

QUICK FACTS  
PSYCHOLOGY



DON'T FOLLOW.

*Pursue.*

TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL & CULTURAL STUDIES

Explore the connections among individuals, societies, and cultures. Consider your values and beliefs, study the ways in which humans communicate, and examine historical influences.

Start pursuing a deeper understanding of the world.

[sacs.truman.edu](http://sacs.truman.edu)





# DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

## Better Understand Human Behavior

Investigate human behavior, whether alone or in groups interacting with the environment, as well as conscious experience as defined by attitudes, emotions, and thoughts. Employ the scientific method, and statistical inference and analysis to gather and assess data. Studying psychology at Truman will ensure that you will meet the three overall objectives of the program: to receive a broad-based education in the discipline, to utilize the scientific method, and to prepare you for success in graduate school and the workplace.

Become well-versed in the psychological sciences. Prepare for a life that matters.

[PSYCHOLOGY.TRUMAN.EDU](http://PSYCHOLOGY.TRUMAN.EDU)

### PURSUING PSYCHOLOGY

**BA  
BS**  
DEGREES  
OFFERED

MAJOR OFFERED  
**Psychology**

MINOR OFFERED  
**Psychology**

**500**  
approximate number  
of students pursuing  
this major

**300**  
approximate number  
of students pursuing  
this minor

**100%** of majors engaged in research

**11** full-time faculty  
members

**2** part-time faculty  
members

RECENT AWARD — Dr. Fred Shaffer (2013)  
and Prof. Sal Costa (2015) received Truman's  
Outstanding Research Mentor of the Year award.

DEPARTMENTAL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS  
Psi Chi - honor society in psychology and  
Psychology Club - interest group



"One of the most impactful and gratifying experiences I have had at Truman has been conducting undergraduate research. On top of stimulating my critical thinking as a Psychology major, this opportunity also helped me develop meaningful, professional relationships with the faculty in my own department."

**Roberto Rentería, Class of 2016**  
Pursued at Truman: Psychology  
Currently pursuing: A PhD program in  
Counseling Psychology at Arizona State  
University

Research: Two research teams in  
Psychology Department – cognitive  
psychology and clinical psychology;  
Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate  
Program (10-week summer research  
internship, conference presentations &  
research publication)

Involvement: Student Advisor (Residence  
Life); Orientation Leader (Admission);  
Delta Chi (social fraternity); Psi Chi  
(psychology honor society); Phi Beta  
Kappa (honor society)

Hometown: Capilla de Guadalupe, Jalisco,  
Mexico

## Faculty

- 92% of the faculty members have earned a Ph.D. in psychology.
- Three members of our department have been awarded the Walker and Doris Allen Fellowship for Faculty Excellence.
- Our faculty have research and teaching interests that cover a wide variety of popular specializations: biofeedback, clinical psychology, cognition, development, learning and memory, parenting, positive psychology, psychopharmacology, evolutionary psychology, and social psychology.
- Psychology faculty have participated in an assortment of activities across campus and throughout Kirksville: advising fraternities/sororities and other student organizations, directing the student portfolio project and interview project, leading Truman's annual campaign for the United Way, serving on faculty senate and the undergraduate council.
- Department faculty are professionally active, with memberships in Association for Psychological Science, American Psychological Association, Association for Applied Psychophysiology and Biofeedback, Biofeedback Certification Institute of America, Midwestern Psychological Association, Sigma Xi, Council on Teaching of Undergraduate Psychology, Society for the Teaching of Psychology, Association to Advance Ethical Hypnosis, Society for Social and Personality Psychology, and others.
- To learn more about our faculty visit:  
[truman.edu/psychology-faculty](http://truman.edu/psychology-faculty)

## Curriculum

- The department offers a variety of courses in the major specializations of psychology: abnormal psychology, applied, clinical, cognitive, developmental, physiological, social and others.
- Choose which classes you wish to explore. Only 4 classes are required for all Psychology majors, the rest can be chosen from 5 sets of course groupings.
- 100% of students will conduct and present at least one full research project as part of their training in the major.
- 100% of our classes are taught by faculty members.
- Classes incorporate a variety of innovative approaches to learning. As a Psychology student, you may participate in service learning, collaborate on team projects, evaluate peer writing, develop and answer your own research questions.
- Participate in research, take advantage of internship opportunities, study abroad, and/or earn a minor or second major in another area. The major is designed to accommodate these opportunities while still allowing you to graduate in four years.
- Want flexibility? Choose from a large assortment of summer online classes in Psychology.



"Truman provides an unusual mix in that teaching is our number one priority, yet we all have active research programs that involve our students. This teacher-scholar model ensures that our faculty is up to date on the most current research findings in our respective areas of psychology, which in turn informs our teaching."

**Dr. Sherri Palmer**  
Professor of Psychology

## Student Research and Internships

- At many universities, undergraduates merely assist in the data collection of someone else's research. At Truman, you develop the hypothesis, create the experiment, collect and analyze the data, and attend conferences to present your own conclusions.
- Engage in original research under the supervision of faculty mentors. Present your work at regional, national and international psychology conferences, with the department assisting with your travel expenses.
- Present your own research at the annual Psi Chi research conference and the campus-wide Student Research Conference.
- Looking for an internship? Use of one of our many recurring programs or identify a new internship opportunity in your own community.
- Each semester Truman Psychology majors participate in internships in a variety of professional settings. Some recurring internship positions have been with:
  - American Red Cross
  - A.T. Still University
  - Bellafontaine
  - Department of Children and Family Services
  - Edgewood Childrens' Center
  - Missouri Institute of Mental Health
  - Preferred Family Healthcare (HR and Clinical)

## After the Degree

- Each year up to 2/3 or more of our graduates go on to graduate school. During the past several years students have enrolled in graduate programs at the University of Missouri-Columbia, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Iowa, University of Missouri-Kansas City, University of Missouri-St. Louis, Truman State University and Washington University.
- A sample of employers for our students include the following: Cerner Corp., PeaceCorps, Veterans Administration, various school districts in and around Missouri, Truman State University and Sprint.