

Psychology Department Orientation for New Students, Fall 2011

- ❖ 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 16 faculty members and about 700 undergraduate majors.
- ❖ Contact information: Department Chair: Dr. Monica Greco, greco@rowan.edu. All majors also have an individual faculty 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 or come by Robinson and see when your official advisor has office hours. If you have contacted the Advising Coordinators in the past, those positions no longer exist- please contact the Department or your normal advisor.
- ❖ 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 email, forward it to one that you do.
- ❖ Get to know your faculty, advisor, AND OTHER PSYCH STUDENTS! Make the most of your time here!
 - Join the **Psychology Alliance** (Psych Club and Psi Chi, the honor society)
 - 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.
 - Consider **Study Abroad** – the International Center is on the first floor of Robinson. They sponsor information sessions each semester about study abroad opportunities for a semester or the summer.
 - Prepare for those recommendation letters and be a good citizen (attend class; arrive on time; behave professionally; avoid complaining; work with other students; complete work on time; avoid academic dishonesty)
 - **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:

- Normally students will complete courses in the following pattern:
 - First semester: Essentials of Psychology (PSY 01.107)
 - Second semester: Psychology of Scientific Thinking (PSY 01.106). DO NOT PUT THIS COURSE OFF!
 - Next: Research Methods in Psych & Statistics I; Statistics in Psych; Advanced Research. These must be taken in order but not necessarily in consecutive semesters.
 - Psych of Scientific Thinking and Research Methods can be taken as co-requisites – so the “research sequence” can be completed in 3 semesters instead of 4
 - Statistics I (STAT 02.260) in the Math Department is a prerequisite for Statistics in Psychology. PLAN AHEAD! It is a good idea to take Stat I at the same time that you take Research Methods in the Psychology department.
 - 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.
 - Consider completing a Field Experience and/or Independent Study. Students do not register for these in the usual way and faculty consultation is needed ahead of time.
 - Other courses (such as Basic Core Areas and Specialized Core courses) can be taken once Essentials is completed.
 - 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 four non-program electives (anything but psych courses) and seven 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, meet with your advisor and complete a form ahead of time in the registrar’s office to ensure they will transfer as you wish.

❖ **The Specialization in Behavioral Services for Children & their Families**

- Psychology majors have the option to specialize in Child Behavior Services
- The specialization provides you with coursework in Child Behavior and 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, your bachelor’s degree will be in *Psychology with a Specialization in Behavioral Services for Children & their Families*.
- Completing the specialization courses (along with additional 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*:
 - Be a declared psychology major
 - Formally declare the specialization at the CAP 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)
 - Field Experience or 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. Soreth 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. Michelle Soreth (soreth@rowan.edu)

- ❖ FRESHMEN Registering for Fall courses
 - You are probably already enrolled in Essentials of Psychology as a Rowan Seminar. Stay in this course, and build the rest of your schedule around it. If you later receive AP credit, you could drop Essentials of Psych and email Dr. Rory McElwee (mcelwee@rowan.edu) to see if another Rowan Seminar is available. If not, plan to take a Rowan Seminar in the Spring.
 - Plan to register for the other courses on your suggested list. If you cannot develop a schedule that includes the suggested courses and must make substitutions do it wisely. Essentials of Psychology (PSY-01-107) is a required prerequisite for all other psychology courses. If you do not take it your first semester you will not be able to take any other psychology courses in your second semester! Also, Composition I and General Biology: Human Focus should be priorities. Comp I because you will be doing writing in just about all of your courses and because it is the prerequisite to Comp II; General Biology: Human Focus because there are a limited number of sections of this course each semester and space has been reserved for you to take it. If you do not take it this Fall you may have a hard time getting into it later.
 - If you would like to get a head start consider taking Essentials of Psychology (PSY-01-107) over the summer. Information on registration can be found at: <http://www.rowan.edu/provost/registrar/courseschedule.html>

- ❖ TRANSFERS Registering for Fall courses
 - You have received a transfer evaluation that indicates how the courses you have already completed will be used for the Psychology major. The use of T on the program guide indicates that you have satisfied that requirement. On the left side of the program guide are Rowan Experience and General Education courses. Non-program electives are any college level NON PSYCHOLOGY courses and free electives are any college level courses. On the right side are psychology major courses. Information on registration can be found at: <http://www.rowan.edu/provost/registrar/courseschedule.html>
 - If you have not taken the equivalent of Essentials of Psychology this course should be your first priority as it is the prerequisite to all other psychology courses. If you have taken the equivalent of Essentials of Psychology your first priority should be Psychology of Scientific Thinking (PSY-01-106). You may take Research Methods in Psychology (PSY07-201) with Psychology of Scientific Thinking and it is suggested that transfers take both of these in their first semester. It is also recommended that you take Stat I (STAT 02.260 in the math department) at the same time as Research Methods. Depending on the number of credits you have transferred in and how they are used on your program guide you may complete your remaining schedule with General Education/Rowan Experience courses or may take an additional psychology course.
 - You can get a jumpstart on the research sequence courses by taking Psychology of Scientific Thinking this summer (as long as you have completed the equivalent of Essentials of Psychology). This course is being offered on line so you can complete it without having to come to campus. Then in the fall you would take Research Methods and Stat 1. For information on summer registration please click on the above link.
 - As soon as you pay your deposit and receive a Rowan ID # you may register. Using your transfer evaluation and the information from the link above you should be able to come up with a schedule of courses that is appropriate. When registering for Rowan Experience/ General Education courses you need to be careful that the courses for which you register actually fulfill those requirements. Information on those courses can be found at the above link.

- ❖ Websites to know:
 - Psych Department: <http://www.rowan.edu/colleges/las/departments/psychology/index.html>
 - Course Equivalent list if you take classes at other institutions- check BEFORE you enroll in them to make sure what Rowan courses they match: <http://www.rowan.edu/provost/registrar/courseequiv.html>
 - Section Tally: Go here to find courses that have open seats: http://banner.rowan.edu/reports/reports.pl?task=Section_Tally
 - Rowan Student Portal: Email, registration, and activities are all here: <http://cp.rowan.edu/cp/>
 - If you go to Banner, you can check your academic progress, regardless of your major, using a new system called **GRAD**. This maps your courses onto your current major, and shows you what you still need to complete. In addition, it links to future offerings for each area, so you can plan your schedule in advance! Note- GRAD should **not** be used as a substitute for meeting with your advisor!

The information contained within this document was correct as of 10/1/2011.