The LaGrange College Psychology Department:  
You’ll Be in Good Company

From first enrollment through graduation and on into graduate school or careers, LaGrange College psychology majors are an impressive group. If you choose to join the psychology department at LaGrange College, you'll be in very good company.

Scholars and Leaders:

The psychology department at LaGrange College has a history of attracting some of the college’s brightest and best students. Three of the Presidential Scholars who have graduated since 2007 have been psychology majors, and students who have elected to create interdisciplinary majors have often chosen to incorporate coursework in psychology into their programs. In fact, more than half of the interdisciplinary majors to date have included a psychology component. We believe this is a testament both to the strength of the program and to the interdisciplinary relevance of our courses.

Psychology majors are well-represented in other aspects of campus life as well. In recent years, students who are psychology majors or minors have been elected President of the Student Government Association, presided over the LC Social Council, served as captains of the football team, and been elected Homecoming Queen.

Student Interns & Community Volunteers:

To complement their academic work in the classroom, some psychology majors choose to gain real-world experience by completing formal internships. Most students choose to complete internships during the regular school terms and have worked at sites (such as the Burwell Psychoeducational Center, the Good Shepherd Therapeutic Center, the LaGrange College Career Development Center, and the Troup County Family and Children’s Services program) in LaGrange and the surrounding area. Several years ago we also had two majors, bound for medical school programs, who completed internships during the Interim Term at the Central State Hospital in Milledgeville, Georgia. Other students have broadened their knowledge of psychology while on mission trips or while volunteering with local service agencies.

Published Authors & Presenters at National Conferences:

In the course of their time at LaGrange College, several students have completed work -- on their own or in conjunction with LaGrange College psychology professors -- that has achieved recognition outside the classroom, and sometimes even at the national level. Here are several recent examples:


What Can the LaGrange College Psychology Department Do For You?

LaGrange College Students Have an Established Record of Graduate School Enrollment:

Although any college degree makes you more employable, students who hope to work as counselors or psychologists must generally earn a graduate degree in psychology or a related field. The LaGrange College Psychology Department has a strong history of helping students gain admission to the graduate programs of their choice. One reason for this is that students who choose to take advantage of their coursework in the major can acquire an impressive background in the field. Each year all of our graduating psychology majors take a nationally standardized exam known as the Psychology Area Concentration Assessment Test (PACAT). In the last five years nearly 17% of our graduates have scored at the 90th percentile or higher on that exam.

In recent years, many of our graduates have pursued advanced degrees in various counseling programs. Others have gained admission to programs in forensic psychology (John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City), sport psychology (Barry College in Florida), industrial organizational psychology (Western Kentucky), applied behavior analysis (Southern Illinois University and the Ohio State University), speech and language pathology (University of West Georgia), and health policy management (Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University), or have finished majors in psychology before moving on to law school, medical school, or MBA or MSW programs. Sherry Thrasher (’01) completed a Ph.D. in clinical psychology and has recently finished a two-year postdoc at Yale Medical School in neuropsychology. Another recent graduate, Jane-Marie Fatkin (’06), earned a full-ride scholarship that enabled her to complete a Master’s degree at the University of Surrey in England during the 2007-2008 school year while serving as a Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholar, and is now about to begin a Ph.D. program at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, Scotland.

The LaGrange College Psychology Department Allows You to Plan a Major to Meet Your Needs:

Students choose to pursue psychology majors (or minors) for many different reasons, in preparation for many different kinds of careers. The construction of the psychology major at LaGrange College guarantees that all students will be exposed to the foundational elements of the field, but also ensures that students will be able to plan a major (or minor) that meets their individual needs.

To earn a major in psychology all students complete Introduction to Psychology, Behavioral Statistics, and Research Methods -- courses that provide a foundation for later classes. Students also complete courses in at least three of the major content areas of psychology (i.e., Human Growth & Development or the Psychology of Aging, Social Psychology, Abnormal Psychology, and Personality Psychology) as well as at least two courses in experimentally based fields (i.e., Cognitive Psychology, Biological Psychology, and Behavior Analysis & Its Applications). Majors must also complete at least four other courses of their choice. These elective courses include courses such as Educational Psychology, Human Sexuality, Introduction to Counseling, Survey Research, Anatomy & Physiology, Genetics, Neurobiology, Cell Biology, Marriages & Families, and Cultural & Social Anthropology. Students may also choose to complete internships or individual research projects as elective courses. Finally, students complete a capstone course focusing on a specialized topic in the field of psychology; recent capstone experience options have focused on animal behavior (a course that includes travel to Costa Rica!) and positive psychology.

Students who wish to earn a minor in psychology complete the introductory course and any other five courses (that count toward the major) of their choosing, as long as at least four of those are taken within the department.

If you have questions, or think you might be interested in studying psychology at LaGrange College, please feel free to contact one of the faculty members in the department for more information.

Charles P. Kraemer, Ph.D. (Department Chair) c kraemer@lagrange.edu (706) 880-8284
Charles H. Evans, Ph.D. cevans@lagrange.edu (706) 880-8274
Heather A. Haas, Ph.D. hhaas@lagrange.edu (706) 880-8314