Recommendations

B.A./B.S. Psychology

To learn more about how you can make the most of your educational experiences within and beyond the classroom contact:
Neil Levens, Program Coordinator, levenssn@mailbox.sc.edu
PARTICIPATE

Community Service

Related course
PSYC 489 “Community Psychology Practicum” taught by Dr’s. Brad Smith, Mark Weist, or Bret Kloos. SCHC 330, “Seminar on Homelessness” taught by Dr. Kloos. PSYC 487, “Community Psychology” taught by Dr. Rhonda Johnson, or Dr. Kloos. PSYC 510 “Abnormal Psychology in Children”, taught by Dr. Kate Flory.

Sites/experiences
They are all recommended! All of the above courses engage the student in community service while also learning academic skills. In fact, the Challenging Horizons Program (Dr. Smith) was nominated for statewide recognition by USC to the South Carolina Campus Compact as the University’s best example of service learning in the 2012-13 academic year. In PSYC 510 (Dr. Flory), students work with children and adolescents who have psychological diagnoses, history of abuse/neglect, and stressful home lives at Hall Psychiatric Institute and Epworth Children’s Home. Students blog about their community experiences and they relate their experiences to material covered in the classroom lectures.

Other
Psi Chi, the international honors society in psychology also participates in community service.

Why this is important
Participating in community service makes students better citizens while getting hands-on experience in applying principles learned in the classroom to the “real world”.

Global Learning

Timing for “study abroad”
Summer, Spring Sophomore Year

Other
Any psychology majors interested in attending graduate school in psychology need to have laboratory research experience which typically occurs during their junior year. Thus, it is recommended to pursue study abroad as a sophomore or during the summer.

Peer Leadership

Student Organization(s)
Psi Chi is the international honors society for psychology majors. Students can seek leadership opportunities as executive board members or through the newly introduced mentoring program, whereby older students can mentor first-year students.

Opportunities
The Challenging Horizons Program has a training ladder and works with vertical teams to develop new leadership, Dr. Smith is proposing a new course (PSYC 518- Service-Learning Leadership) to further promote leadership development. Advanced majors can serve as Supplemental Instruction (SI) leaders for PSYC 101, 226, or 227.

Why this is important
Graduate study in psychology is highly competitive. Little things that make you stand out, like participation in research, community service, and leadership might make the difference between getting an interview or not!
**Research**

*Related courses* | PSYC 498, 598, or 599. Many students in psychology take independent study classes and present research at Discovery Day or at regional conferences such as the one hosted by the Southeastern Psychological Association. Students can also apply for research grants through the Magellan Program.

*Sample research projects or topics* | The Effect of Daily Stressors on Adolescent Coping Skill Development  
Jessica Wilder, Psychology - Senior; Mentor: Dr. Mark Weist  
Does Prenatal IV Nicotine Exposure Increase Motivation for Methamphetamine Reinforcement in Rats?  
Shelley Maxwell, Psychology - Junior; Mentor: Dr. Steven Harrod

*Why this is important* | This is an essential activity for students applying to doctoral programs in psychology and related professions.

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**INTEGRATE**

*How to integrate* | Students in Dr. Smith’s class integrate basic behavioral science with the manualized procedures in the Challenging Horizons Program (CHP), thus strengthening knowledge of basic psychological science and principles of evidence-based practice. Students taking Advanced Independent Study (PSYC 598) are required to present research findings in at least one venue, journal, conference, or USC Discovery Day.

Students use the classroom knowledge in the CHP program to improve their effectiveness in engaging and motivating students, and finding new ways to best obtain program objectives related to promoting wellness and improving academic performance, school attendance, interpersonal behavior, and family engagement.

These activities are improving our ability to meet a critical need in the community while strengthening students’ ability and confidence to implement state of the art psychological science.

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**LEAD**

*Initial career opportunities* | There are few jobs within psychology that one can obtain with only a bachelor’s degree. Most jobs in psychology require more advanced training and thus, graduate school. Jobs working as laboratory technicians, or basic jobs in mental institutions, group homes, etc. can be found. However, the skills students learn as psychology majors, knowledge of human behavior and how to conduct and analyze research, are beneficial in most career fields.

*Related graduate programs* | Masters in counseling psychology, social work, or school psychology. Speech or occupational therapy, rehabilitation counseling. Ph.D. in clinical, experimental, or school psychology. PsyD. in professional psychology. Medicine, nursing, law, or education.

*Future career opportunities* | Professor, Therapist, Social Worker

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The listed experiences are a sample of options for your major. See the USC Connect experiences database to search for more opportunities.  
www.sc.edu/usconnect/participate