



**SUMMER
SPRINGBOARD**
Look Inward. Go Upward.

Psychology & Neuroscience Infosheet

**New student admissions for
Summer 2025 are open**



Program Highlights

- Uncover the mystery of how the mind works, and examine the connection between the brain and human behavior.
- Develop solutions to the complex questions of human behavior through hands-on activities such as a brain dissection and real-world experiments.
- Understand treatment strategies for a variety of mental health issues that affect millions of individuals.
- Interact with clinical psychologists, neurologists and researchers who are experts in this specialized field.
- Learn how to construct a novel psychological theory and design experiments to test it (Research Methods).
- Discover what psychology is like as a profession, as an academic or clinician.



Academic Program Overview

Nothing is more fascinating and mysterious to us than each other. How do people work? How do I work? Students will learn to tackle these fundamental questions with the tools of psychological science. Students will learn about classic experiments in psychology, with the goal of getting a hands-on, experiential understanding of how people work and how psychologists study them. They will explore social dynamics; emotions; personality; mental illness; the nature of beliefs; neuroscience; and the relationship between the mind, brain, and body. As a capstone project, they will construct their own miniature psychology theory, design/run an experiment to test it, and present findings to the class.



Excursions

This past summer, students toured both Harvard University and the USC Dana & David Dornsife Cognitive Neuroscience Imaging Center to see an fMRI machine and how it functions. Students in San Diego were able to visit The Brain Observatory and see a real human brain. In Boston, students have visited a biofeedback clinic where clinicians used insights from psychology to further their work. Guest speakers included the Director of Harvard's Moral Psychology Research Laboratory, a Cognitive Psychology professor from UCLA, and a People Analyst from Google. In New York, students received a behind-the-scenes tour of the psychology lab at NYU. They witnessed an MRI scan and participated in a research study. At Duke, students visited the Department of Psychiatry & Bowles Center for Alcohol Studies at University of North Carolina. Students built DIY microscopes, went on a lab tour, and learned how equipment can be used to slice brain tissue while holding different brains. Students in Berkeley visited the Cognitive Psychophysiology Lab at San Francisco State University and performed EEG testing to measure electrical activity in the brain. They also had the opportunity to meet with guest speaker, Mark Geisler, PhD. In Seattle, students toured various labs on UW's campus and had the opportunity to visit the Allen Institute, a significant brain research center in the city.

Instructors

Barnard - Kyle Lorenzo

Kyle Lorenzo is an instructor of Psychology at Fordham University. He received his BAs in Psychology and Biological Sciences with minors in Cognitive Sciences and International Studies at North Carolina State University. He then received his MA in Applied Developmental Psychology at Fordham University. Kyle's research interests include holistic and culturally responsive approaches to promoting mental health and public health equity among adolescents and young adults. He has taught lectures on foundational psychology, biopsychology, multicultural psychology, and cross-cultural psychology



Course Structure

There are nine 3-hour class sessions over the two-week course. During week one, students have class from 9am-12pm, Monday - Friday. During the week two students have class from 9am-12pm Monday through Thursday. Wednesday afternoons are dedicated to additional academic time (excursions, speakers).

UCLA - Dr. Sal Brito (Session 1)

Salvador (Sal) Brito received his PhD in Neuroscience from Harvard University, where he focused on understanding how brain circuits process behavioral states like fear and anxiety. Before his move to Boston, Sal attended California Lutheran University in sunny southern California, where he obtained his B.S. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, along with his B.A. in Psychology. Sal's initial exposure to the science of the brain occurred during his high school years, where he took an AP psychology course that would ultimately guide his career trajectory into psychology and neuroscience.

UCLA - Dr. Alexia Holovatyk (Sessions 2 & 3)

Dr. Alexia Holovatyk is a licensed clinical health psychologist, educator, and founder of Live Well Psychology Group. With a specialization in trauma-informed therapy, mind-body health, and women's mental wellness, she integrates evidence-based interventions like somatic therapy, mindfulness, and Internal Family Systems (IFS) to help clients break the stress cycle and heal from chronic conditions. In addition to running a thriving private practice, she serves as an Adjunct Professor at USC, where she teaches Introduction to Psychology, bridging academic research with real-world application. Dr. Holovatyk has consulted for digital health platforms, led sold-out community workshops, and been featured in multiple media outlets for her expertise in holistic mental health. Whether working one-on-one, in group settings, or through public education, her mission is to empower individuals with the tools to regulate their nervous systems, reconnect with themselves, and cultivate lasting well-being.

Oxford - Dr. Carmen Pinon

Dr. Carmen Pinon is a Lecturer in Neuroscience at Brasenose College, University of Oxford. She is also a Senior Lecturer at the Medical School of the University of Buckingham. For more information, click [here](#).

Berkeley - Jose Figueroa (Sessions 1 only)

Jose Figueroa is a Neuroscience PhD candidate at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). He transferred from Los Angeles Pierce College to UC San Diego where he double majored in Neurobiology and Cognitive Science with a specialization in the Clinical Aspects of Cognition. His research focuses on effort-based decision-making—specifically, how perceptions of "value" increase drive to invest more effort toward accomplishing goals. His research explores the psychological and biological mechanisms behind motivation, using advanced tools to measure real-time brain activity and understand how neurotransmitters, like dopamine and acetylcholine, shape reward-motivated behavior. Additionally, he's deeply committed to advancing diversity and inclusion in STEM. As a mentor and advocate, he has worked to increase representation of underrepresented groups in science, and strives to create equitable opportunities for students from all backgrounds to pursue careers in research and science.

Instructors

Berkeley - Olive Tambo (Sessions 3 & 5 only)

Olive is a PhD candidate at the University of California, San Francisco. She is currently working in the Paz Lab at the Gladstone Institutes, where she studies thalamocortical functioning following a brain injury. Her research is focused on gaining a better understanding of how the brain is impacted after a stroke. Olive grew up in San Francisco and received her undergraduate degree in neuroscience from Macalester College. During college, Olive worked in the lab of Dr. Sandra Japuntich, a clinical psychologist at the Hennepin Healthcare Research Institute, investigating factors that impact patients from receiving lung cancer screening. After college, Olive served as a Junior Specialist at the Northern California Institute for Research and Education and has extensive experience mentoring young students in STEM. When not in the lab, she enjoys hiking, camping, trying new restaurants, and binge watching reality TV shows.

Duke - Dr. Hope Peterson-Sockwell

Hope Peterson-Sockwell is a postdoctoral research associate at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC). She received her B.A. in Psychology, M.S. in Biomedical Sciences, and Ph.D. in Neuroscience from Wake Forest University. Her research involves building brain networks from functional MRI data and exploring how different populations of people change their brain states while they complete cognitive tasks. She has taught courses in psychology, biological psychology, and neuroscience at Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem State University, Iona University, and UNC. Outside of the lab and the classroom, she is also involved in scientific outreach, from organizing the annual Triangle Brain Bee to bringing neuroscience games and lessons to local classrooms. Hope believes learning should be hands-on and engaging, fostering curiosity through interactive experiences, and she is passionate about creating inclusive spaces in STEM where every student feels empowered to explore and grow. She is excited to work with students who are eager to dive into the fascinating world of psychology and neuroscience to understand how the brain shapes who we are.

Washington - Kevan Kidder, Ph.D.

Kevan Kidder currently works as a Research Scientist at Basso Lab at the University Washington, where he delves into the investigation of neurodegenerative diseases and aging through the application and advancement of cutting-edge methodologies. Dr. Kidder's professional focus lies at the intersection of neuroscience and technological innovation. During his doctoral studies, Kevan concentrated on understanding the roles played by the prefrontal cortex and hippocampus in working memory abilities. This involved a multifaceted approach, utilizing electrophysiology techniques in freely behaving animals, optogenetics, and behavioral analyses to unravel the intricacies of cognitive functions. Dr. Kidder studied Biology and Psychology in undergrad at University of Washington. He earned his doctorate in Psychology at UW focusing on neurosystems and behavior. Dr. Kidder brings many years of teaching experience, diverse knowledge within the field of Psychology, and wonderful insight from his time on campus and in Seattle.

UCSD - Dafna Paltin (Session 1)

Dafna is a fourth-year clinical psychology student in the SDSU/UC San Diego Joint Doctoral Program. Her research examines the intersection of substance use, HIV prevention/treatment, and stigma, with a particular focus on racial, ethnic, sexual, and gender minorities. Clinically, Dafna specializes in treating substance use, trauma, and relationship challenges.

UCSD - Dr. Seraphina Solders (Session 2)

Dr. Seraphina Solders is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Neurosciences Department at UC San Diego. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Biology with the Honors Minor in Interdisciplinary Studies from San Diego State University (SDSU), and her Ph.D. in Neurosciences from UCSD. Her current research focuses on the role of the blood-brain barrier in aging and its contributions to Alzheimer's disease risk.

Instructors

UCSD - Dr. Heidi Kraft (Session 3)

Heidi Kraft earned her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the UC San Diego/SDSU Joint Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology. She joined the Navy during her internship at Duke University Medical Center and went on to serve as both a flight and clinical psychologist. Dr. Kraft left active duty in 2005, after nine years in the Navy. She is board certified in clinical psychology, and currently works as a lecturer at San Diego State University, where she teaches Psychopathology, Stress, Trauma and the Psychological Experience of Combat, Health Psychology, and Field Placement.

Yale - Keisha Winston, Ph.D.

Keisha Winston is a Professor of Neuroscience, Psychology and Biology. She began her educational venture at Northeastern University and completed her doctoral studies at the University of Connecticut where she studied and conducted research in both the Neuroscience and Pharmaceutical Sciences departments.

Tuition Information:

Residential Students:

- **Includes:** all meals, lodging, excursions, academic course, weekend excursions
- **Excludes:** optional airport pickup and drop off service (available for an additional fee)
- **Price:** See prices under 2025 dates

Commuter Students:

- **Includes:** lunch, academic course, excursions, programming from 9am to 5pm, Monday-Friday
- **Excludes:** lodging, breakfast, dinner, weekend excursions
 - Weekend excursions can be added on for \$125 per day
- **Prices:**
 - **\$3,498:** Yale
 - **\$3,298:** Barnard College, Columbia University, Berkeley, Oxford, UCLA, + UC San Diego
 - **\$2,998:** Duke + University of Washington

Supplements:

- **Application fee:** Starting at \$99 (mandatory, non-refundable)
- **Tuition Protection Plan:** Allows for cancellation for any reason up until the day of the program. Click [here](#) for more info.

[More info on Airport Transfer](#)

[More info on Unaccompanied Minor Service](#)

[Apply Now!](#)

Summer Springboard programs are not run by our campus partners (with the exception of Cal Poly, University of Washington Foster School of Business, and NYSID which are run in partnership with SSB). Universities and their affiliated departments and partners do not control and are not responsible or liable in any manner for any part of the Summer Springboard program.

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2025 Dates

[Barnard College, Columbia University](#) (\$5,898)

- Session 1: July 6 - July 18
- Session 2: July 20 - August 1

[Berkeley](#) (\$5,998)

- Session 1: June 15 - June 27
- Session 3: June 29 - July 11
- Session 5: July 13 - July 25

[Duke](#) (\$5,698)

- Session 1: June 29 - July 11
- Session 2: July 13 - July 25

[Oxford](#) (\$6,298)

- Session 1: July 6 - July 18

[UCLA](#) (\$5,998)

- Session 1: June 22 - July 4
- Session 2: July 6 - July 18
- Session 3: July 20 - August 1

[UC San Diego](#) (\$5,698)

- Session 1: June 29 - July 11
- Session 2: July 13 - July 25
- Session 3: July 27 - August 8

[Washington](#) (\$5,698)

- Session 1: July 27 - August 8

[Yale](#) (\$6,298)

- Session 1: June 15 - June 27
- Session 2: June 29 - July 11
- Session 3: July 13 - July 25



Typical Schedule

8:00am
BREAKFAST

9:00am
ACADEMIC COURSE



1:30pm
ACADEMIC EXCURSION
OR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY

12:00pm
LUNCH



3:30pm
COLLEGE READINESS
WORKSHOPS OR TRUE YOU

5:00 - 6:00pm
DEPARTURE FOR
COMMUTER STUDENTS



7:00pm
CLUBS FOR
RESIDENTIAL STUDENTS

6:00pm
DINNER FOR
RESIDENTIAL STUDENTS

10:30pm
MENTOR CHECK-IN FOR
RESIDENTIAL STUDENTS