

# Clinical and Social Sciences in Psychology

► The University of Rochester's Department of Clinical and Social Sciences in Psychology is highly regarded for its strength in research, success in grant funding, and the broad reach of its academic program. Students at all levels engage in a rigorous academic experience exploring human motivation, developmental psychopathology, and interpersonal relationships. Early on, they are taught to apply the scientific study of the mind and behavior to better understand and improve the health and well-being of others.

The undergraduate major in psychology is one of the University's most popular programs. Many students build clusters around the program or choose it as a double major. In addition to being prepared for graduate training and careers in psychology, students are also poised for careers in research, education, medicine and health care, business and administration, and personnel- and labor-related fields.

The department's graduate programs in clinical psychology,



social-personality psychology, and developmental psychology are highly competitive and produce many highly qualified applicants. Even though these programs are among the smallest in the country, they are also among the most respected and regularly receive top National Research Council rankings.

## Points of Pride Revolutionary Theory

In the 1980s, faculty members Edward Deci, the Helen F. and Fred

H. Gowen Professor in the Social Sciences, and Richard Ryan revolutionized the study of human motivation with their self-determination theory of human behavior, which is now used worldwide to inform many fields, including health, wellness, business, and education. The theory focuses around the value and importance of intrinsic motivation and identifies three needs—autonomy, competence, and relatedness—that, if met, allow for our full human function and growth.



*“The faculty here are very open to involving undergraduates in their research. And, for me, the proximity to the medical school and opportunities to pursue interdisciplinary study have been invaluable.”*

**John Wilson '15**  
dual major in molecular genetics and psychology



### **Translational Research**

Accomplished faculty lead students in research that translates into knowledge that is critical to our health and wellness. Researchers here explore many areas, including stress, addiction, depression, parenting, the autism spectrum disorder, and education reform.

### **Interdisciplinary Approach**

The interlocking interests among faculty and students create a number of opportunities to collaborate at the department level. In addition, the department's close affiliation with the Mt. Hope Family Center and areas within the University of Rochester Medical Center, such as nursing, psychiatry, and pediatrics, provides even more opportunities to develop students into well-rounded research scientists, clinicians, and academicians.

### **Experiential Learning**

Psychology students are involved in hands-on learning at many levels, including internships in clinical and community settings, teaching opportunities, conducting independent research, and by participating on faculty-led research teams.

### **Community Outreach**

As part of the department, the Mt. Hope Family Center is a unique resource located just off campus, near downtown Rochester. It is a place where psychology faculty and students make a difference in the lives of many local residents by providing the resources parents and children need to build strong and healthy family and peer relationships. The center offers treatment, prevention, research, and training programs focused on human development, child maltreatment, and mental disorders in children and families. The center also provides psychology students opportunities to integrate their academic experience with hands-on learning opportunities.

### **How You Can Help**

Gifts to the department help build healthier lives at the individual, group, organizational, cultural, and societal levels. Please consider these funding opportunities.

### **Students**

Supporting students is one of the highest priorities at Rochester. Your support can help attract the most qualified scholars by funding graduate-level and postdoctoral

fellowships. Or contribute toward "top-off grants," as these provide funds that supplement a stipend and help attract the most qualified candidates. At the undergraduate level, funds are needed to support scholarships and student participation in research, conferences, and internships.

### **Faculty**

Endowed professorships are one of the most prestigious faculty honors and help attract and retain faculty members of exceptional talent. Creating an endowed professorship gives donors the satisfaction of knowing their names will forever be linked to excellence in teaching and research. It also ensures that our students will continue to be taught by world-class faculty for generations to come.

### **Research**

You can play an important role in increasing our contributions to the field of psychology by providing funds for departmental research. Grants of all sizes can help researchers gather evidence to support their work, which can lead to discoveries that make a difference in the lives of many.

Learn, Discover, Heal, Create—And Make the World Ever Better  
[psych.rochester.edu](http://psych.rochester.edu)



For more information on giving opportunities, please contact  
**Donna Salmon**  
Regional Director of Development  
(585) 275-9838, [dsalmon@alumni.rochester.edu](mailto:dsalmon@alumni.rochester.edu)