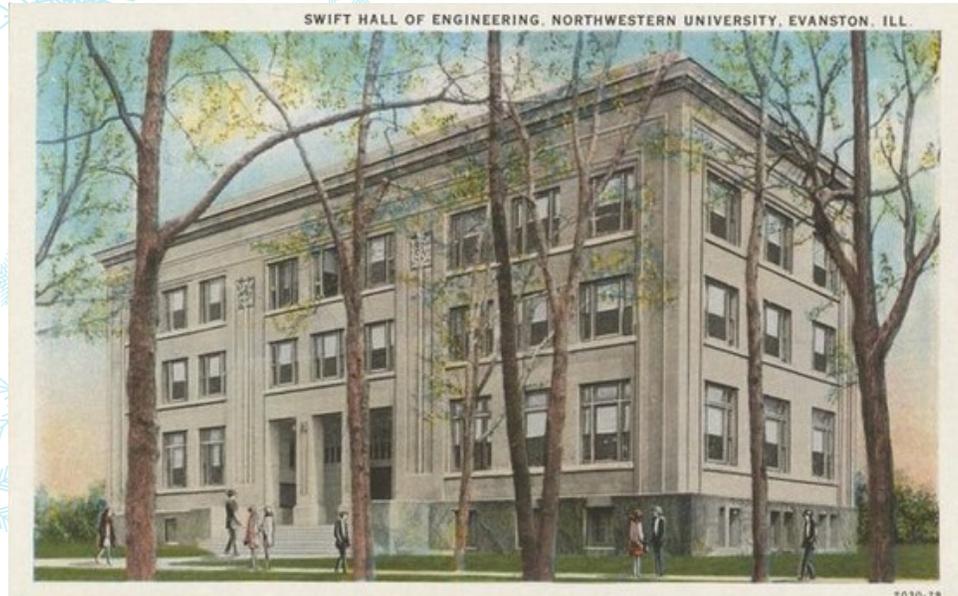


WINTER 2026

SWIFT THINKING

UNDERGRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY NEWSLETTER



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PLANNING FOR SPRING 2026

A table showing our course offerings for SPRING 2026 is available online. The table includes information on meeting days and times. In addition, it indicates which major and minor requirements each course can fulfill, whether a course is available for pre-registration, and whether you need permission to enroll.

PRE-REGISTERING FOR SPRING COURSES

(Please check this table and the [Registrar's website](#) for updates.)

The Psychology Department will offer pre-registration through CAESAR for most of our Spring Quarter courses the week prior to regular registration. All students listed as psychology, cognitive science, or neuroscience majors or minors in the Registrar's system should be able to pre-register through CAESAR for these courses. The only courses not available for pre-registration for Spring Quarter are the PSYCH 101, PSYCH 110, PSYCH 317, and PSYCH 397/398/399 research courses.

Pre-registration times are announced by the Registrar's Office. Students can pre-register for a maximum of two courses.

WAITLISTS

Psychology courses are very popular and they often close during registration. If a course you want to take has closed, use the electronic wait list function* on CAESAR. As students drop and seats become available, instructors will fill open seats with permission numbers. **Wait lists will be monitored until the last business day before classes begin. If you add yourself to a waitlist but decide you are no longer interested, **please remove yourself from the waitlist!***



REGISTERING FOR PSYCH 301 - RESEARCH METHODS

Students who are sophomores and beyond, and who are listed in CAESAR as majoring or minoring in psychology, cognitive science, or music cognition may pre-register for PSYCH 301. Make sure you have the statistics prerequisite or an allowed [substitution](#) before you enroll. You **may not** take both PSYCH 301 and the statistics prerequisite during the same quarter. Wait lists for Psych 301 are managed by the Undergraduate Program Assistant, and questions should be directed to [Psychology Advising](#).

Students who are using an AP Stats credit substitution: Caesar does not recognize this approved substitution and it will block your registration. Please email psych-advising@u.northwestern.edu to obtain a permission number to register for Psych 301.



STATISTICS TUTORIAL RESOURCE

We have a Canvas course with Statistics Tutorials for Psychology students. The site is open to any student at Northwestern who would like to be able to use the resource. It currently has video tutorials on most of the topics covered in Psych 201-Statistics, some more advanced topics, as well as some videos on using SPSS.

All of our current majors and minors should have already been added to the Canvas site. If you have not been added but would like to access the resources, contact psych-advising@u.northwestern.edu. Provide your NetID and request to be added to the Statistics Tutorials Canvas site.

RESEARCH COURSES REQUIRING DEPARTMENT AND INSTRUCTOR PERMISSION

PSYCH 397-1, 397-2, and 399

A great way to learn more about psychological research is to become actively involved in research activities through PSYCH 399-Independent Study or the two-quarter PSYCH 397-Advanced Supervised Research series. This is especially valuable for students considering graduate study in psychology and it can be an educational and enjoyable experience for others as well.

PSYCH 397 and 399

You can count at most 1 quarter of 397-1 or 399 toward the major. You cannot count both courses toward the major requirements. PSYCH 301-Research Methods in Psychology is a prerequisite for PSYCH 397. The second quarter of the Advanced Supervised Research sequence, PSYCH 397-2, fulfills the upper-level research requirement for the psychology major. For more information on 397 and 399, including the differences between them, how they count toward requirements, and tips on finding a research adviser, see our webpage on [“Research for Course Credit.”](#)

To enroll in PSYCH 397 or PSYCH 399, download the application, fill it out, and have it signed by the professor with whom you will be working. Then, email the form to the Undergraduate Program Assistant at psych-advising@u.northwestern.edu and a student-specific permission number will be generated. Please note that you must turn in your application and register for the course through CAESAR before classes start in the winter!

We cannot guarantee that an application submitted on the final day of the add period can be reviewed in time to generate a permission number before the add deadline. Students will need to obtain permission for the late addition of a course from the Dean's Office in this situation



SPECIAL COURSES FOR SPRING QUARTER 2026

Psych 350: Special Topics in Psychology: Sportistics

- Professor David Smith

This course will introduce students to the application of statistics to sports, by drawing on literature from sport psychology and statistical applications from the behavioral sciences. A special emphasis will be placed on understanding how basic statistical procedures can aid in objective evaluation of individuals and teams as well as the prediction of outcomes in sporting events. Class meetings will include a mix of lecture, activities, and discussion. Students will also be expected to complete a research project in sports analytics. Readings will include a variety of primary sources.

Psych 390: Advanced Seminar in Personality, Clinical, or Social Psychology: Child Maltreatment

- Professor Alissa Levy-Chung

In this class, we will learn about child maltreatment and the context in which it occurs. We will consider the risk factors associated with child maltreatment from the macrosystem to the microsystem (cultural factors, historical factors, social policy, to the proximal issues that inform caregiving). We will examine the consequences of maltreatment across developmental domains and over time. Finally, we will look at prevention and intervention, taking on both clinical and policy lenses. The class will build upon PSYCH 301 (formerly PSYCH 205), so you will need a reasonable command of research methods to read the assigned articles and to write your research proposal.

Psych 392: Advanced Seminar in Psychology: Psychology and “Weird” Beliefs

- Professor Sara Broaders

Lots of people have beliefs that other people think are just plain weird. Why do people have these beliefs? We'll look at "weird" beliefs within our culture and maybe some cross-cultural examples to understand the social and cognitive processes that lead to development and maintenance of beliefs. Among the specific topics we may cover are: distinction between science and pseudoscience, science denial, superstition, parapsychology, conspiracy theories, ghosts, near-death and out-of-body experiences, witchcraft, alien abduction, and repressed memories of abuse.

Since this is an upper-level research course, we will focus on psychological theories, methodological issues, and empirical research in this area. We'll do some hands-on research and data interpretation activities during class meetings. Students will work in groups to design, conduct, analyze, and write up an empirical research project during the quarter.

APPLYING FOR HONORS

Do you enjoy conducting psychological research? When you read your textbooks or attend psychology classes, do you think of new research questions that you'd like to address? The Psychology Honors Program provides an opportunity for senior psychology majors to explore a research topic in detail under the guidance of a faculty member. In addition, participants discuss current psychological issues and research questions with other outstanding students.

Students interested in participating in the Psychology Honors Program apply in **Spring of their Junior Year**, which is quickly approaching! It's never too early to start thinking about whether this is something you'd like to pursue. In particular, now is a good time to become involved in research with a faculty member to ensure you have a potential honors advisor lined up by the time the application rolls around in Spring! Applications for Honors will be due on April 24, 2026.

The Psychology Honors Program is an exciting, intellectually challenging, and worthwhile experience. However, while participating in the honors program is usually a wonderful opportunity, it is not for everyone. You really have to enjoy psychological research and be willing to work hard on your project throughout the academic year. Before you apply to the program, think about whether you will have the time and the motivation to complete a project of this magnitude. Please feel free to talk with the honors coordinator Dan Molden(molden@northwestern.edu) if you have questions.

More information regarding the honors program can be found [Here](#).



UNDERGRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY ASSOCIATION (UPA) NEWS

The Undergraduate Psychology Association (UPA) is a group of students who share a passion for exploring Psychology. UPA welcomes students of all majors to participate in academic, career-oriented, and social events during the school year. Our primary goals are to help undergraduate students learn more about psychology in a non-classroom setting, foster student-faculty communications, and facilitate the awareness of professional opportunities related to psychology. If you have any questions or are interested in joining UPA, you can reach us at upa@u.northwestern.edu

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT ADVISING

ADVISORS

- Prof. Sara Broaders
- Prof. Ben Gorvine
- Prof. Ginger Pennington
- Prof. Edith Chen
- Prof. H. David Smith
- Prof. Michael Bailey
- Prof. Wendi Gardner
- Prof. Rick Zinbarg

APPOINTMENTS

To make an appointment with any undergraduate advisor, send an email message to psych-advising@u.northwestern.edu; include the the following information:

Name:

Email:

ID #:

Class Year:

Majors/Minors:

Reason for meeting: (Example: Major or minor declaration, Petition to graduate, course questions, Study abroad etc.)

The Undergraduate Program Assistant, Chris Kent, is the person to contact for routine matters such as officially declaring a major or minor, scheduling an advising appointment, or submitting an application for Psych 399-Independent Study or Psych 397-Advanced Supervised Research. They can also answer some questions about our undergraduate program. You can reach them via email at psych-advising@u.northwestern.edu.

PEOPLE TO KNOW!



Chris Kent (They/Them)
Undergraduate Program Assistant

- Advising appointments
- Permission numbers
- Major/Minor Declarations
- Assistance with questions concerning courses and other aspects of the undergraduate program

Office: Swift Hall 102

Email: psych-advising@u.northwestern.edu



Charlotte Cagliostro (She/Her)
Participant Pool Coordinator

- Coordinates student research assignments for Psych 110
- Coordinates the paid participant registry for psychology studies at Northwestern
- Manages the Participant pool and paid registry website

Office: Swift Hall 102

Email: charlotte.cagliostro@northwestern.edu

PETITION TO GRADUATE

All Northwestern undergraduates must complete and submit Graduation Petitions one year prior to their intended graduation date. The latest to submit the petition is two quarters before you anticipate graduating (e.g., before the end of Fall quarter if you expect to graduate in Spring quarter, and during Spring quarter if you plan to graduate in Fall quarter). You must schedule an advising meeting with a department advisor before your Petition to Graduate can be signed/approved! You can set up an appointment with one of the department advisers by emailing: psych-advising@u.northwestern.edu.

Completing your Graduation Petition on time ensures you are on appropriate graduation lists and that you, your adviser, and the Registrar's Office agree on what requirements you have left to complete. It also provides an opportunity to talk about your experiences in the department thus far and your plans for the coming year and beyond.

You can read more about the [petition process](#), including submission deadlines and access petition forms, on the Registrar's website. A good place to start is the [Registrar's Graduation Page](#).

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Featured News

The Institute for Adolescent Mental Health and Well-Being released a new promo [video](#) featuring several of our faculty members. The Institute unites over 50 faculty fellows, affiliated faculty, and staff to support cross-disciplinary trainees and address challenges adolescents face as they transition to adulthood. Stay tuned for additional updates and initiatives.

Publications

Renee Engeln, Kellogg doctoral student Anne Zola, and former Psychology Department honors student Harlym Pike published an [article](#) in Computers in Human Behavior Reports entitled "Women's reactions to body positivity posts vary by posters' race and body size."

Julianna Schuch, a recent Northwestern graduate, makes a call for cultural sensitivity when evaluating nonverbal behaviors in people on the psychosis spectrum in her first lead author [publication](#). Under the supervision of Dr. Vijay Mittal and postdoc Dr. Danielle Pratt, Julianna spent her senior year formulating this thoughtful and impactful letter to the editor.

Sylvia Perry and former SCIP Lab postdoc Deborah Wu, current Assistant Professor at Arizona State University, published a [paper](#) entitled "The politics of well-being during democratic backsliding: How partisan affiliation and support for government actions relate to happiness and life satisfaction" in advances.in/psychology's Special Issue on the Psychology of Pushback.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Events

The RISE Colloquium Series lineup for December through February has been announced. Each presentation extends a shared commitment to advancing Indigenous research, social action and equity through meaningful conversation and collaboration. See [here](#) for presentation information.

The Department of Psychology offers several venues for presentation of recent research findings and theoretical developments by current faculty and graduate students in the department as well as eminent scientists from other institutions. Undergraduate students are always welcome to attend colloquium talks and department events!

Schedules for a number of colloquium, brownbag, and program-affiliated talks are available here.

Media Coverage

Katie Insel was quoted in a recent Washington Post [article](#) discussing the unique phases of brain development across the lifespan. She explains what the brain science reveals about adolescence and its importance for understanding risk and resilience throughout life.

Jennifer Tackett was interviewed by [APS](#) about how journal editors evaluate nonsignificant findings in submitted manuscripts, and her Psychology of Entrepreneurial Leaders course was featured in the Farley Center for Entrepreneurship and Design [newsletter](#).

Renee Engeln, was interviewed about a social media ban in Australia and the potential impact on teen's mental health.

Impact of Social Media Ban

Northwestern professor of Psychology Renee Engeln, PhD talks about a social media ban and the potential impact on teen's mental health. For more on her work: bodyandmedia.com

Eli Finkel was featured on a CBS This Morning segment with host, David Pogue, titled [Good news you may have missed in 2025](#). He co-created the [Litowitz Center for Enlightened Disagreement](#) at Northwestern University, one of several new projects to help us disagree better, such as running exercises that teach students how to disagree."

Americans are Turning Against Gay People

Kellogg's Tessa Charlesworth and Eli Finkel published a New York Times essay on the cultural sensation surrounding "Heated Rivalry," the steamy TV show about closeted gay hockey players. The essay reports on Tessa's disappointing new data demonstrating a sharp reversal of anti-gay bias in the U.S., especially among young adults. As noted in the essay's conclusion, "comfort on the couch is not the same thing as progress."

Northwestern

Department of
Psychology

WEINBERG COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES