

UC San Diego

PSYCHOLOGY *News*

Volume 2, Issue 2

Winter Quarter 2015

INTRODUCING THE NEW MAJORS

The Psychology Department will be offering new and improved major programs, effective Fall 2015. To help students to achieve their goals, our majors are now designed to help students reach their career goals and to improve time to graduation. We have also added Areas of Specialization for the B.S. degrees, so that students' hard work within their chosen specialty is reflected on their diploma.

Students who have entered UC San Diego before Fall 2015 and will be graduating after Summer 2015 may choose to follow either the new or old major requirements. Students graduating prior to Fall 2015 must follow the old major requirements.

For more about our new majors, including Areas of Specialization, see page 3 and the Psychology Department [website](#).

WINTER ADVISING WORKSHOPS

The Psychology Advising Office is working hard to bring you information you can use. Every quarter during the 2014-15 school year we'll schedule workshops answering some of your biggest questions and preparing you for your future during and after your college years. Join us at one or all of our sessions, bring your relevant questions, and learn about exciting opportunities!

[Register online](#) for one or more of our workshops!

- **Introducing the New Psychology Majors**
Tuesday, January 20, 2:00-3:30 pm, Mandler 3545
Wednesday, February 18, 2:30-4:00 pm, Mandler 3545
- **Getting Involved in Research**
Tuesday, February 10, 2:30-3:30 pm, Mandler 3545
- **Academic Internships in Psychology**
Tuesday, January 27, 10:00-11:00 am, Mandler 3545
- **EAP First Steps for Psychology Students**
To Be Announced
- **Getting to Graduation**
Tuesday, February 24, 10:00-11:30am, Mandler 3545

PSI CHI: PSYCHOLOGY HONOR SOCIETY

Psi Chi (ΨΧ) is the International Honor Society in Psychology, founded in 1929 for the purposes of encouraging, stimulating, and maintaining excellence in scholarship, and advancing the science of psychology. With over 1,050 chapters, Psi Chi is one of the largest honor societies in the United States. Psi Chi has inducted over 500,000 members from chapters in the United States and Canada. Members include B.F. Skinner, Philip Zimbardo, Dr. Phil, and Hugh Hefner. Membership is an earned honor which is for life. It may be used for reference purposes such as for graduate school and job applications. Members have the opportunity to present research at scientific meetings, and to participate in competitions.

Psi Chi is a part of the Association of College Honor Societies and is an affiliate of the American Psychological Association (APA) and the Association for Psychological Science (APS).

Psi Chi meetings are Thursdays at 6:30 pm in McGill 1350. Visit the [UCSD Psi Chi website](#) for more details and keep your eyes peeled for a monthly Psi Chi newsletter too!



WINTER CLASSES

- PSYC 108: Intro. Cognitive Neuroscience** (Aron)
T/Th 2:00-3:20 pm CSB 002
Upper Division Standing required
- PSYC 137: Social Cognition** (Winkelman)
MWF 3:00-3:50 pm SOLIS 107
Upper Division Standing required
- PSYC 153: Psychology of Emotion** (Henniger)
T/Th 2:00-3:20 pm PCYNH 109
- PSYC 193: Visual Cognition Lab** (Vul)
M 5:00-7:50 pm MCGILL 1350
Upper Division Standing required
May satisfy BS Research requirement

Contact Psychology Advising through the [Virtual Advising Center](#) for enrollment authorization.

CONTACT US

Walk-in Advising:

Monday-Thursday 9-11am, 1-3pm
Mandler Hall, Room 1533

Virtual Advising:

<http://vac.ucsd.edu>
Please allow up to 2 business days
for response.

Telephone Advising:

(858) 534-3001

Please have your Student ID number ready and be prepared to ask specific questions!



Happy New Year from the Psychology Department!

UPDATES FROM CAREER SERVICES

The **Career Services Center** is undergoing some big changes, and the brand new advisor in charge of our department, **Analia Mendez**, even holds a degree in Psychology and she's very motivated to help our students achieve their goals. Learn more about **Analia** on the Career Services website. Analia has written an update for us about the exciting things going on in the Center.



We have a lot of exciting events coming up for Winter Quarter. We will start the quarter with a series of

workshops to help students prepare for the Winter Job Fair on Wednesday, January 14. In addition, we will be coordinating with the colleges to offer peer advising in college locations, starting very soon. Another exciting opportunity for students is the HDP 98 Career Development course, which will be held Tuesdays 12:30-1:50pm. The course format will be unique, because each week will include a career planning/job readiness workshop within the class meeting time, and that workshop will be open to all eligible participants. Also, please stay connected with us and our events through the Port Triton Calendar of Events, which will give students insight to all the exciting workshops, like an upcoming Mental Health Panel designed to showcase the differences between career paths. We are excited to see all students attend our events regardless of where they are in their career path!

In addition, please join us for the "Choosing a Major" workshop, part of the Career Discovery Quarter, Wednesday, January 21st at 10:00 am and Tuesday, January 27th at 2:00 pm. RSVP on **Port Triton**.

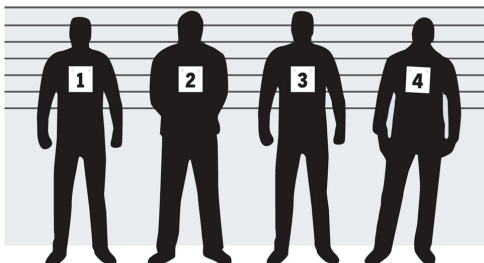
RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Challenging Beliefs About Eyewitness Testimony

Thirty years ago, when eyewitnesses were asked to identify suspects in a police lineup, research suggested that presenting the potential suspects one at a time (sequential line-up) led to the most accurate identification. However, even sequential lineups led to a large number of wrongful convictions. Dr. John Wixted realized that the initial studies pointing to the superiority of sequential lineups actually went against what he knew about memory.

Sequential lineups rely on eyewitnesses to make a yes or no decision about each potential suspect after seeing their picture. Dr. Wixted realized that this was leading to a large number of false positive identifications because witnesses were forced to make a decision, whether or not they felt confident in their identification.

To ensure the lowest rates of false identification and the highest rates of true identification, a simultaneous lineup - where all potential suspect photos are shown at once so that they can be compared by the witness - works best, with one major modification: if witnesses are given the instruction that they should only identify the suspect if they are confident, their rate of correct identifications went up and their rate of false positives went down significantly. Now that the research results, replicated several times, seem clear, the hope is that police departments around the country will begin using simultaneous lineups and include information about witness confidence in identifications to provide more reliable information to juries.



SONA: UPDATES AND REMINDERS

Participants in **SONA** have the opportunity to make an important contribution to the research community in our department and/or the UCSD campus at large. Students enrolled in various Psychology, Cognitive Science, and Linguistics courses have the opportunity to serve as experimental subjects.

As a participant your time is as valuable as the researcher's. You are making an important contribution to the research community in our department and the UCSD campus at large. All participants are expected to behave in a professional manner, show up on time and provide notice to researchers if you need to cancel your appointment. You can expect all researchers and PI's to respect your time, describe the research you are contributing to and award your credit within 24 hours.

VERY IMPORTANT: Once you have accumulated **TWO** unexcused no-shows during one quarter, you will be limited in the studies available to you through SONA. Your account may remain active, but no studies will appear to be available. If this happens to you, you will need to ask your instructor if you have any other research participation options at that point. Instructors are not required to accommodate your request once more than two unexcused no-shows have been accumulated.

For more information on SONA please check out the **SONA page** on UCSD's Psychology Department website.

GETTING TO THE CORE

New Core? Old Core? What Gives?

We have added some new Core classes to our offerings effective Fall 2015! We hope you will agree that this is a positive change. But it has the potential to be confusing! So here is the bottom line:

<i>Old Majors</i>	<i>New Majors</i>
Core classes: 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106 (Cannot use 100/163 or 108)	Core classes: 100, 101, 102, 104, 105, 106, 108 (Cannot use 103)

SO REALLY, WHAT IS THE DEAL WITH THE NEW MAJORS?

Here's the scoop. Our old requirements hadn't been updated since some of our faculty were students... Our new major requirements are more up-to-date with those of other top-notch Psychology program around the country. While some B.S. students require the advanced understanding of calculus covered in the Math 20 series for their Psychology research work and future careers, for many B.S. students the Math 10 series provides adequate background for the research and career endeavors they plan to pursue. And all students would benefit from taking a Research Methods class. Plus, there was a great advantage to students to have their Area of Specialization recognized on their degree.

So our faculty got to work, carefully examining our course offerings and our students' interests. They came up with new requirements for the BA and the BS, as well as six BS specialities for students to choose from. Our new majors are the result of lots and lots and LOTS of work, time, and thought, and we hope that you find one that reflects the academic path most of interest to you!

You may have noticed that one of the biggest differences between the old majors and the new majors can be found in their Formal Skills requirements. Students following the old BA major requirements were required to complete at least one Calculus course of three required Formal Skills; students following the new BA major requirements can complete their degree with just two required Formal Skills, including Research Methods, Logic, and Calculus. Students following the old BS major had to complete a full year of the Math 20 series (Calculus for Science and Engineering Students), while students following the new major must complete Research Methods and two Calculus courses from either the Math 10 or 20 series.

Our Upper Division requirements were also adjusted; we went from requiring 5 Core classes (out of a possible 6) to requiring 4 Core classes (out of a possible 7). For the Bachelors of Science with Areas of Specialization, students are now required to take the Core class(es) that correspond to their chosen area. And all students have the opportunity to take one additional Elective class of their choice (as we removed one Core requirement, but our total number of required classes stayed the same).

Remember, the new majors go into effect during Fall 2015; you won't be able to officially switch until then. But you can start following the guidelines for your chosen new major now. To find out which major is best for you, look at the differences on our [website](#).

THE NUMBERS GAME

You may have noticed that some of our classes are being renumbered! To help better organize our new major courses, we made a few small changes. The following changes go into effect in Fall 2015:

- PSYC 103 becomes PSYC 122 (not a Core)
- PSYC 163 becomes PSYC 100 (new Core)
- PSYC 107 becomes PSYC 116

FREE MONEY!!!!

Applications for the 2015-16 Academic Year Scholarships are now available on [Tritonlink](#) under Financial Aid ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

Questions about 2015-16 Academic Year Scholarships: email scholarships@ucsd.edu

In addition, applications for the Summer 2015 Research Scholarships are also available on Tritonlink under Financial Aid. If you have a research project you would like to work on over the summer, this is perfect for you. Over 30 undergraduate research scholarships (URS) with award amounts of \$4,000 each are available. A research proposal, personal statement, transcript, and one letter of recommendation from your research sponsor/PI are required.

Questions about Summer 2015 Undergraduate Research Scholarships (URS): email aep@ucsd.edu

EXPLORING EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN

Have you ever thought about what it takes to design a successful experiment? How do you know that you're asking the right questions in the right way? Students from Gail Heyman's Topics in Learning Science class are here to help! Their [short film](#), linked on our [website](#), is designed to guide students new to the idea of experimental design through the basics of the scientific method.