

## **Quick Study Guide**

**Topic:** Subfields in Psychology

**Related Course(s):** Psych 1100, 2800, 3000, 3200

### **Subfields in Psychology – Concepts & Definitions**

**Behavioral neuroscience** – subfield of psychology that mainly examines how the brain and the nervous system, but other biological processes as well, determine behavior.

**Clinical Psychology** – Focuses on diagnosis and treatment of psychological disorders and problematic patterns of behavior. Study involves clinical therapy and counseling.

**Cognitive Psychology** – Branch of psychology that focuses on cognition (thoughts)

**Counseling Psychology** – similar to Clinical and focuses on emotional, social, vocational, and health-related outcomes in individuals who are considered psychologically healthy.

**Developmental Psychology** – Developmental psychology studies the physical and mental attributes of aging and maturation. This can include how cognitive, social and psychological skills are acquired throughout growth.

**Evolutionary psychology** – considers how behavior is influenced by our genetic inheritance from our ancestors

**Experimental psychology** – is the branch of psychology that studies the processes of sensing, perceiving, learning, and thinking about the world

**Forensic Psychology** – Branch of psychology dealing with justice system. Tasks of Forensic Psychologists include assessment of individuals' mental competency to stand in trial, sentencing and treatment suggestions, and advisement regarding eyewitness testimonies. This field of psychology requires a strong understanding of the legal system.

**Health Psychology** – Branch that focuses on how individual health is directly related or affected by biological, psychological, and sociocultural influences.

**Industrial/Organizational Psychology** – Applies theories, principles and research findings in industrial (businesses) and organizational settings.

**Personality Psychology** – Focuses on behaviors and thought patterns that are unique to each individual. Studies in this field include conscious and unconscious thinking and personality traits.

**Social Psychology** – How individuals interact and relate with others and how such interactions can affect behavior. How people's thoughts, feelings, and actions are affected by others.

**Sports and Exercise Psychology** – Focus on psychological aspects regarding sports and physical performance. Study includes motivation, performance related anxiety, and mental well-being.