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## The Psychology Department

Probably because of the practical and career orientation of the institution its early days, psychology entered the curriculum quite slowly. In 1872, fourteen years after the incorporation of Corvallis College, a course entitled "Inferential Psychology" was offered for one year only, in the School of Moral Science. In 1879 the School of Moral Science initiated a course called "Empirical Psychology" with somewhat more success; it lasted about four years. From 1882 until 1888 no psychology course was offered.

From 1889 on, psychology has been among the offerings of this institution. The focus and scope must have changed dramatically over the years as the location of the department changed from the Department of Mental and Moral Philosophy, to Industrial Pedagogy, to Industrial Education, to the School of Vocational Education, the College of Social Science, Lower Division, the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and finally, currently, the College of Liberal Arts.

Of far more effect than the institutional setting is the development of the discipline of psychology. While some would be offended to pass by the seminal work of Ernst Weber, who first conceptualized measurement of the mind, the establishment of the first experimental psychology laboratory in 1879, in Germany, corresponds to the first shaky foothold of psychology in the college. Psychology as a discipline has grown with Psychology at Oregon State.

After the Second World War, social applications of psychology expanded explosively throughout the country. Participation in this growth was slowed at OSU because psychology was classified as a lower division service department. It was not until the 1960's, when OSU authorized ~~b~~acalaureate degrees with a major in psychology that the department began to offer courses that led to entry into psychological services occupations.

At present, psychology plays multiple roles in the University. The department offers a scientific psychology major leading to the b<sup>c</sup>acalaureate degree; offers preparation for psychological service work, including elaborate and sophisticated practicum work with full supervision; and offers organized work in minor programs as well as a variety of electives for students who prefer briefer encounters with psychology. The students emerge from work in this department ready for useful work, graduate study, or personal applications of psychology.

A source of pride to faculty is the opportunity students have for direct participation in psychology whether applied or in basic research.

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