What is I/O Psychology?

Industrial and Organizational (I/O) psychologists contribute to an organization's success by improving the performance and well-being of its people. An I/O psychologist researches and identifies how work-related behaviors and attitudes can be improved through hiring practices, training programs, and feedback systems. Applying psychology to help individuals have more satisfying work lives is a fulfilling vocation. Some of the business strategies that I/O psychologists assist with include:

- Recruit, hire, and retain the most qualified employees
- Develop fair, legal, and efficient hiring practices
- Design and implement new training programs
- Increase diversity in the workforce
- Develop performance management systems
- Minimize absenteeism
- Eliminate harassment and discrimination
- Increase motivation and enhance work-life balance

www.siop.org/visibility-brochure/student-brochure.aspx

Employment Opportunities

Employment opportunities for I/O psychologists include both public and private sector jobs in areas such as:

- Personnel research
- Wage and salary administration
- Human resource development
- Statistics
- Personnel management
- Job analysis
- Selection and placement
- Training and development
- Organizational development
- Performance evaluation

Coursework

Students enrolled in the I/O concentration at ECU complete a total of 45 semester hours of coursework. Students may choose to complete either an internship or a thesis; however, we encourage students to consider doing both. The official program entry can be found in the ECU Graduate Catalog.

Financial Support

- Research or teaching assistantships are generally available for current students. A letter accompanying the application materials indicating the desire and basis for needing financial assistance is considered an application for an assistantship.
- Most full-time graduate students have been awarded research and/or teaching assistantships for at least part of their time in the program. Besides providing financial assistance, assistantships also offer the opportunity for students to improve their interpersonal and research skills.

Internship and Thesis

Internship

- Internships provide students with an opportunity to apply skills learned through coursework and to acquire new skills in an organizational setting.
- Placements occur during the summer following the first year of coursework.
- Typically, interns are placed on the organization's payroll.
- Relocation is sometimes necessary for the summer internship.

Thesis

- The master's thesis is a professional research paper and an example of the student's research skills and ability to write an organized report. The student will defend the completed thesis at an oral examination conducted by members of the thesis committee.
- The student will usually find it advantageous to select a topical area in which a faculty member in the program has substantial research expertise.

ECU I/O Psychology Faculty

Shahnaz Aziz, Ph.D.
Associate Professor & I/O Program Director
Research Interests
- Employee health & well-being
- Workaholism
- Work-life balance
- Work stress

Jennifer Bowler, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Research Interests
- Implicit measures of personality
- Compulsive and counterproductive work behavior
- Employee creativity
- Executive coaching

John G. Cope, Ph.D.
Professor
Research Interests
- Organizational selection
- Disabilities in the workplace
- Use of cognitive models to analyze job entry decisions

Mark Bowler, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Research Interests
- Counterproductive work behavior
- Leadership development
- Personality
- Workplace aggression

ECU Affiliated I/O Psychology Faculty

Karl Wuensch, Ph.D.
Professor & ECU Scholar-Teacher
Research Interests
- Attitudes towards animals
- Developmental psychology
- Forensic psychology
- Statistics

Alex Schoemann, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Research Interests
- Structural equation modeling
- Multilevel modeling
- Analysis of experimental designs
- Intergroup relations

Application and Admission

Admission to the I/O program is contingent upon meeting all requirements of the ECU Graduate School and being recommended by a committee of the Department of Psychology. Application materials can be downloaded online at www.ecu.edu/ecs-cas/jpysc/Applications.cfm. Note that the ECU Department of Psychology Supplemental Application is a required portion of your application.

A combination of GRE scores, grade point average, references, and other supplemental materials is used in making recommendations for admission.

All application materials should be submitted by March 1st.

Students will begin their graduate work in the fall semester.

Interested in I/O?

If you are interested in applying to the I/O Psychology program at East Carolina University, please contact:

Dr. Shahnaz Aziz
Department of Psychology
224 Rawl Building
Mail Stop 565
East Carolina University
Greenville, NC 27858-4353
Phone: (252) 328-1379
E-mail: azizs@ecu.edu

More information about the application process can be found on the Department of Psychology website: www.ecu.edu/jpysc

The Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology is also an excellent source of information regarding other I/O Psychology programs and general information related to the field: www.siop.org