PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE

Illinois Tech is a small, private university that educates students to go on to do big things. Founded in 1927, our Department of Psychology has earned an excellent international reputation. Our position within a tech-focused university allows you to study behavior while taking advantage of Illinois Tech’s technological, scientific, and innovative environment.

Our psychology program utilizes the scientist-practitioner model of teaching. Here, you’ll receive a strong background in scientific thinking and be able to apply psychological research and principles to the study of contemporary problems in a variety of fields. At the end of your program, the capstone experience allows you to apply these skills to research projects of your own design.

PSYCHOLOGY DEGREES AT ILLINOIS TECH

Receive your bachelor of science degree in one of three areas:
- Applied Analytics
- Behavioral Health and Wellness
- Psychological Science
- Psychological Science/Biology (dual degree)

As a B.S. in Psychological Science major, you can specialize in an area of interest to you:
- Clinical/Behavioral Health
- Culture and Diversity
- Industrial-Organizational Psychology
- Rehabilitation Psychology

B.S. in Behavioral Health and Wellness specializations:
- Health Psychology
- Public Health
- Nutrition

Pre-Professional Options:
- Pre-Law
- Pre-Medicine

RESEARCH—EVEN AS AN UNDERGRAD!

Psychology undergraduates at Illinois Tech get the opportunity to work on major research right from the start. In addition to your capstone project, you can get involved with national research projects, make presentations at conferences, and publish scientific papers. In 2015, three undergraduate psychology students received an award from Psi Chi (the International Honor Society in Psychology) and the Center for Open Science for a project that began as part of their Research Methods in Behavioral Sciences course.

LEARN TO INNOVATE IN IPROS

In Illinois Tech’s signature Interprofessional Projects (IPRO) Program, you’ll work with students from various majors to solve real-world problems. Recent psychology-oriented IPROs include:
- Applying mobile technology to enhance psychological research on depressive symptoms
- Obesity control and community outreach
- Social innovation for community wealth building
- Creating a reliable sports player’s statistical performance evaluation methodology
- PathPass: Opening doors for people with disabilities

Associate Professor of Psychology Arlen Moller’s lab researches how virtual environments, technology, and financial incentives can impact human behavior and health. One study looked at how online fantasy sports fans might convert their couch-potato habits into improved fitness.

RESEARCH ON THE EDGE

Our faculty are pushing the boundaries of what we know in many areas, including:

Impact of technology in children: An Illinois Tech team designed an app to help children from low-income communities learn language skills.

Gamification of learning: How does adding game elements (e.g., leaderboards or badges) to training impact learning?

Honest Open Proud on College Campuses: The goal of this initiative is to reduce the self-stigma associated with mental illness in college students. The program empowers students by walking them through decisions related to disclosure and telling their stories, a process that helps students reach their personal goals.

Psychological costs of excluding others: While most research looks at the costs of being excluded, an Illinois Tech project found that excluding others in a game—even when it was justified—had psychological costs.

“In just three semesters I was getting published as a co-author in a peer-reviewed journal article.”

—Melanie Standish (Psychological Science ’17), Orland Park, Illinois

Former Research Assistant to Associate Professor Arlen Moller, currently pursuing a Ph.D. at Illinois Tech
Our graduates are finding success in such diverse fields as survey research, market research, nonprofits, social work, law, public policy, academic or health administration, and much more.

Wudasse Berhanu Berke (Psychological Science '15)—Completing a master's degree in human factors in information design at Bentley University

Robin Chaurasiya (Psychological Science '06)—Finalist for the 2016 Global Teacher Prize, known as the Nobel Prize for teaching, and co-founder of the nonprofit Kranti

Kaysha Henry (Psychological Science '15)—Pursuing a master's degree in biology and public health with a concentration in global health at Saint Louis University

Peter Mathes (Psychological Science '10)—Fulbright Scholar who studied the experience of parents of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder in India

Catalina Suarez Rivera (Psychological Science '14)—Ph.D. candidate studying developmental psychology at Indiana University

“Studying at Illinois Tech was the best decision I have made so far. I’ve learned a lot from my professors and fellow students. I am also grateful for the research opportunities that I have received. I feel that I have gained a lot of knowledge and skills that will help me in my future career.”

—Maya Al-Khouja (Psychological Science '16), Chicago, Illinois

Maya created the Honest Open Proud (HOP) college program with Distinguished Professor of Psychology Patrick Corrigan. HOP is a peer-led program that aims to replace the stigma of mental illness with beliefs of recovery, empowerment, and hope for college students with mental illness. HOP has grown beyond Illinois Tech and is now being tested at other universities across the United States.