

Our graduates have been successful at finding interesting and rewarding careers in a range of fields in both the public and private sectors.

Understand the interaction between the brain and behaviour.

Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour

Our Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour (PNB) department is a leader in the field. Our innovative programs focus on interdisciplinary research to raise the next generation of behavioural and psychological scientists.

McMaster has pioneered the award-winning MacIntroPsych blended learning model of teaching. It combines interactive online web modules for self-paced learning with class lectures and problem-based learning tutorials.

As a science and as a practice, these programs give students a strong foundation to work in applied or scientific psychology.

In the lab, experimental psychologists conduct research to understand why people think, feel, and behave the way do.

In the field, counsellors, practitioners, and psychologists help individuals deal with issues related to human behaviour and mental health.

For Ontario high school students interested in pursuing PNB Honours B.A., SBI4U and MHF4U or MCV4U are strongly recommended.

For students interested in pursuing the Psychology B.A., please refer to the Undergraduate Calendar.

Degree options

To apply to all Honours PNB programs, students must successfully complete a Level I program. Enrolment in PNB Honours programs are limited and meeting published minimum requirements **does not** guarantee admission:

Honours PNB B.A.	Grade Point Average of at least 5.0 (C); a grade of at least 7.0 (B-) in PSYCH 1XX3 (completion of PSYCH 1X03 or 1F03 is recommended in Level I and required by the end of Level II); credit in BIOLOGY 1A03, 1M03, 1P03, or Grade 12 Bio U; and credit in MATH 1LS3 or MATH 1A03.
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Honours PNB B.A. Mental Health Specialization	Grade Point Average of at least 5.0 (C); a grade of at least 7.0 (B-) in PSYCH 1XX3 (completion of PSYCH 1X03 or 1F03 is recommended in Level I and required by the end of Level II); credit in BIOLOGY 1A03, 1M03, 1P03, or Grade 12 Bio U; and credit in MATH 1LS3 or MATH 1A03.
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Honours B.A. PNB Music Cognition Specialization	Grade Point Average of at least 5.0 (C); a grade of at least 7.0 (B-) in PSYCH 1XX3 (completion of PSYCH 1X03 or 1F03 is recommended in Level I and required by the end of Level II); credit in BIOLOGY 1A03, 1M03, 1P03, or Grade 12 Bio U; and credit in MATH 1LS3 or MATH 1A03 and credit from MUSIC 1A03 or 1AA3.
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Combined Honours B.A. and another subject	Grade Point Average of at least 5.0 (C); a grade of at least 7.0 (B-) in PSYCH 1XX3 (completion of PSYCH 1X03 or 1F03 is recommended in Level I and required by the end of Level II); credit in BIOLOGY 1A03, 1M03, 1P03, or Grade 12 Bio U; and credit in MATH 1LS3 or MATH 1A03. Satisfaction of admission requirements for the Honours program in the other B.A. subject.
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Minors	Psychology
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Level I courses

Psychology 1X03

Introduction to Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour

An introduction to the scientific methods used to study psychology and interpersonal behaviour. Topics explored include: research design, social psychology, and how theories help us understand, predict or change human behaviour.

Psychology 1XX3

Foundations of Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour

Examine the biology behind psychology, neuroscience and behaviour. Topics include: sensory systems and behaviours critical to survival.

PSYCH 1XX3 requires either Grade 12 Biology U or BIOLOGY 1P03 as a prerequisite.

Psychology 1F03

Survey of Psychology

(Online course, accepted as equivalent to PSYCH 1X03) Discover scientific methods, research questions and the major areas of psychology.

Psychology 1FF3

Survey of Biological Basis of Psychology

(Online course, accepted as equivalent to Psych 1XX3) Explore the important themes to investigate psychology, neuroscience & behaviour. Topics include: sensory systems and behaviours critical to survival.

PSYCH 1FF3 requires either Grade 12 Biology U or BIOLOGY 1P03 as a prerequisite.

Areas of Study

- Animal Behaviour
- Developmental Psychology
- Mental Health
- Evolution and Social Behaviour
- Systems and Behavioural Neuroscience
- Cognition and Perception
- Applied Cognition in Education
- Music Cognition

Honours PNB Specializations

Honours PNB specialization programs combine McMaster's core strengths in science and psychology, with courses in music cognition and mental health.

Music Cognition Specialization

The Honours PNB (Music Cognition Specialization) brings together science and the arts in a unique and innovative way. Students will focus on how:

- auditory and motor systems interact to produce music
- people interpret and recognize music
- music creates emotional responses
- musical experiences and training affect brain development
- musical training and exposure affects brain function, language and social abilities

Mental Health Specialization

The Honours PNB (Mental Health Specialization) prepares students to enter professions and programs focused on mental health such as Clinical Psychology. This unique program also gives students hands-on experience in a lab, paired with knowledge on the history of mental health.

Careers & Experiential Education

Through Careers & Experiential Education programs, you can participate in paid internships, a tuition-free career planning course, academic placements and job shadowing.

Skills development

- Analysis, interpretation, and critical evaluation of theory and data
- Strong communications skills developed through discussions, research papers and presentations
- Technical research skills through formal training in research methods and analysis
- Teamwork developed through group projects
- Decision and problem solving skills gained through applied course material

Potential careers

- Clinical Psychology
- Forensics
- Environmental and Biomedical Research
- Speech and Hearing Pathology
- Neuroscience

A psychology degree also provides the foundation for post-graduate studies in psychology, medicine, law, MBA programs and education.

MEET A FACULTY MEMBER

"How are memories stored? Is consciousness a uniquely human trait? We explore questions which have challenged physiologists and philosophers for thousands of years. At McMaster, we pair a modern scientific approach with cutting-edge technology like the LIVELAB, a research and performance centre examining the complex questions of human interaction related to music, hearing, vision, movement and learning." – **Joe Kim**



MEET A FELLOW STUDENT

"I love the interdisciplinary aspect of the PNB program, I get to learn a little bit about everything. I always knew I had a passion for psychology, but this program has allowed me to do and learn things I never imagined! From the moment I stepped on campus, I instantly felt welcomed and this place quickly felt like home."

Esther Arase, Honours Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour

