

Honors Opportunities for Psychology Majors in the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS)

Arizona State University | West Campus

New College's School of Social and Behavioral Sciences is an interdisciplinary school that explores the intersection of human behavior and science. By exploring the human mind and behavior, students and faculty seek to understand how we communicate with one another, how and why we organize into cultural and political groups as it relates to vital causes and issues, and ultimately how we make sense of our world and the many places we occupy within it. Psychology majors in SBS engage in the scientific study of human behavior, which includes methodological and statistical training, as well as diverse content areas including—but are not limited to—mental health and counseling, social psychology, cognitive science, health psychology, neuroscience and psychophysiology, decision-making, legal and forensic psychology.

Advisors

The Faculty Honors Advisor for Barrett students majoring in psychology is **Dr. Jessica M. Salerno**. Dr. Salerno is an Assistant Professor of Psychology in SBS, whose research is focused on the intersection of social psychology and the legal system. Dr. Salerno is available for advice regarding honors courses, enrichment contracts and theses. She is also available to discuss questions regarding different areas in the field of psychology in general, graduate school, and potential careers. She is available to advise Barrett students on which faculty member might align most with their research interests and how to approach faculty members to pursue research or an honors thesis.

Liz Marini is the Program Manager and Advisor for Barrett students on the West campus. She can help Barrett students with course advising and scheduling issues.

Honors Opportunities

Honors Courses

Honors courses in Psychology are occasionally offered in SBS. Barrett students can check the following website to see a list of courses offered during the current academic year: <https://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/honors-courses-and-contracts/signature-courses>

Honors Enrichment Contracts

Honors Enrichment Contracts provide Barrett students the opportunity to work with a Psychology faculty member who is teaching a non-honors Psychology course on a project in addition to the course work. If a Barrett student is interested in pursuing an honors contract within a course, he or she should approach the faculty member to ask if they are willing to offer an honors enrichment contract. If the faculty member is willing,

the student and faculty member will work together to design a contract outlining the expectations for the student's work that semester. The faculty member and student have control over what kind of work will constitute the contract. Typical projects could include an in-depth research paper on a relevant topic, conducting a novel empirical research study, data analysis of existing data, or whatever other project the faculty member deems beneficial to both the student and faculty member. After the design of the agreement has been discussed and agreed upon, it is the student's responsibility to initiate the processing of the contract by selecting "Honors Enrichment Contract" in the My Programs area of their MyASU page.

For more information about the Honors Enrichment Contract, visit:

<http://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/honors-courses-and-contracts/honors-enrichment-contracts/>

Thesis and Creative Projects

The Thesis/Creative Project is the culminating experience of being a Psychology Major in the Barrett Honors College. Barrett students collaborate with Psychology faculty members to produce a novel piece of scholarship. Barrett students will interact with nationally renowned researchers on a project within their expertise through their role as the student's Thesis Director or Committee Members. The thesis project allows Psychology Majors to apply all that they have learned in their content courses, as well as their courses in methodology and statistics. The scope and form of the Thesis/Creative Project is at the discretion of the Thesis Director. There are norms within the field of Psychology that result in most thesis projects in Psychology involving an original empirical research study or analysis of existing empirical data. Typically the thesis document is an APA-style research report of the study. Barrett students will defend their thesis during a presentation and meeting with their committee.

During sophomore (at the latest), the student should start looking for potential faculty members who might serve as a director of their honors thesis project and as committee members. SBS Psychology majors in the Barrett Honors College have the opportunity to engage with Psychology faculty conducting scientific research across a diverse set of topics. As a first step, the student should look through the [SBS faculty profiles](#) to see who is doing work related to their interests (be sure to filter by School: Social and Behavioral Sciences). Students can also refer to the following list of Psychology faculty members and their research laboratories. These lab websites give a summary of the faculty member's research interests and can help students learn what kind of research is being conducted by the Psychologists in SBS. If the student needs assistance in finding a faculty mentor for their project, they should make an appointment with Barrett's SBS Psychology Faculty Adviser, Dr. Jessica Salerno (jessica.salerno@asu.edu).

Lab/Space	Faculty Contact	Website
Clinical and Legal Judgment Lab	Dr. Tess Neal	http://psych-law.lab.asu.edu/
DynamicoCog Lab	Dr. Nick Duran	http://dynamicog.org
Emotion, Culture, and Psychophysiology Lab	Dr. Nicole Roberts	http://www.asuemotionlab.com
Health Behavior Research Lab	Dr. Elias Robles-Sotelo	http://healthbehaviorlab.com
Identity and Intergroup Relations Lab	Dr. Deborah Hall	http://www.dhallpsych.com
Laboratory for Social Psychology & Law	Dr. Jessica Salerno	http://jessicasalerno.wix.com/socialpsychandlaw
Law and Cognition Lab	Dr. Nick Schweitzer	http://lsprg.asu.edu
Social Relationships and Health Lab	Dr. Kristin Mickelson	https://sites.google.com/site/kmickelsonsrhlab/
Stress, Coping and Adaptation Lab	Dr. Paul Miller	n/a
BioSocial Psychology Lab	Dr. Mary Burleson	http://www.asubiosocialpsychlab.com/

Health Psychology Lab	Dr. Perla Vargas	n/a
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Cognitive Neuroscience Lab	Dr. Jose Nanez	n/a
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Important Information Regarding Thesis Projects:

- Barrett Psychology Majors sign up for 3 credits of 492 and 3 credits of 493.
- Prior to enrolling in HON 492 or 493, all students must complete a thesis/creative project information session. Students may complete this requirement by completing *one* of the following:
 - One of the Thesis Workshop Sessions periodically offered by Barrett
 - The on-line workshop offered through Barrett via ASU Blackboard.
- All Barrett students must review the following information about the Barrett Honors Thesis, which includes information about the prep workshops and classes, important deadlines and dates, and “Getting Started” guides:
<http://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/thesis-and-creative-project/>

Other Research & Internship Opportunities

Barrett students can also take advantage of other research and internship opportunities in Psychology. Barrett students can participate in Supervised Research by working with a faculty member in their laboratory (PSY 399, PSY 499) that is not related to an honors course, enrichment contract, or thesis. For information regarding internship opportunities visit: <http://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/internships/>. For information regarding the Undergraduate Internship Program offered by SBS, email the Director of the program, Dr. Paul Miller (icpam@asu.edu). In this program, psychology majors receive practical work experiences in mental health, social service, and educational agencies across the metro-Phoenix area.