**Social-Personality Psychology Degree Options**

Social psychology studies how people affect and are affected by other people and how they are influenced by their social and physical environments. Social psychologists study how group dynamics influence our choices and behaviors. It addresses social perceptions and the influence they have on our interactions with other people.

Social psychologists study such topics as group dynamics, interpersonal relationships, prejudice, bullying, conformity, leadership, and aggression.

Personality psychologystudies individual differences in thinking, feeling and behaving. The study of personality focuses on (1) understanding individual differences in personality characteristics (e.g., narcissism) and (2) understanding how the various parts are tied together, as a whole.

Most social-personality psychologists go into teaching or conduct research at a college or university.

**PhD in Social Psychology**

* A doctoral degree is usually required to become a professor (at a college or university). However, it may be possible to teach at a community college with only a Master’s degree.

* Most begin with a bachelor’s degree in psychology and, although some focus on earning a master’s degree, most seek a doctoral degree.
* PhD programs in social-personality psychology typically take five+ years to complete.

**MA/MS in Social Psychology**

* Employers outside of academia may accept a master’s degree as sufficient in some cases.
* Most Master’s programs take about two to three years to complete.
* They are employed in such roles as researchers, statistical analysts, marketing directors, managers, political strategists and consultants. While many work in the private sector, social psychologists also work in government and not for profit organizations (e.g., conflict resolution and environmental protection).