

The Bachelor of Arts in Behavioral Science is designed to provide students with a broad understanding of the discipline of behavioral science, which aims to describe, understand, and predict the behavior of living organisms. Behavioral science uses an integrative approach to the study of factors influencing behavior; including early childhood development and processes operating in older ages, sensory experience and complex cognition, normal development and pathological conditions, and the interaction of genetics with social and cultural environments. Students develop a knowledge repertoire of findings in behavioral science and its many subfields, including psychology, as well as an understanding of the systematic observational methodologies used in scientific inquiry. Students also study the application of psychology to the realms of public health, organizational settings, and the working world. This program fosters practical knowledge with enduring career applicability, including analytical, logical, and critical thinking skills.

Refer to the university catalog for our **[BA in Behavioral Science program with optional minor courses](#)** in Accounting, Business, General Studies, Human Resource Management, or Information Technology.

For gainful employment disclosures about this program, visit <http://west.edu/content/dam/westedu/gainful-employment/BEH/30.1701-Gedt.html>

## Program Learning Outcomes

1. Explain the theories and empirical studies of information processing, language, intelligence, motivation, emotion, learning, and memory.
2. Discriminate between normal and abnormal development and behavior including psychopathology.
3. Explain the theories and research in social cognition and personality, including attraction, the self, individual differences, and group behavior.
4. Evaluate the different approaches to treatment, including counseling and psychopharmacology, and the supportive systems that administer these treatments.
5. Apply the scientific method to theoretical inquiry and real-world problems while identifying the different research methodologies used in each theoretical

approach to human cognition and behavior and drawing sound inferences from data with ethical research standards.

6. Explain the application of behavioral science to the workplace, including group dynamics, organizational behavior, conflict, and diversity.

## Required Course of Study

### General Education Core Requirements - 51 credits

*Elective Courses - 21 credits*

*Major Requirements - 45 credits*

*Capstone - 3 credits*

*Credits Required for Degree: 120*

## Major Course Descriptions

*Major Requirements – 45 credits*

### BEH 311 Social Psychology

This course surveys theories and methods in social psychology. Students determine the impact of social influences on self-concept and behavior. Subjects include interpersonal attraction, social perception, discrimination, and aggression.

### BEH 312 Personality Theories

This course explores the theories that describe and define personality. Topics include social learning theories, psychodynamic theories, humanistic theories, behaviorist models, and the biological influences on personality.

### BEH 317 Biological Basis of Behavior

This course introduces methods, findings, and theories of the biological basis of behavior. Students discover the basic structures and functions of the nervous and endocrine systems, as well as their contributions to cognition, emotion, and behavior.

### BEH 319 Industrial Organizational Psychology

This course surveys the application of psychological principles and methods to the workplace. The students will study the major fields of I/O psychology and the history of I/O psychology. Topics include personnel selection and evaluation, training, motivation, employee satisfaction, communications, leadership,



group dynamics and organizational development. Students will learn about the improvement of workplace effectiveness—through research, assessment, and interventions—to enhance office climate, group and individual performance, and overall organizational goals.

### **BEH 331 Human Relationships and Interpersonal Communication**

This course analyzes communication within interpersonal relationships. Students learn distinctions between effective and ineffective communication, as well as the differences between functional and dysfunctional relationships. Subjects include interpersonal relationship theories, conflict management, verbal and non-verbal communication, listening skills, and cross-cultural exchanges.

### **BEH 405 Learning and Cognition**

In this course students will examine a variety of theoretical perspectives on learning, cognition, and cognitive development. Topics include the scientific investigation of internal processes, such as object perception, attention, memory, problem solving, and decision making. Students will critically evaluate current cognitive theories and hypotheses and identify a range of tools that may be useful in understanding learning and thinking in both personal and professional settings.

### **BEH 411 Lifespan Development**

This course introduces human development from conception to death. Students will examine psychosocial, cognitive, and physical changes throughout the lifespan.

### **BEH 430 Theories of Counseling\***

This course explores various theoretical approaches to counseling. Students examine case studies to discover various therapeutic techniques and ethical issues that guide counselors. Topics include fundamental counseling theories, person-centered approaches, and trends in psychological counseling.

\*Prerequisite: BEH 440

### **BEH 440 Abnormal Psychology\***

This course examines major categories of psychological disorders. Students study stress and other causes of mental health problems, including personality, mood, anxiety, and psychotic disorders.

\*Prerequisite: BEH 317

### **BEH 450 Behavioral Healthcare Systems**

This course surveys historical and current contexts of community-based behavioral health systems. Topics include: mental health assessment, behavioral medicine and applied health psychology, addictions, professional counseling and social work, ethics, case management, and diverse patient populations. Students will explore the application of these topics within federal, state, and county organizations, regulatory policies and system practices, advocacy issues, and general managed care systems issues.

### **COM 423 Group Dynamics: Teambuilding, Negotiation, and Conflict Management**

This course explores effective versus ineffective communication in groups and how leaders emerge. Students participate in role-playing activities in order to enhance problem solving skills and encourage trust within team development. Themes include the principles of interpersonal and group dynamics, experiential learning, and conflict resolution.

### **CRB 320 Criminology**

This course examines the psychological and societal causes of criminal behavior. Students assess society's influence and reaction to crime while learning criminological methods of inquiry. Subjects include theories of criminality and the economic, social, and psychological impacts of crime.

### **MGT 240 Organization Theory and Behavior**

This course introduces the principles, philosophies, and theories of management and organizational behavior as used in both public and private organizations. Students explore these ideas through realistic case studies, group exercises, and self-assessment. Themes include organization theory, individual and group dynamics, conflict resolution, and decision making.

### **RES 321 Behavioral Research Design, Tests, and Measurement\***

This course concentrates on research methods and research design in behavioral science. Students explore systematic methodology for behavioral research to enable them to make better decisions when designing research projects, and to become more discerning consumers of research results.

\*Prerequisite: RES 311

### **SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology**

This course introduces the principles of collective human behavior and the origins, functions, and dynamics of social institutions. Students explore sociological theories, identify a variety of social research techniques, and describe the power of media to transform social thinking. Themes include culture, group behavior, social stratification, and contemporary issues in social change.

## **Capstone Course Descriptions**

*Capstone – 3 credits*

### **BEH 485 Behavioral Science Capstone\***

This course combines the knowledge and skills learned in the General Education and Common Body of Knowledge courses with the functional and theoretical understanding acquired in the Behavioral Science major courses. Students demonstrate mastery of university and program competencies, as well as the ability to succeed in individual, collaborative, and leadership roles. Through project-based assignments, students are required to apply the frameworks and concepts learned throughout the Bachelor of Arts in Behavioral Science program to real-world problems. Mastering these skills requires an integrated, holistic perspective. Skills demonstrated in the capstone project may include management, communication, problem solving, technology use, stress, time, and conflict management, career planning, and ethical practices.

\*Prerequisite: 114 credits