



Brochure 2026/2027

Bachelor of Arts Honours
in Psychology



YOUR STORY

Do you want to live a life of purpose? Do you worry about the state of the world? Do you genuinely want to make a difference to the lives of others? Are you looking for more than just a qualification? Is leaving a lasting legacy important to you? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then we have a lot in common.

Cornerstone is the institution to help you realise your life's purpose and grow your ambition. While doing so, you will develop and nurture the values that you share with Cornerstone Institute, which will assist you in taking your place in a vibrant and thriving economy. Together, we will learn to change the world.



A MESSAGE FROM FACULTY

Together we can learn to change the world

At Cornerstone Institute, our motto is: Learn to change the world. It's a very simple sentence, but to us, it carries significant meaning.

The obvious meaning is: Learn how to change the world. And that is true because, at Cornerstone, you will learn new knowledge and skills that will equip you to enter the new world of work and build a career that will positively impact society.

The second meaning is the less obvious but, the more important one: To change the world, learn. We believe you can only change the world if you continue learning. To learn is to grow – first, as a person in connection with other human beings. It is a lifelong journey that may include but by far transcends formal studies and qualifications. As we travel this road with other people who share different parts of our journey, we learn from them, and they learn from us.

Will any single individual ever change the entire world? Probably not! But you can change your world. And we would love to be part of that journey.

OUR STORY

We believe in education with a purpose. At the heart of our education philosophy is the firm belief that education leads to transformation. Cornerstone Institute has been generating knowledge that benefits humanity since 1970. We began with two black theology students who were barred from attending university because of the colour of their skin. Today, hundreds of Cornerstone graduates from all walks of life are making a difference around the globe.

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT VISION, MISSION AND PURPOSE

Cornerstone Institute's vision is to mobilise students for active citizenship and is crystallised in our tagline: Learn to Change the World. With a passionate commitment to education as key to social transformation, Cornerstone has, in its 50-year history, remained faithful to creating catalytic spaces for the transformation of students by stretching their thinking, believing, and acting. Transformed students, we believe, become agents of transformation as they take their place within the civic structures of our society.

Pedagogically, Cornerstone as a learning community understands education as an important aspect in facilitating the process of becoming more fully and integratively human. Framed another way, education, as we have understood and practised it, is about supporting, enhancing, exploring and advancing human dignity by providing access to the kind of higher education that values a holistic view of human identity.

With a commitment to transformational education within the concrete realities of life, we aspire to continue to create a robust, world-class, accessible, progressive learning environment, in which students from all walks of life are encouraged to explore what it means to be human. This takes place within multiple intellectual disciplines, where students are mobilised by their knowledge to be agents of transformation in our society, and active citizens and advocates of human dignity.

As part of the Faculty of Humanities, the Psychology Department is focussed on nurturing intellectual advancement through the powers of informed analysis, discernment and creative critique. This vision brings into sharper focus the importance of underwriting a commitment to mobilising students for preventative and supportive work within communities, to enhance the emotional well-being of all South Africans.

To this end, the Psychology Department strives to maintain a synergistic relationship between theory, practice and research for community transformation, always mindful of ethical norms and scope of practice. The practical application of skills leading to entrepreneurial ventures in society is the ultimate goal, with students reaching their full potential in sustainable and ethical projects and work environments.



Geraldine Franciscus
HOD Psychology

Bachelor of Arts Honours in Psychology (NQF 8, Registration Certificate No 2001/HE08/006. SAQA ID: 79046) Mode of delivery: Distance

Contact mode will be available from Semester 2, subject to meeting the minimum student enrolment requirements.

Admission requirements

- A candidate must have complied with all the requirements of an appropriate undergraduate degree, or equivalent, before the beginning of the academic year for which he/she has been selected
- Third year in Psychology must have been passed with a minimum of 65-70%.
- As per the RPL Policy, no more than 10% of applicants who do not have the necessary 65-70% grade for third year in Psychology (or equivalent) can be admitted into the programme, if they have obtained work or life experience which qualifies them to be admitted as post-graduate students. Those applicants who have a 65-69% Psychology III (3) average will need to complete and submit a written academic assignment as part of their application to be considered for acceptance to the programme.

Programme-specific outcomes

By the end of this programme students will be able to:

- Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of psychological theory and biological influences on behaviour
- Demonstrate systematic thinking about selection of techniques for various research scenarios
- Develop comprehension of the theoretical traditions within qualitative research
- Demonstrate the ability to execute the techniques of analysis covered in the programme
- Explain and assess how developmental, cultural, socioeconomic, and gender factors affect the clinical diagnosis and conceptualisation of psychopathology
- Develop conceptual and procedural knowledge of the descriptive nosological system that is codified in the DSM-V
- Demonstrate an advanced understanding of ethics in psychology
- Develop an understanding of the history of community psychology and apply perspectives within a South African context
- Address psychosocial challenges affecting South African communities
- Apply critical thinking skills in the assessment and resolution of community mental health needs
- Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of therapeutic modalities
- Demonstrate critical thinking about the applicability of western models to the multicultural South African context
- Engage critically in current debates on the use of different interventions, modalities and theoretical perspectives in psychology
- Work effectively with other professionals in a team setting.

Study Year 1 of 1 132 Credits		
Dicipline	Modules	Credits
Period: Semester 1		
Psychology	• Psychology Research Project A	15
	• Psychological Assessment and Measurement	10
	• Research Methods and Statistics	18
	• Psychopathology	18
Period: Semester 2		
Psychology	• Psychology Research Methods Project B	15
	• Therapeutic Psychology	18
Elective Module		
Period: Semester 1		
Psychology	Community Psychology (Advanced)	18
Period: Semester 1		
Psychology	• Personality Theories	10
	• Developmental Psychology	10
	• Family Psychology	10
	• Neuropsychology	18

Disclaimer for potential low enrolments per programme

If the required number is not reached by the end of the registration period, the programme will only receive new students in the next registration period. New students already registered for the programme will be advised on available options, and paid fees will be refunded where applicable. Students who have already completed one or more semesters will not be affected.

For a description of each module, please refer to the "Module Descriptions" section in the Yearbook, available on our website.

www.cornerstone.ac.za



LEARN TO CHANGE THE WORLD

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