



Welcome to Psychology at Narrabundah College!

What is Psychology all about?

Psychology is the scientific study of mental processes and behaviour. As a discipline it aims 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. Psychology 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.

Why should students undertake a course in Psychology?

Psychology is relevant to all students as they can directly relate and apply the knowledge and skills that they acquire to themselves and their worlds. It opens the door to a range of possible futures – vocational, academic and personal. Psychology is a subject area that is viewed positively by employers and is relevant and useful no matter what career direction is followed. Psychology can be studied locally at the Australian National University and the University of Canberra.

Psychology at Narrabundah College

There are several pathways for students studying Psychology at Narrabundah College. Students can study Psychology in both Tertiary and Accredited curriculums. It is possible for students at Narrabundah College to complete a major (minimum of 3.5 units) or a minor (minimum of 2 units) in Psychology at Narrabundah College at the Tertiary and Accredited levels.

Throughout their time studying Psychology 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 can be a direct part of up-to-date research and consider future possible areas of studying and work for themselves. We also have several different guest speakers throughout the year from organizations such as Mental Illness Education ACT, Salvation Army Drug and Alcohol Recovery Unit 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 several short trips to places such as the Zoo, Questacon, The Canberra Hospital, the ANU and the Nan Tien Temple in Wollongong. We also run an annual overnight trip to Sydney, particularly relevant to the units Normality and Abnormality and Groups and Society. 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 in Psychology focus on primary and secondary research, oral presentation skills, reading, writing, critical analysis, some statistical analysis, and evaluation skills. Across a year of study, all students are required to write essays and conduct an experimental investigation and present it as a formal laboratory report.

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.

'H' course in Psychology (University of Canberra)

The University of Canberra launched new H courses in 2021, including a Psychology minor called 'Understanding People and Behaviour'. This will again be available to Psychology students at Narrabundah College in 2022. However, this minor cannot be combined with the Psychology course at Narrabundah College. This is a university level course for senior secondary students and the successful completion of it will provide credit to those who wish to study a Psychology degree at UC. A Psychology degree can also be undertaken at the ANU and many of the top universities in Australia.

Psychology Units Offered at Narrabundah College:

Psychology analyses the individual and their mental processes and behaviour. The subject is a broad and diverse field that encompasses the study of human thought, behaviour, development, personality, emotion, motivation, and more. It encompasses the biological influences, social pressures and environmental factors that affect how people think, feel and act. At college level, Psychology falls within the Science framework and thus, approaches its subject matter from a scientific perspective.

Self and Identity - This unit examines traditional and contemporary psychological understandings of how individuals develop a unique self and identities in their context, using a range of approaches, including the interaction between nature and nurture. In examining differences, they will focus on individual differences in thoughts, feelings, and behaviour. Students develop skills in ethically and scientifically generating, evaluating, and communicating valid qualitative and quantitative data and conclusions.

Cognition and Emotions - This unit examines traditional and contemporary understandings on the basis of human cognition and emotion in context. Students explore how our perception of, and feelings about, the world shapes our interaction with it. They develop skills in ethically and scientifically generating, evaluating, and communicating valid qualitative and quantitative data and conclusions.

Normality and Abnormality - This unit examines traditional and contemporary understandings of the continuum of normality and abnormality, and the social construction of healthy and unhealthy thoughts, feelings, and behaviour. Students explore biological, psychological, and social, and contextual aspects of normality and abnormality, how they are determined, and how that has changed over time. They develop skills in ethically and scientifically generating, evaluating, and communicating valid qualitative and quantitative data and conclusions.

Groups and Society - This unit examines traditional and contemporary understandings of the implications of identity and membership within groups and society for thoughts, emotions, and behaviour. They explore how and why humans think, feel and act in group and social settings using a range of approaches. They develop skills in ethically and scientifically generating, evaluating, and communicating valid qualitative and quantitative data and conclusions.

Independent Study (0.5) – This unit is only available for Year 12 students in Session 3 as a 0.5 unit. Students must have successfully completed 3 units of Psychology to qualify for this unit. An Independent Study unit is proposed by a student for independent study and negotiated with their teacher. It must be approved by the principal.

Psychology course

	<i>Year 11</i>	<i>Year 12</i>
<i>S1</i>	Self and Identity (a) (0.5 unit)	Cognition and Emotion (b) (0.5 unit)
<i>S2</i>	Groups and Society (1.0 unit)	Normality and Abnormality (1.0 unit)
<i>S3</i>	Cognition and Emotions (a) (0.5 unit)	Self and Identity (b) (0.5 unit)
