two course credits. The first term is graded pass/fail; a comprehensive grade is assigned for both terms at the end of the second term: **psy496** and **psy497**. Both options carry WS credit if taken during senior year).

►**Senior Thesis in Psychology** allows students to undertake their own, original research project from start to finish. The first term is graded pass/fail; a comprehensive grade is assigned for both terms at the end of the second term. psy200 and psy300 are prerequisites for the senior thesis. Psychology interdisciplinary majors who are conducting an ID thesis will typically have an advisor from both departments and receive one course credit in each department. Thesis proposals are due to the psychology department chair during the term prior to beginning the thesis, usually spring term of junior year. (**psy498** and **psy499**).

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