Gain broadly applicable skills through rigorous scientific training in statistics, computational modeling, neuroscience, memory and learning, and emotional functioning and disorder. Whether working around the world or in Silicon Valley, alumni apply their knowledge about human behavior to careers as:

- Government officials
- Scientists
- Social workers
- Lawyers
- Physicians
- Professors
- Journalists

“I was sitting on the curb outside a freshmen dorm tallying the number of undergrads who biked by wearing helmets. Twenty-nine out of 30 zipped past with their heads unprotected. A survey I ran showed that half of them secretly wished they wore helmets. So why didn’t they do it? Psychology let me peer into our messy, beautiful human lives and test ways to make them better. Today, I’m paid to meet people and weave videos from their stories. It’s very different work, yet my toolkit is the same one I developed watching students ride by with naked heads.”

Wyatt Roy, ’11
Creative director, Maku, film+photo agency

Department of Psychology:
psychology.stanford.edu
EXPLORE WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HUMAN

If you want to understand why people behave the way they do, study psychology.

Stanford’s top-ranked department of psychology has produced groundbreaking research for decades. Through the award-winning Psychology One Program, you can participate in interactive lectures, discussion sections, and hands-on activities like examining the human brain. From there, you can continue learning about the mind in advanced psychology courses.

PICTURED: Measuring brain activity with a functional MRI in a psychology department research lab

DELVE DEEPER

The psychology major offers four optional tracks:

- Cognitive Sciences
- Health and Development
- Mind, Culture, and Society
- Neuroscience

Building on this foundation, explore psychology through courses like:

- The Cultural Shaping of Emotion
- The New Longevity
- How Beliefs Create Reality
- Race and Crime
- Developmental Psychology

MAKE DISCOVERIES

Every psychology professor has an active lab in which students participate in ongoing research. Areas of study include how infants acquire language, how growth mindsets can improve health outcomes, how stress affects children’s brains, and how people make decisions.

Beyond the classroom: SPARQ, a “do tank”

SPARQ—Social Psychological Answers to Real-World Questions—takes research out of academic journals and puts it into the hands of people who need it. This center partners with practitioners in government, business, and nonprofits to develop solutions to pressing social problems.