

# EXCEPTIONALITY IN HUMAN LEARNING (HBSc)

*Department of Psychology*

**Exceptionality in Human Learning (EHL)** is an interdisciplinary program offered as a specialist with a focus in human development, abnormal behaviour, and disability issues. This program provides a broad scholarly foundation for addressing issues concerning children and adults who have disabilities and/or are gifted. Interested students might include:

- those who at a later stage may wish to pursue more advanced work in psychology, special education, rehabilitation, social work, group home management, adult retraining, or study in areas related to hearing or visual impairment, learning disabilities, developmental delay, physical disability
- those wanting to know more about the psychology, sociology and biology of exceptional individuals, particularly as these become issues of public policy.

## MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR TIME AT UTM!

We want to help you maximize your university experience, so we've pulled together information and interesting suggestions to get you started, although there are many more! As you review the chart on the inside pages, note that many of the suggestions need not be restricted to the year they are mentioned. In fact, activities such as joining an academic society, engaging with faculty and seeking opportunities to gain experience should occur in each year of your study at UTM. Read through the chart and create your own plan using [My Program Plan](#) found at [www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans)

### Programs of Study (POSt)

- Specialist Program ERSPE1883 Exceptionality in Human Learning (Science)

### Check out...

What was your first word? Ever wondered why? Find out in PSY315H5. Topics include the acquisition of speech sounds and conversational abilities. How do we develop socially? Take PSY311H5 to learn factors that influence social development during infancy and childhood.

### What can I do with my degree?

The career you choose will depend on your experience and interests. Visit the Career Centre to explore your career options.

**Careers for graduates:** Behaviour therapist; Psychologist; Rehabilitation counsellor; Speech-language pathologist; Child and youth worker; Community worker; Crisis worker; Animal assisted therapist; Occupational Therapist; Audiologist; Physiotherapist; Special education teacher; Social worker.

**Workplaces:** Educational institutions; Medical/health organizations; Not-for-profit agencies; Government; Correction and rehabilitation facilities; Behavioural health clinics; Community services.



# EXCEPTIONALITY IN HUMAN LEARNING

## SPECIALIST Program Plan

### HOW TO USE THIS PROGRAM PLAN

Read through each year. Investigate what appeals to you here and in any other Program Plans that apply to you.

Visit [www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans) to create your own plan using [My Program Plan](#). Update your plan yearly.



|                        | 1 <sup>ST</sup> YEAR  | 2 <sup>ND</sup> YEAR  |
|------------------------|---|---|
| PLAN YOUR ACADEMICS*   | <p>Enrol in PSY100Y5. Choose first or second year Biology, Anthropology or Sociology courses appropriate to your program. View the <b>Academic Calendar</b> for course selection.</p> <p>Choose a program of study (Subject POST) once you complete between 4.0 and 8 credits. Use the <b>Degree Explorer</b> and the <b>Academic Calendar</b> to plan your degree.</p> <p>Develop foundational academic skills and strategies by enrolling in a <b>utmONE</b> course. Build community and gain academic support through <b>LAUNCH</b>. Join a RGASC <b>Peer Facilitated Study Group</b>.</p> | <p>Enrol in PSY210H5, PSY240H5 and PSY201H5. Attain 0.5 credits from a list of 200-level Psychology courses, and 0.5 credits from Psychology, Economics, Sociology or Statistics. View the <b>Academic Calendar</b> for details. Considering a specialist in psychology? Speak to the <b>Psychology Academic Counsellor</b> about entry requirements.</p> |
| BUILD SKILLS           | <p>Use the <b>Co-Curricular Record (CCR)</b>. Search for opportunities beyond the classroom, and keep track of your accomplishments.</p> <p>Attend the <b>Get Experience Fair</b> through the Career Centre (CC) to learn about on- and off-campus opportunities.</p>   | <p>Use the <b>Career Learning Network (CLNx)</b> to find postings for on- and off-campus work and volunteer opportunities.</p> <p>Work on-campus through the <b>Work-Study program</b>. View position descriptions on the CLNx.</p>   |
| BUILD A NETWORK        | <p>Networking simply means talking to people and developing relationships with them. Start by joining the <b>Psychology Association of Undergraduate Students of Erindale (P.A.U.S.E)</b>. Make sure to go to <b>P.A.U.S.E's Professors Meet &amp; Greet</b>.</p> <p>Visit the <b>Psychology Undergraduate Meeting Place (P.U.M.P. Room)</b> in Deerfield Hall, room 2039. Visit the UTM <b>Library Reference Desk</b>.</p>   | <p>Do you have a professor you really like or connect with? Ask them a question during office hours. Discuss an assignment. Go over lecture material. Don't be shy! Learn <b>Tips On How to Approach a Professor</b> available through the Experiential Education Unit (EEU).</p>   |
| BUILD A GLOBAL MINDSET | <p><b>Attend events held by the International Education Centre (IEC)</b>, whether you are an international or domestic student. Explore your culture and other cultures through weekly/regular conversations, <b>Language Conversation Circles</b>, debates, and activities to enhance your global and intercultural mindset.</p>   | <p>Engage in programs like the <b>Global and Intercultural Fluency Training Series (GIFTS)</b> or learn about and prepare for a future <b>UTM Abroad Experience</b> through the IEC to strengthen and enhance your intercultural skill set, and learn about other cultures while sharing your own!</p>  |
| PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE   | <p>Attend the <b>Program Selection &amp; Career Options</b> workshop offered by the Office of the Registrar and the CC.</p> <p>Check out <b>Careers by Major</b> at the CC to see potential career options.</p>   | <p>Explore careers through the CC's <b>Job Shadowing Program</b>.</p> <p>Considering <b>further education</b>? Attend the CC's <b>Further Education Showcase</b>. Talk to professors – they are potential mentors and references.</p>   |

\*Consult the Academic Calendar for greater detail on course requirements, program notes and degree requirements.

| 3 <sup>RD</sup> YEAR   | 4 <sup>TH</sup> OR FINAL YEAR  |
|--|--|
| <p>Ensure you are enrolling in courses that fulfill the program requirements of your degree. View the <b>Academic Calendar</b> for course options.</p> <p>Throughout your undergraduate degree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>use the <b>Degree Explorer</b> to ensure you complete your degree and program requirements.</li> <li>see the <b>Office of the Registrar</b> and the <b>Psychology Academic Counsellor</b>.</li> </ul> | <p>Dig deeper into studying psychology and enrol in an independent study course such as PSY403H5, 404H5, 405H5 and 406H5. Speak to the <b>Psychology Academic Counsellor</b> for details.</p> <p>Log on to ACORN and request graduation.</p>   |
| <p>Explore your interests. Why not support individuals who have intellectual disabilities? Volunteer with <b>Community on Campus</b>. Visit their office in DV2035C.</p> <p>Speak to the <b>Psychology Academic Counsellor</b> to learn about the variety of opportunities.</p>  | <p>Participate in a practical work-based experience through PSY442Y5 (Practicum in Exceptionality in Human Learning). Students should submit an application to the Psychology office the April prior. Speak to the <b>Psychology Academic Counsellor</b>.</p> <p>Interested in mental health education? Join the Health &amp; Counselling Centre's <b>Mental Health &amp; Safety</b> team.</p> |
| <p>Establish a professional presence on social media (e.g., LinkedIn).</p> <p>Attend the Psychology department's <b>Colloquium Series</b> or the <b>Perception, Cognition, and Language Research Talk Series</b> to mingle and learn about new psychological discoveries.</p>  | <p>Join a professional Association. Check out the <b>Canadian Psychological Association</b> which has a student mentorship program.</p> <p>Go to the <b>Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science Conference</b>.</p>  |
| <p><b>Earn credits overseas!</b> Apply to study for a summer, term or year at one of 140+ universities. The Psychology department has identified partners which are most relevant to our students. Speak to the IEC for details about <b>Course Based Exchange</b>, funding and travel safety.</p>   | <p>Learn about working abroad. Read up on worldwide employment trends and industry outlooks through <b>GoInGlobal</b>. Attend the <b>Go Global Expo</b> to learn about opportunities. See if you are eligible for <b>International Experience Canada</b>.</p>  |
| <p>What's your next step after undergrad?</p> <p>Entering the workforce? Evaluate your career options through a CC <b>Career Counselling appointment</b>. Create a job search strategy — book a CC <b>Employment Strategies appointment</b>.</p> <p>Considering further education? Research application requirements, prepare for admission tests (GRE, LSAT, MCAT), and research funding options (OGS, NSERC).</p>                              | <p>Market your skills to employers. Get your <b>resume critiqued</b> at the CC. Attend the CC workshop <b>Now That I'm Graduating What's Next?</b></p> <p>Write a strong application for further education. Attend the CC's <b>Mastering the Personal Statement</b> workshop.</p>  |

Revised on: 6/24/2021

# EXCEPTIONALITY IN HUMAN LEARNING

## Skills developed in Exceptionality in Human Learning

To be competitive in the job market, it is essential that you can explain your skills to an employer. Visit the Career Centre to learn how to articulate and market the following skills:

**Communication:** formulate and defend positions; adapt language for different audiences; sharpen your sensitivity to cultural and ethnic diversity.

**Research:** use criteria to evaluate and make decisions, as well as carry out tasks with thoroughness and precision.

**Critical thinking & problem-solving:** understand complex problems and identify potential solutions, as well as approach problems from a variety of perspectives.

**Organizational:** identify goals; manage time; multitask; and work independently and collaboratively with others.

## Get involved

Check out the 100+ student organizations on campus. Here are a few:

- Psychology Association of Undergraduate Students of Erindale (P.A.U.S.E).
- UTM Student Union (UTMSU)
- UTM Athletics Council (UTMAC)

For a listing of clubs on campus visit [www.utm.utoronto.ca/clubs](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/clubs).

## Services that support you

- Accessibility Services (AS)
- Career Centre (CC)
- Centre for Student Engagement (CSE)
- Experiential Education Unit (EEU)
- Health & Counselling Centre (HCC)
- Indigenous Centre (IC)
- International Education Centre (IEC)
- Office of the Registrar (OR)
- Recreation, Athletics and Wellness Centre (RAWC)
- Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre (RGASC)
- UTM Library, Hazel McCallion Academic Learning Centre (HMALC)

## Department of Psychology

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Mississauga ON Canada L5L 1C6

Academic Counsellor: 905 828-5414  
[www.utm.utoronto.ca/psychology](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/psychology)

## FUTURE STUDENTS

### Admission to UTM

All program areas require an Ontario Secondary School Diploma, or equivalent, with six Grade 12 U/M courses, or equivalent, including English. The admission average is calculated with English plus the next best five courses. The Grade 12 prerequisites for this program are Advanced Functions and Biology. The approximate average required for admission is mid- to high-70s. More information is available at [utm.utoronto.ca/viewbook](http://utm.utoronto.ca/viewbook).

**NOTE:** During the application process, applicants will select Psychology admissions category, but will not officially be admitted to a formal program of study (Major, and/or Minor) until after first year or after second year (Specialist).

### Sneak Peek

How different is a 3 year-old from a 5 year-old? Take PSY210H5 and get introduced to developmental psychology. Topics include historical and philosophical perspectives as well as empirical research on age-related changes in perceptual, cognitive, and social processes. What is abnormal adult behaviour? Take PSY240H5 and learn about the causes and treatment of disorders, diagnosis and assessment, biological and psychological interventions, prevention, as well as legal and ethical issues.

### Student Recruitment & Admissions

Innovation Complex, Room 1270  
University of Toronto Mississauga  
3359 Mississauga Rd  
Mississauga ON Canada L5L 1C6

905-828-5400

[www.utm.utoronto.ca/future-students](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/future-students)

