Frequently asked questions about the Psychology Department

Where is the psychology department?

The faculty offices, classrooms, and research laboratories of the psychology department are located in the Psychology Building. The main office is in Psychology 100 and the peer advising office is in Psychology 206.

What does impacted mean?

When the student demand for a major is greater than the resources of the department, the department may declare itself impacted. Impacted departments then develop criteria to be used in selecting majors. The psychology department screens on the basis of units completed, GPA, and satisfactory completion of lower-division courses (100, 210 and 220). Impaction has resulted in better preparation of students for advanced courses in the major and better accessibility to upper-division courses for majors.

Can you apply to the major while currently enrolled in 100, 210 or 220?

No! In order for the department to determine whether you have received a C or better in the course, you must complete the course. Many students who have been delayed in taking 210 or 220, for whatever reason, are concerned that they will not be able to file for graduation at the appropriate time. It is not possible to file for graduation until after you are admitted to the major. Enrollment Services will allow late filing for graduation with the payment of a late fee. Late filing is allowed for a reasonable period after the stated deadline. However, it is not possible to file in January for graduation the prior December.

What is the deadline for applications to the major?

While applications are accepted by the peer advisors on a year-round basis (whenever the office is open), to make sure that your application will be processed in time for registration through MyCSULB for the upcoming semester, your completed application must be submitted to the peer advisors by September 24th for MyCSULB registration for Spring, and by February 18th for MyCSULB registration for the following Fall.

Does the psychology department have internships? Assist with volunteer work?

Internships and volunteer work are encouraged for all students. There are binders in the Peer Advising office describing volunteer experiences in LA and Orange counties. Students can enroll in Psy 405 or 406A,B that provide fieldwork experience. Students can also enroll in an internship course through the Career Development Center. See the description sheet available in the peer advising office and online for fieldwork. Practical experience is also offered as a component of certain classes designated as Service Learning courses.

Does the psychology department have a job placement service?

Some information about job openings is posted in the main psychology office and in the peer advising office. The best information and most complete job placement service can be found in the Career Development Center in Brotman Hall 250.

How do I become a peer advisor? When can one apply to be a peer advisor?

Peer advising involves a year-long commitment. Applications to be a peer advisor are accepted once each semester during the month before registration. Listen for class announcements and watch for signs posted around the psychology building.
How do I find out about faculty specialties? Getting involved in research in the department?

The Psychology Department Handbook describes each faculty member—research interests and most frequently taught courses. The Handbook is available in the peer advising office for $2.00 (the cost of printing). It is also available on the Psychology Department Webpage. There is a video in peer advising about the members of the department. Also available in peer advising is a binder describing how to get involved in departmental research and what opportunities are available. It is sometimes difficult to keep this binder up to date because, within the last two to three years, there have been many changes in the composition of the faculty—retirements and newly hired professors.

Where can students find study-skills workshops or tutoring?

There are many resources on campus through the Learning Assistance Center, writing and math help centers and programs such as Learning Alliance. If you find you are having difficulty in a particular course, it is a good idea to go to the professor's office hours early in the semester and ask for suggestions.

How much time is involved in belonging to the student organizations?

The organizations are department supported, but student-organized. That means that some groups will be very active in a given year; others inactive. How much time is involved depends on the interested students. Some students attend activities only occasionally. Others help organize activities or serve as officers. In the spring of each year the student organizations often cooperate to sponsor Psych Day. The students who are involved in planning and organizing Psych Day will spend a lot of time planning and putting on Psych Day.

How does the department rank?

US News and World Report and other publications often rank universities as a whole, but normally do not rank undergraduate programs. There are rankings of individual doctoral programs in specialty areas, again distributed by various publications, as well as the National Research Council. Since the CSULB psychology department does not have a doctoral program, it is not generally ranked. One interesting source of data about the status of the CSULB psychology department comes from a finding of the NRC that the psychology department ranked second nationwide (among schools of its type) in the number of students going on to complete a Ph.D. Also, in 2002 CSULB ranked seventh in the nation in the number of Psychology BA's awarded to minority students.

Every five years each department on the campus must complete a self-study in which the department prioritizes its goals, surveys students and alums, and reviews its accomplishments. When the draft is completed, an outside evaluator is also asked to visit the campus and provide input to the university. The CSULB psychology department recently underwent this process.

Why are there so few Friday or early morning classes in psychology?

Each semester students wonder why there are few classes in their preferred time slot. Often the question is asked about evening classes. In setting the schedule, the department considers many factors, not the least of which is the likelihood of students signing up for classes at certain times. Generally early morning classes are the least popular and the same can be said of Friday classes. University room scheduling policy also determines when many classes can be offered as there is currently a shortage of rooms on campus.

Who is the chair of the psychology department?

Dr. Ken Green is the chair of the psychology department and Dr. Chiappe is the assistant chair.