NEUROPSYCHOLOGY MINOR

What is Neuropsychology?

Clinical neuropsychologists are the practitioners of brain science. They administer neuropsychological assessments to determine the extent and prognosis of individuals with brain dysfunctions. In clinical settings, they work with other healthcare practitioners diagnosing and planning rehabilitation treatments for those with brain damage, dysfunction, and disease. As consultants to schools, clinical neuropsychologists advise staff and parents on ways to teach, mentor and nurture those with a range of developmental and neurological disorders.

Cognitive neuropsychologists conduct the empirical studies on the brain that clinical neuropsychologists and other healthcare providers use to treat those suffering with brain disorders. Their research, which focuses on abnormal brain-behavior disorders, complements the work of cognitive psychologists who study normal brain functioning. They work in research laboratories for the government, universities, or for private organizations.

Typical responsibilities of neuropsychologists include (but are not limited to): assessing and assisting people recovering from strokes, administering brain scans and other neurocognitive tests, consulting with pharmaceutical companies that develop drugs affecting the central nervous system, providing expert testimony during court trials.

Neuropsychologists work in the following settings: 1) Research laboratories, colleges, and universities, 2) Hospitals, medical clinics, and mental health facilities, 3) Private clinics, consulting firms, and research offices at pharmaceutical companies.

The first step in becoming a professional in the field of neuropsychology is to earn a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. Most universities administering neuropsychology graduate degree programs prefer to admit applicants with undergraduate degrees in pre-med, psychology, or biology. Recommended and/or required courses include clinical psychology, psychological methods, anatomy, physiology, neurobiology and other advanced science courses.

Neuropsychologists typically hold doctorate degrees in neuropsychology or clinical neuropsychology, but many currently practicing hold master's degrees.

Forecast for Neuropsychology Professionals

The U.S. Department of Labor predicts that jobs in the field of psychology will continue to grow at a rate that is average for all occupations. These new jobs, however, aren't reserved for psychologists with doctoral degrees; many may go to people with master's degrees in psychology. Several psychology subfields, particularly industrial-organizational psychology, geropsychology and neuropsychology, are poised for major growth.

The overall job outlook for Neuropsychologist or Clinical Neuropsychologist careers has been positive since 2004. Vacancies for this career have increased by 64.97 percent nationwide in that time, with an average growth of 10.83 percent per year. Demand for Neuropsychologists and Clinical Neuropsychologists is expected to go up, with an expected 7,610 new jobs filled by 2018.   *Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics 2014-2015, recruiter.com, apa.org*

Curriculum

In addition to the four foundation courses (PSY 101, 102, 201, 202) and fulfillment of the Core Area requirement, students will be expected to complete the following courses:

1 .Biology 114 and 114/L - Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology and Lab (Field 6)
2. Psychology 410 – Fundamentals of Human Neuropsychology

Four courses chosen from the following including at least ONE from each list.

A.	B.
PSY 391 Biopsychology of Stress	PSY 324 Learning and Cognition
PSY 397 Neurobiology of Mental Disorders	PSY 326 Psychology of Memory
PSY 398 Neurobiology of Childhood Mental Disorders	PSY 431 Sensation and Perception

Strongly recommended: Practicum in hospital or clinical setting.

Contact Dr. Putnam or your advisor if you are interested in adding a Neuropsychology Minor!

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