

New Psychology Programme at UPEI

The UPEI Senate has approved a proposal which now allows students to earn a Bachelor of Science with a Major in Psychology. This option is likely to be of greatest appeal to those students with special interests in experimental psychology and those with special interests in the physical sciences. The opportunities for students to obtain a Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Psychology, or a Bachelor of Education with a Major in Psychology, remain unchanged.

Psychology Requirements

The psychology course requirements for the B.A., B.Sc. and B.Ed are the same: fourteen (14) semester courses (42 semester hours) of which four (4) must be Psychology 101, Psychology 102, Psychology 271 (Statistics), and Psychology 272 (Introduction to Psychological Research). (Note that students who have already received credit for an equivalent statistics course, such as one offered by Mathematics or by Sociology, may not take and receive credit for Psychology 271; in such cases, students will be exempted from the requirement for psychology's statistics course, but still must take a least 14 semester courses in Psychology.)

Becoming a Psychology Major

The process for becoming a psychology major remains the same and applies to students in all degree programmes. Students must apply to be accepted as Psychology majors. Applications are submitted to the Department by May 1 of the year of application, and can be made only after students have completed Psychology 101, 102, 271 (or equivalent) and 272, (usually at the end of the second year of full-time study).

The Department accepts as many students as it can accommodate, evaluating applications on the basis of past academic performance (especially in psychology courses), interest and motivation, and future plans. In recent years, all eligible applicants with psychology averages of 68% and higher have been accepted.

Faculty of Science Requirements for the B.Sc.

In addition to the psychology requirements, students seeking a B.Sc. are required to complete a minimum of twenty-four (24) semester hours of course work in the Faculty of Science. Credit in each of the following courses is required:

1. Biology 111-112 (now called Biology 110)
2. Mathematics 112; OR Mathematics 151 and 152
3. Either Chemistry 111 and 112; OR Physics 121 (or 111) and 122 (or 112)
4. Computer Science 111
5. Two laboratory courses at the 200-level or above in one of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, or Food and Nutrition. (Note that taking only one lab course in one of these subjects and one lab course in another does not meet the requirement.)

Honours in Psychology

Students interested in pursuing graduate study in psychology will be particularly interested in the Psychology Honours programme. Senate has just approved a Bachelor of Science with Honours in Psychology. The psychology course requirements for a B.Sc. with Honours in Psychology parallel the requirements for a B.A. with Honours in Psychology: eighteen (18) semester courses (54 semester hours) in psychology which must include Psychology 101, Psychology 102, Psychology 271 (Statistics), Psychology 272 (Introduction to Psychological Research), Psychology 501 (Honours Literature Review) and Psychology 510 (Honours Thesis). Students taking the B.Sc. with Honours in Psychology must also complete the Faculty of Science course requirements for a B.Sc. with a major in Psychology. Graduation with an Honours degree, either in Arts or in Science, requires a total of 44 semester courses (132 semester hours). Details about admission to the Honours programme are available in the University calendar.

Students who would like to talk about their options in Psychology studies are welcome to get in touch with the Department Chair, Prof. Philip Smith, at 566-0422.

Frontrunners Off and Running


by Coralie Gill

UPEI students are taking an active roll in promoting sciences and engineering in Prince Edward Island Schools. Frontrunners is a group of student volunteers who visit Island Schools judging science fairs, making presentations, and encouraging youth to consider further study and careers in science and engineering.

The UPEI branch of Frontrunners was founded in 1991 by Adrienne and Gaynor Watson. It originally consisted mainly of Canada Scholars but has expanded to include anyone with an interest in science, although most volunteers tend to be science, engineering, or education majors.

Steve Ellis, the UPEI Frontrunners coordinator is pleased with the past success Frontrunners has had in spreading its message, and is hopeful that the group will continue to educate students in the future. Unfortunately, federal funding is being withdrawn at the end of this fiscal year and there are no new Canada Scholarships to support the group. Due to this, Frontrunners has increased recruitment drives to support this worthwhile project. The group is hopeful that Frontrunners will continue to promote science, technologies and engineering for many years to come.

To become involved in Frontrunners contact Steve Ellis at sellis@upe.ca or mentors@upe.ca.



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