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- Welcome to the Psychology Department and to Rowan University! We are truly glad to have you with us and look forward to helping you meet your educational and career goals.
- Our Department has about 14 full-time faculty members and about 900 undergraduate majors.
- All majors also have an individual advisor (this information is on the letter you receive when you become a Psych major). This is the individual with whom you be meeting concerning course selection, career goals, and graduate school preparation. This should be the first person you contact with questions. If you need to contact your advisor, call the Psychology Main office at 856-256-4870 or come by Robinson and see when your official advisor has office hours. You may also email psychadvising@rowan.edu
- Being part of a learning community is a gift, with a time limit! Do everything you can to make the most of your time at Rowan.
- Know who your advisor is and go see him or her every semester!!!! Register on time and choose courses wisely (plan for your future career, but also explore your curiosity!).
- Keep up on happenings in the University and Department by reading your Rowan email. If you do not regularly check your Rowan account, forward it to one that you do.

❖ ADVISING FOR NEW STUDENTS

- TRANSFERS
  - Once you pay your deposit and are given a Rowan ID number we will receive information from Admissions that you are now a matriculated Psychology Major. At this point you will be assigned an academic advisor in the Department. Prior to matriculation you can view major program requirements by accessing the major program guides. After you have paid your deposit you may contact the department secretary Ms. Brenda Harkins to receive information concerning your advisor and his/her office hours.
  - Once you have paid your deposit and have a Rowan ID number you can see exactly how your transfer credits apply to the Psychology major by accessing the Graduation and Advising Data Base (GRAD). Instructions on how to use GRAD. Please review GRAD prior to making an appointment to see an advisor.
  - After paying your deposit, receiving your Rowan ID and reviewing GRAD you may register for courses. Instructions on how to register can be found at the New Student Orientation web page. Our department will schedule your classes for your first semester at Rowan and distribute your schedule at the in-person orientation sessions in the summer.
Determining the courses you should register for the first semester will depend on what you have already taken at your other institution (this is where GRAD will be extremely helpful), but all transfer students should try to register for Psychology of Scientific Thinking (PSY 01106) and Research Methods in Psychology (PSY 07201) as long as they have taken the equivalent of Essentials of Psychology (PSY 01107). We have saved spaces for incoming transfer students in these courses so if you try to register for them and they are blocked contact your advisor for assistance. If you have not taken an equivalent to Essentials then that should be your main priority.

ALL TRANSFER STUDENTS SHOULD ATTEND TRANSFER ORIENTATION regardless of whether they have registered for courses or not. Essential information will be presented at orientation that you will need to navigate your way through the university. Also, academic advisors will be available during orientation to assist you with choosing courses.

FRESHMEN

Freshmen entering in the fall semester will already have a schedule of courses. These courses have been specifically chosen because they provide the best foundation for subsequent semesters. DO NOT DROP THESE COURSES EXPECTING YOU WILL BE ABLE TO PICK UP OTHERS. All other students have already registered by this time so chances are extremely small that there will be spaces left in other courses. If you have AP credit for Essentials of Psychology and have been registered for Essentials of Psychology –RS please contact your academic advisor to request a different Rowan Seminar course.

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR TIME AT ROWAN

- Join the Psychology Alliance, Psi Chi (Psychology Honor Society), and/or the ABA Club
- Go to CARBBS seminars (Current Areas of Research Brown Bag Series), which are talks by faculty members or other psychology professionals discussing their current work – exciting new information in a relaxed but professional atmosphere!
- Go to departmental social events – usually there is one every semester.
- Attend other events throughout the university relevant to your interests (or just because they look interesting), especially in Women and Gender Studies, Africana Studies, etc.
- Make yourself aware of departmental and university policies.
- Check your Rowan email account every day. All announcements and important information will be communicated to you via your official Rowan email.
o Be prepared for registration. Courses fill quickly so plan on registering the first day registration is available to you (those dates are distributed via Rowan email).

o **Your GPA matters** – when you are about to graduate and are applying for grad school and/or jobs, a higher GPA will make a BIG difference and create more opportunities for your future! Do not be satisfied with mediocrity!
COURSE SEQUENCE INFORMATION for BA and BS

- Essentials of Psychology (PSY 01 107) is the pre-requisite to all other Psychology courses.
- Psychology of Scientific Thinking should be taken prior to Research Methods in Psychology BUT transfer students may take these courses at the same time.
- Psychology of Scientific Thinking and Research Methods in Psych are the pre-requisites to Statistics in Psychology.
- Statistics in Psych is the pre-requisite to Advanced Research sequence for students in the BS in Psychological Science program.
- Psychology as a Profession and Practice is good to take in your sophomore year or early in your junior year – it will contain important information about career decision-making and preparation as well as other topics.
- Balance Psychology courses with General Education/Rowan Experience/ other required courses. Feel free to pursue an interdisciplinary concentration, a minor or other area of interest. You have non-program electives (anything but psych courses) and free electives (which includes non-required psych courses) so feel free to use them to pursue a companion interest!
- If you take courses somewhere other than Rowan, check the course equivalents first to make sure they will fulfill a requirement at Rowan. Meet with your advisor before taking courses at other institutions.

THE SPECIALIZATION IN BEHAVIORAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN & THEIR FAMILIES

- Psychology majors have the option to specialize in Behavioral Services for Children and their Families.
- The specialization provides you with coursework for a specific form of psychology often used when working with children and their families known as Applied Behavior Analysis or “ABA”
- ABA is often used when working with children and adults with developmental disabilities (including Autism Spectrum Disorders), behavior disorders, and even with typically developing children in educational settings among many others.
- If you successfully complete the requirements for the specialization your bachelor’s degree will be in Psychology with a Specialization in Behavioral Services for Children & their Families.
- Completing the specialization courses (along with 1000 hours of supervised clinical experience) makes you eligible to become a Board Certified assistant Behavior Analyst (a BCaBA) after graduation:
The BCaBA a nationally recognized certification that recognizes individuals who have knowledge and skill in Applied Behavior Analysis

- This is very helpful in obtaining employment in the ABA field once you graduate
- Obtaining the BCaBA is NOT required to graduate from Rowan—it is completely OPTIONAL and can only be obtained after you have completed your undergraduate degree. The specialization is designed to help you obtain the BCaBA certification if you choose to do so.

- More information on the BCaBA can be found at www.bacb.com
- More information on ABA and the programs available at Rowan can be found at www.rowan.edu/abacenter

In order to specialize in Child Behavior Services, you must:

- Formally declare the specialization at the University Advising Center (2nd floor Savitz Hall) or have declared that you would like to be a Psychology: Child Behavior Services major on your admissions application
- Complete 5 courses as part of the Psychology major (in recommended order):
  - Learning & Behavior (Sophomore or Junior year)
  - Developmental Psychopathology (Sophomore or Junior year)
  - Behavioral Assessment & Measurement (Junior or Senior year)
  - Applied Behavior Analysis (Junior or Senior year)
  - Professional Issues in ABA (Senior year)

If you are interested in Specializing in Child Behavior Services at Rowan you should:

- Start on Specialization courses no later than the first semester of your junior year.
- Transfer students should make every effort to enroll in the Learning & Behavior course as soon as possible.
- Join the ABA Club! The ABA club is a student club at Rowan—many of the specialization students are involved in this club. Announcements of the club meetings are generally made via email. The club also has a facebook page that you are welcome to join (“Rowan ABA”)
- Talk to Dr Kerth about obtaining an appropriate Field Experience placement in which you will work with children and practice ABA during your junior or senior year.
- Contact the coordinator of the program (and your advisor if you are in the specialization) if you have any questions: Dr. Denise Kerth (mazullo@rowan.edu)