### DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY



# Gain insight

Do you wonder why people behave the way they do? Are you curious about how to affect that behavior? The Assumption psychology program gives you the opportunity to explore these questions and more.

In the classroom and the research laboratory, you are introduced to the broad spectrum of psychology and its practical applications. In addition, Assumption provides you with a strong liberal arts foundation that allows you to apply your psychology degree to a range of rewarding careers or move on to graduate school.

## Mindful exploration

Assumption's psychology program will challenge you to explore the science of human thought and behavior. Through an exciting mixture of course work, internships, and research, you receive a solid grounding in the principles of psychology, while sharpening your analysis, communication and problem-solving skills.

Here, you have the opportunity to perform cutting-edge research alongside professors in our state-of-the-art facilities for mental health, developmental, learning and memory, and social, cognitive and affective research. They specialize in a variety of areas, providing students with an array of study options. Avid educators and mentors, our faculty members foster a culture of collaboration among fellow professors and students alike.

Here, you have the opportunity to perform cutting-edge research alongside professors in our state-of-the-art facilities for mental health, developmental, learning and memory, and social, cognitive and affective research. You can also choose to gain hands-on experience doing internships at local institutions, like the prestigious University of Massachusetts Medical School – located just minutes from campus. "I credit the success I had at my internship to Assumption. Not only are the professors extraordinary, but the knowledge I gained surpassed my expectations. Because of the small classroom setting and faculty-to-student ratio, students truly get to know their professors and develop relationships that lead to opportunities for mentorship, research, collaboration, and experiences that aren't possible at other schools. Assumption has thoroughly prepared me for my graduate work."

Lindsay Gomes '18, Psychology, Research Assistant in the Psychology Department at Assumption College, Post-Grad Plans: Pursuing a PhD in Developmental Psychology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

#### DID YOU KNOW?

Assumption and the University of Massachusetts Medical School, located only four miles from the College, have formed a research partnership through which Assumption psychology students have the opportunity to work alongside top researchers on cuttingedge projects, in both paid and unpaid internships.

ASSUMPTION COLLEGE

### Course of study

#### **PSYCHOLOGY**

Major or Minor. Assumption psychology majors are known for their strong communication skills, understanding of human behavior, problem-solving skills, and ability to collect, organize, analyze, and interpret data and information. You will take foundation courses that address general concepts and theoretical perspectives and electives that allow you to delve more deeply into a specific area of interest: Child Development, Social Psychology, Abnormal Psychology, Interpersonal Communication, Motivation and Emotion, and Cognitive and Brain Science.

Major in Psychology with Concentration in the Neuroscience of Human Behavior. This major is ideal for students who wish to focus on the psychological aspects of brain function. Students in this concentration are grounded in some foundations of biological and psychological science and then apply these tools to the specialized study of social, cognitive, and affective neuroscience. Students in this concentration will be prepared to work in research laboratories and to explore career avenues in applied neuroscience.

**Minor in Applied Behavior Analysis.** The Minor in ABA is an interdisciplinary program that prepares students to work in a variety of settings, especially agencies that serve children and adults with autism and developmental disabilities. Students learn evidence-based procedures for teaching communication, social, vocational, and pre-academic skills to clients and have the option of completing an ABA-based internship. The minor meets the education requirements to sit for the Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst exam.

#### MASTER OF ARTS IN CLINICAL COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY

Assumption College's Master of Arts in Clinical Counseling Psychology is a nationally renowned program that specializes in cognitive behavior therapy (CBT). The program integrates CBT throughout the curriculum to help students build a broad knowledge base and specific expertise. The faculty are highly skilled psychologists who are committed to fostering students' development as mental health professionals. The program prepares graduates to meet the educational requirements for licensure as a mental health counselor in Massachusetts and most other states.

#### MASTER OF ARTS IN APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS

The MA in ABA program teaches students how to use the science of learning and behavior to make meaningful improvements in people's lives. The interdisciplinary curriculum prepares students to work in a variety of settings (public and private schools, human service agencies, residential treatment programs, and others). Graduates meet the education and fieldwork requirements to sit for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst exam and apply for licensure as an applied behavior analyst in Massachusetts.

#### SAMPLE INTERNSHIP SITES

Behavioral Concepts, Inc. Central Massachusetts Collaborative Elder Services of Worcester Massachusetts Department of Social Services University of Massachusetts Medical School Worcester Juvenile Court Worcester Public Schools

## Learn by doing

In order to gain valuable career experience and increase the competitiveness of your applications to graduate programs, psychology majors are strongly encouraged to participate in an internship.

As part of your internship, you also complete a reflective journal, readings in the field, and a comprehensive research paper. Your Assumption professors will serve as both sponsors and mentors during the entire experience. Through your internship, not only will you acquire the knowledge, confidence, and professionalism that will give you a leg up in today's competitive job market, but you'll also make important contacts that may lead to employment.

You will develop presentation skills at the Semi-Annual Psychology Department Poster Session where majors present their capstone research projects.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

Assumption undergraduates perform research projects with faculty in advanced psychology laboratory facilities. The scope of these projects differ according to academic interest, such as emotional reactivity, autism, or co-parenting. Students have published some of these projects in academic journals and/or presented at academic conferences.

### WHAT'S NEXT?

Many of our graduates go on to complete their master's degree or doctorate in psychology, sociology, rehabilitative services, and law at leading institutions.

Psychology majors enter directly into careers in such fields as education, human resources, marketing, communications, and counseling. Here's a sampling of where Assumption alumni are sharing their insights:

#### SAMPLE RECENT EMPLOYERS

AMICA Insurance BayPath Elder Services Disney Fidelity Investments Justice Resource Institute May Institute The New England Center for Children Peace Corps Saint Francis Care and Behavioral Health Target Walgreens

#### SAMPLE RECENT GRADUATE SCHOOLS

Assumption College **Boston College** Columbia University Fairfield University Loyola University **MCPHS** Northeastern University Penn State Ponce Health Sciences University Smith College **Tufts University** UCONN University of Massachusetts - Boston University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill University of Richmond William James College