

An Introduction to Psychology Cecil County Public Schools

While studying Psychology, students will investigate the relationship between biological structures and functions, the systems we use to gain and organize knowledge, human development and the interaction between the human psyche and the environment.

Utilizing **Maryland State Curriculum Standards** and the **American Psychological Association Standards**, Psychology students will focus on developing understandings of four macro-concepts throughout the course; Structure and Function, Systems, Movement and Interaction. These four macro-concepts are to be integrated with the standards. The concepts are the catalyst for teaching the standards in depth and the micro concepts will provide the depth of learning in each unit. Psychology students will build upon their understandings of the standards and will be able to transfer the standards across all disciplines.

Psychology teachers will have access to a Course Organizer providing an overview for instruction for the course. Each unit is represented by a macro-concept that serves as a lens through which the content will be explored. Psychology teachers will also have access to a unit planner and a unit organizer for each unit. Each unit organizer implies the use of process standards from the Maryland State Curriculum Standards. The units are intended to be taught chronologically and conceptually as indicated below:

Unit 1: Structure and Function is about the relationship between biological structures and psychological functioning. Students will examine the history of Psychology, Research Methods, Biological Structures, Sensation and Perception.

Unit 2: Systems is about the processes humans use to gain and organize knowledge. Students will explore Consciousness, Cognition, Intelligence, Memory and Learning.

Unit 3: Movement is about human development over time and the processes that drive it. Students will investigate Life Span Development, Language Development, Emotion and Motivation.

Unit 4: Interaction is about the connection between the human psyche and the environment. Students will analyze Personality, Social Psychology, Abnormal Psychology and Treatment.

The four Unit Organizers are used to structure the instructional activities for each unit. Each Unit Organizer contains a map of the essential micro concepts for the unit and the essential questions students will be able to answer at the end of the unit. Also included are unit relationships (skills students will practice within the unit). The Expanded Unit Map explains in further detail specific topics to address each micro concept. The topics are listed in sequential order and are tied to the American Psychological Association Standards. In addition, the Unit Planner provides Enduring Understanding, Assessment Options, and a list of resources.