

CAREER
LINKS



Career Development
Center

Conversations about Career Success...with Faculty



**Dr. Brad Redburn,
Professor, Psychology**

What was your college major?

Major: Psychology

Minor: Communications

Did this major lead you to your current career?

My major in Psychology came about quite by accident. My initial focus was on Radio and TV Production (Communications); however, one day a counselor made me aware that I was only 6 credit hours from meeting the requirements of a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. My natural interest in the human condition had led me to take courses I was inherently interested in within the Psychology program. I chose the direction of the Psychology degree and then applied to several Psychology graduate programs across the country. During my studies as a graduate student, I taught several courses as a graduate teaching assistant in Psychology. While teaching these classes, I discovered my life mission of teaching. I studied toward the Master of Psychology and the Ph.D. in Psychology as I taught as Adjunct Faculty at numerous educational institutions in the area.

What are the characteristics that your most successful students possess?

The most successful student characteristics include being a self-starter, enthusiasm for learning, getting to know your professor on a personal level and commitment.

Name three things a student should know when exploring this career.

When exploring a career in Psychology, a student should know that they will spend much time in school, that job opportunities are limited for those with a B. A. or M.A. in Psychology (versus a Ph.D. in Psychology) and that graduate programs in Psychology are very competitive.

What skills will a student learn when pursuing this career?

Students will fine tune their communication skills when pursuing a Psychology degree. Students will also learn the art of politics in organizations and general social skills in negotiating through life and achieving goals.

For a student needing part-time employment while in college, what types of jobs provide the best experiential learning opportunities?

The best part-time employment offering learning opportunities would include any of the “people helping” professions. This would include both positions in mental health and medical facilities.

If a college student is unable to find related work experience in this career field, how do you suggest he/she prepare for the workplace?

A college student should prepare for establishing employment outside one’s chosen field. A diverse set of skills which can “pay the bills” is helpful until the student can locate and secure a job specifically in their area of interest. Jobs outside the specific area of interest offer opportunities and learning moments as well.

Is there a selection process for entering this program?

There may be a selection process for some undergraduate programs in Psychology. Most graduate programs in Psychology are selective and competitive and applicants should engage in activities and studies which will set them apart from other applicants in these graduate programs.