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## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Department of Psychology helps students establish a strong scientific and research foundation in psychology. This curriculum not only makes students competitive for graduate programs, it also prepares them to be thoughtful, discerning problem-solvers. The program examines the most up-to-date psychological research and provides opportunities for direct involvement in ongoing research programs. Members of our faculty conduct research in diverse areas, including cognitive science; normal and abnormal psychology; health psychology; social interaction; life span development and aging; spatial orientation; neurological bases of sensation, perception, memory and emotion; and the effects of brain damage.

### What makes the program distinctive?

The psychology department at Brandeis offers the opportunity for students to engage in cutting-edge research on all aspects of behavior,

from neuroscience to social interaction. Students also pursue applied internships in business, public health and clinical psychology.

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## FAST FACTS

**Current number of majors and minors:** 250

**Number of faculty:** 16

**Can you minor in this program?** No

**Emphasis within the major:** laboratory research

**Popular second majors:** business, neuroscience, health: science, society and policy

**Website:** [brandeis.edu/departments/psych](http://brandeis.edu/departments/psych)

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## ACADEMICS AND RESEARCH

### Independent research

Students are encouraged to develop independent, self-generated research projects. For example, Jenny C. '15 presented a study using electroencephalography to investigate the differences in the formation of impressions of other people at the 2014 Social and Affective Neuroscience Society conference in Denver. Jung P. '14 presented his results about false recognition of trait inferences in aging at a national psychology conference.

### Community-engaged learning

In the yearlong clinical practicum course, students volunteer in community programs such as hospitals, mental health centers and halfway homes. This practical experience helps to guide their career choices and provides an opportunity for them to contribute to the community.

### Faculty research

Examples of some ongoing research in Brandeis' psychology laboratories include Paul DiZio's research on the basic neural mechanisms of human motor control and spatial orientation, Robert Sekuler's studies in visual perception and visual memory, and Margie Lachman's research on optimizing cognitive functioning and health in midlife and old age.

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## BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

### The Psychology Club

The Psychology Club is an active student-run group that organizes film screenings, guest speakers and discussions relating to psychology. The club also hosts informational evenings on topics such as career planning and application to graduate programs.

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## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

### Distinguished faculty

Professor Art Wingfield won the 2010 Baltes Distinguished Research Achievement Award from the American Psychological Association for his contributions to understanding adult development and aging. Professor Angela Gutches received a 2010-11 Fulbright award to study the effects of age and culture on memory and social cognition in Turkey. Professor Margie Lachman received a 2015 Distinguished Career Contribution to Gerontology award.

Professor Ray Knight was recognized with the Society for Research in Psychopathology's 2013 Mentor Award for exceptional research and dedication to mentoring students.

### Published authors

Many undergraduate psychology majors have co-authored papers published in national and international journals. Recent papers have included "Older and Younger Adults' First Impressions from Faces: Similar in Agreement But Different in Positivity" in *Psychology and Aging*, "Cultural Influences on Memory" in *Progress in Brain Research* and "Memory of Incidental Learning for Visual Frozen Noise Sequences" in *Vision Research*.

### Recognized senior theses

Diana W. '13 won the Massachusetts Gerontological Society's best poster award for her thesis work on stress and socioeconomic status. Arielle K. '16 won a 2015 national Goldwater Foundation Scholarship for her thesis on memory and learning of audiovisual sequences. Jenna R. '15 was recognized with a Psi Chi award for an outstanding student poster about her thesis on differentiating mixed aged sexual offenders from child molesters and rapists at the 2014 Eastern Psychological Association meeting in Philadelphia.

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## AFTER BRANDEIS

### Diverse career fields

Our bachelor's degree graduates have pursued a wide range of fields, including psychiatry; elementary, secondary and special education; clinical and counseling psychology; clinical research and biostatistical analyses; neuroscience research; advertising, finance, accounting and investment banking; law enforcement; human resources; corporate management; health care; public health policy research and consulting; and internal medicine and surgery.

### Distinguished graduates

Many undergraduate psychology majors have gone on to have distinguished careers. Elliot Aronson '54, a pioneer in the field of social psychology, is a prominent example. He is the only person ever to have received all three of the American Psychological Association's major awards: one each for writing, teaching and research.

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*"I am glad that I had the chance to conduct research in a lab setting. I was able to be as involved as I wanted to be, and I appreciated the increased responsibility."*

*A comment from the 2013 senior survey*

