



## The Behavioural Sciences

### What is Psychology and Sociology? (Tertiary /Accredited)

The Behavioural Sciences critically evaluates the universality of human experience. Study in the Behavioural Sciences develops critical thinking and builds strong research skills that can see the difference between evidence and opinion. Studying in the Behavioural Sciences teaches students to draw on various methods of enquiry, both quantitative and qualitative, as the basis for exploring, understanding and interpreting human behaviour as individuals and in societies.

Psychology refers to the discipline involving the scientific study of mental processes and individual behaviour while Sociology refers to engagement with and analysis of social forces that shape human behaviour in groups.

### 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.



Students modelling neurotransmission processes



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



Street Retreat Excursion Participants.

Throughout their time studying Psychology and Sociology at Narrabundah College, students have 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. 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. Traditionally an annual overnight trip to Sydney has been offered for our Year 11 and 12 students. "The Street Retreat" gives students an opportunity to examine their own bias and world view. It highlights the links between addiction, mental illness and the complexities of co-morbidity, and dual diagnosis in real-life settings through visits to a variety of rehabilitation facilities in Sydney.

Assessment items throughout the year focus on a sequence of assessments that build students skills over the two years of enrolment in the Behavioural Sciences. Students are supported to develop their ability to research, critically reflect on the information quality and note individual and societal changes that occur over time. This is achieved through student's participation in primary and secondary research, the development of public speaking skills, reading widely and writing well. There is a constant emphasis on critical analysis, and a basic understanding of statistical analysis and evaluation is developed during this time.



### 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.

## **Behavioural Science Units Offered at Narrabundah College:**

### **Psychology Units:**

**Unit 1: Individual Differences** including electives such as Foundations in Psychology; Developmental Psychology; Personality; Mental Abilities and Intelligence; Learning; Motivation.

**Unit 2: Into the Mind** including electives such as Sensation and Perception; Consciousness; Memory; Emotion; Neuroscience.

**Unit 3: Psychology of Wellness** including electives such as Mental Health; Stress, Resilience and Coping; Positive Psychology.

**Unit 4: Psychology in Society** including electives such as Stereotypes and Prejudice; Attitudes; Social Influence; Organisational Psychology; Criminal and Forensic Psychology; Human Relationships.

**Unit 5: Negotiated Study** for our IB students to complete their own research project as part of the Internal Assessment component of their course.

### **Sociology Units:**

**Unit 1: Identity** includes electives such as Ethnicity, Subcultures, Family and Relationships and topics such as Gender and Sexuality, and Australian Culture and Identity.

**Unit 2: Sociology of Social Justice** including electives such as Crime and Justice, Environment and Urbanisation, Gender and Economic inequality.

**Unit 3: Cultural Icons** including electives such as Popular Culture, News Media, Information and Communication, Youth and Age, and Sport and Leisure.

**Unit 4: Power and Institutions** including electives such as Power and Politics, Religion, Health and Medicine, Education, and Work and Labour.

**To contact Behavioural Sciences phone 6142 3234.**