Bachelor of Behavioural Science
UNDA Course Code 3034 – CRICOS Code 056159C

About Behavioural Science at Notre Dame

Many modern careers require professional skills in understanding human behaviour. The Bachelor of Behavioural Science provides these skills by combining formal studies in human behaviour with a second specialist subject area. Behavioural Science at Notre Dame is concerned with the achievement of optimal health and human functioning, preventing human distress and developing healthy personal and interpersonal behaviours between people. It is based on the premise of social justice and equity for all people and concerns itself with the practical application of such principles to human service programs. Behavioural Science is a multi-disciplinary degree which draws on knowledge from areas such as psychology, sociology, political science, cultural studies, community welfare and public policy. Behavioural scientists have a strong commitment to promote the values of a good society. The three-year degree combines formal studies in individual, group and community behaviour with a specialist major.

Please note that this degree does not train students for employment as a psychologist.

Course outline

Most students find the study of human behaviour intriguing. They want to learn more about themselves and other people - why we do the things we do, how we learn and what we bring with us from our families of origin. People are also curious about how they can apply knowledge from human behaviour and psychology in everyday life. A degree in Behavioural Science gives students strengths in applying academic theory and knowledge to the real world and to real life. The Bachelor of Behavioural Science at Notre Dame shows how the study of human behaviour and psychology may be applied to the different areas of work, family and relationships.

In particular the following fields are studied:

• Psychology, to understand the behaviour of individuals, groups and communities
• Professional interaction and organisational behaviour
• Cultural diversity and the affects of inclusion and exclusion
• Community sustainability and development
• Professional ethics
• Negotiation and mediation

Behavioural Science graduates are able to write reports, prepare case studies and apply interpersonal, counselling and mediation skills at individual, organisational and community levels. They have good understandings of families, group processes, human learning, motivation and development throughout the lifespan. A Bachelor of Behavioural Science gives students strengths in applying academic theories to areas such as human health and wellbeing, community development and change management.

Course Duration

The Bachelor of Behavioural Science generally takes 3 years to complete when studied on a full-time basis. The course is also available on a part-time basis (Domestic Students only).

Course Structure

Core and Foundation Curriculum

- PT101 Logos I
- PT102 Logos II
- PT103 Logos III
- AL100 Academic Writing

Compulsory Human Behaviour Units

Year One

- PS100 Developmental Psychology
- PS103 Introduction to Behavioural Science
- PS104 Themes and Perspectives in Behavioural Science
- RM 100 Research Methods

Year Two

- PS221 Social Psychology
- PS264 Psychology of Work
- PS225 Culture and Society
- PS235 Health Psychology

Year Three

- PS309 Social Psychology of Justice
- PS315 Professional Practice in Behavioural Science
- PS393 Community: Policy and Development
- PS394 Behavioural Science Internship

In addition to the compulsory human behaviour units, students studying the Bachelor of Behavioural Science can elect to complete 8 elective units OR 8 units in a major field of study offered by the School of Arts and Sciences.

Major Field of Study

In addition to the studies in human behaviour, students have the option of also completing a major. A major involves the completion of 8 specified units in a particular area, and will therefore comprise all the electives available to students studying the Bachelor of Behavioural Science. This integration of studies in psychology and human behaviour with a specialised major enables students to develop skills that will be directly relevant to their chosen career.

Some samples of possible majors for Behavioural Science students include:

- Communications
- English Literature
- History
- Human Resource Management
- Management
- Marketing
- Politics & International Relations
- Public Relations
- Sociology
- Theatre Studies

Elective units

Students may also be able to select elective units from the following disciplines:

- Aboriginal Studies
- Counselling
Practical Component

Internships, an extended form of service learning, form a vital part of the Behavioural Science program. The Internship requirement of six weeks work within an organisation allows for productive, first-hand experience of how people engage with one another, communicate and operate together in a work or community setting. Students may undertake specific projects or tasks, engage in directed research, facilitate groups, write reports and/or develop specific projects or program initiatives.

Mode of Study & Assessment

This course is only offered in internal mode. Students will be provided with a copy of a Unit Outline for each unit in a given semester. This outline will provide the assessment method for the unit, which may include: assignments, essays, presentations, performances, practicum, internships, placements, research papers, theses, tests, and examinations.

Successful study

At Notre Dame we emphasize the value of the human person and the importance of maintaining an ethical way of life. All students undertake the Logos Programme, which includes the study of modules on topics in philosophy, moral philosophy, theology, and philosophical-theological arguments relevant to training for a profession and for life.

We also require students to complete a unit in Communication. This is a foundation unit that will introduce students to the skills essential to successful university study and help them to adjust to a new learning environment.

Excellence is rewarded at our annual Awards Night, at which outstanding students in each discipline receive commendations and prizes and creative student production is showcased.

Admission Requirements:

School Leavers:

- ATAR of 70 - Indicative only. Must have been obtained within the last five years.

Post School Leaver / Mature Age Applicants:

- Other University Studies - Notre Dame will also consider applicants who have successfully completed a minimum of four units within a Bachelor’s Degree from another University. Or

- Successful completion of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Certificate IV level qualification or higher from a recognised provider such as TAFE or an RTO. Or

- Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT) – This option is only available for applicants who are over 20 years of age as at 1 March in the year of admission. A score of 150 for both the Multiple Choice component and the Written English component is required. STAT results are valid for five years. Or

- Successful completion of the Notre Dame Tertiary Enabling Program (TEP) or Foundation Year (FY).

Career Opportunities

Behavioural Science graduates have valuable skills that make them attractive to a wide range of employers and organisations. Depending upon the choice of units and the specialisations a student pursues, it is possible to gain employment in areas such as:

- Community development and service
- Government departments, including the Department of Health, the Department of Education and Disability Services
- Health promotion
- Indigenous organisations
- Marketing and business
- Media and communications
- Non-Government Organisations (NGOs)
- Personnel and human resources
- Social housing programs
- Social impact assessment
- Social outreach
- Training and professional development
- Welfare support work
- Youth work

A university qualification in Behavioural Science allows students to qualify for entry-level qualifications upon graduation with the prospect of enhanced promotional opportunities as they develop their skills and experience.

Further information

The information contained in this publication is designed as a basic course description. If you would like further information regarding the course, or information pertaining to admissions, fees or the University itself, please contact the Prospective Students Office on (02) 8204 4404 or at sydney@nd.edu.au.

All International enquiries should be directed to the International Students Office at sydney.international@nd.edu.au.

Visit our website at www.nd.edu.au.