



## **BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES - PSYCHOLOGY & SOCIOLOGY (Tertiary /Accredited)**

The Behavioural Sciences aim to understand the universality of human experience, as well as individual and cultural differences. We promote critical and objective thinking, evidence based research and the use of the scientific method in research. The Behavioural Sciences works on action based research principles and experiential learning and draws on various methods of enquiry, both quantitative and qualitative, as the basis for exploring, understanding and interpreting human behaviour.

Specifically, Psychology refers to the discipline involving the scientific study of mental processes and behaviour while Sociology is defined a description and analysis of social forces that shape human behaviour.

*“Psychology is valuable beyond the classroom because it not only teaches you the fundamental theories of human behaviour, but also some counselling skills and ways of comforting people in times of need. ... The best aspect of studying Psychology has been learning about human development and the miraculous ways in which the human brain works, and it is wonderful that the teachers are so passionate.”* – Victoria HELLAWELL, Psychology Student, CLASS of 2014

*“It (Sociology) makes you more open minded about different things and different institutions with society.... One of the best aspects of Sociology at Narrabundah College is that the teachers are really good at it and they are well trained.”* – Anna WILLIAMS, Sociology Student, CLASS of 2014

### **PSYCHOLOGY Program**

Session 1 (1 term, 0.5 Unit)	Session 2 (2 terms, 1.0 Unit)	Session 3 (1 term, 0.5 Unit)
Intro to Psychology Methods of Psychology (IB) Mental Abilities Motivation & Emotion	Biological and Cognitive Approaches (IB) Developmental Psychology Social Influence, Attitudes and Prejudice Health & Abnormal Psychology (IB) Sensation, Perception & Consciousness	Learning & Memory Personality Sociocultural Approaches to Psychology (IB) Psychology of Happiness

NOTE: Accredited students are able to study all of the above units except those indicated as IB.

For more information on unit content and assessment criteria, please refer to [BSSS PSYCHOLOGY Course](#) .



### **SOCIOLOGY Program**

	Session 1 (1 term, 0.5 Unit)	Session 2 (2 terms, 1.0 Unit)	Session 3 (1 term, 0.5 Unit)
Y11	Introduction to Sociology	Sociology of Deviance and Crime	Sociology of Class and Power
Y12	Sociology of Work and Leisure	Sociology of Ethnicity and Race	Sociology of Gender

NOTE: the above units may be changed according to the requirements of the students and teachers. For more information on unit content and assessment criteria, please refer to [BSSS SOCIOLOGY Course](#) .

### **FAQ**

#### **Why should students undertake a course in the Behavioural Sciences?**

The Behavioural Sciences are relevant to all students as they can directly relate and apply the knowledge and skills that they acquire to themselves and their worlds. They open the door to a range of possible futures – vocational, academic & personal. It is a subject area that is viewed positively by employers and is relevant and useful no matter what career direction is followed.

Both Psychology and Sociology can be studied locally at the Australian National University and the University of Canberra.

#### **What is the International Baccalaureate?**

The International Baccalaureate® (IB) Diploma Program (DP) is offered in Psychology at Standard and Higher Level. The IB DP enables a pathway to tertiary education worldwide. Students complete the two year program in conjunction with the A.C.T Year 12 Certificate.

#### **How is the Behavioural Sciences at Narrabundah College?**

At Narrabundah we have a very big, strong group of Behavioural Science students and consequently, we are able to offer a large variety of units for students to choose from. This large number of choices means that our students are able to select the areas of Psychology and Sociology that they are most interested in. This is not typical of most colleges where students enrol in Year 11 Psychology and/or Sociology and follow a set pattern of units for the rest of their time at college.

#### **What is it like to study Psychology/Sociology at Narrabundah College?**

Throughout their time studying Psychology and Sociology at Narrabundah College, students have several opportunities to participate in various research projects carried out by institutions such as the Australian National University, University of Canberra, Charles Sturt University and the Australian Catholic University to name just a few. These are valuable experiences for our students as



they are able to be a direct part of up-to-date research and consider future possible areas of studying and work for themselves.

We also have a number of different guest speakers throughout the year from organisations such as Mental Illness Education ACT, Salvation Army Drug and Alcohol Recovery Unit, Human Rights Commissioner for Race, Tent Embassy and lecturers from the ANU and UC.

Excursions are a great way for our students to apply their theoretical knowledge to real life situations and we offer a number of short trips to places such as The National Museum of Australia, The Canberra Hospital, Questacon and the Nan Tien Temple in Wollongong. We also run an annual overnight trip to Sydney for our Year 12 students, particularly those studying Health and Abnormal Psychology and Social Deviance in session 2. This trip, called "The Street Retreat" highlights the link between substance abuse and mental illness and the complexities of co-morbidity and dual diagnosis in real-life settings through visits to a variety of drug and alcohol rehabilitation facilities in and around central Sydney including Mission Australia, Wayside Chapel, William Booth House and Odyssey House.

Assessment items throughout the year focus on primary and secondary research, oral presentation skills, reading, writing, critical analysis, some statistical analysis and evaluation skills.

Across a year's worth of study, all students are required to write essays, lead their class in a seminar on a chosen topic related to their unit and conduct an experimental investigation which they then present as a formal laboratory report.

### Galleries



Students at work creating the neurotransmission process and brain structures



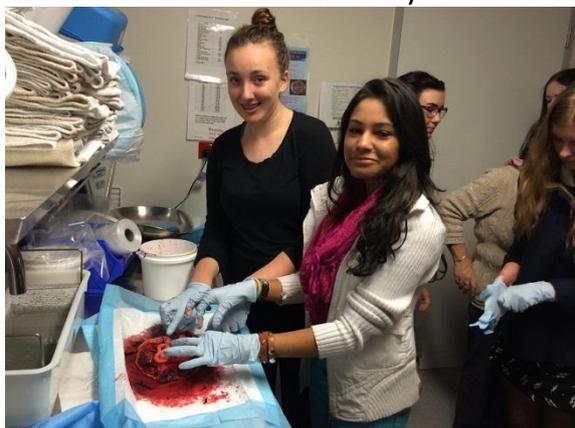
Students at Questacon



Students visited the Kirinari and Wiradjuri Child Care Centres at University of Canberra



Students at the Wayside Chapel Kings Cross on the Street Retreat Sydney Excursion



Students at the Canberra Hospital



Students at the Sydney Jewish Museum

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