

News Release

U of M Crookston Offers Organizational Psychology Degree Starting Fall 2008

By Alvin Killough, Krista Lemos on Monday, January 7, 2008

CROOKSTON, Minn. (January 7, 2008) – A unique career-oriented organizational psychology degree available fall 2008 at the University of Minnesota, Crookston, will offer students both a solid background in the social sciences and an interdisciplinary focus on human resource development skills geared for multiple employment settings. The bachelor of science degree offers emphases in industrial and production management as well as consumer service settings.

"With a program focus on career preparation, practicality, flexibility and success, students will connect theory to application, be trained in the fundamentals of psychology and apply knowledge of psychological research," says Assistant Psychology Professor Alvin Killough, Ph.D., who conceptualized and wrote the program. "This program, unique in the state of Minnesota, will engage students as pre-professionals who are preparing for careers where employers are concerned with solving realistic problems using the findings and methods of psychological science."

The applied organizational program is specifically designed to increase employment readiness for psychology majors and minors by adding market value to their undergraduate college degree and improving their professional marketability. In line with the U of M, Crookston hands-on and innovative approach to learning and research, the program will require an internship and integrate technology into the curriculum as a critical support tool for increasing productivity in the workplace.

"Nearly 50 percent of all psychology graduates with a bachelor's degree tend to seek full-time employment immediately after graduation; moreover, 90 percent of those entering the labor force tend to become employed within one year after graduation," said Killough. "This program will graduate individuals with a strong grounding in the social sciences along with the interpersonal, training, organization development and problem solving skills that are in demand in the business world."

Through challenging coursework students will increase both people and teamwork skills. The program will prepare and enable students to better comprehend the dynamics of the psychological and social dimensions of organizational behavior; more effectively meet the challenges of working in professional team oriented settings; and successfully manage and engage professionally in interpersonal relations.

In addition, coursework will increase student intellectual confidence and critical thinking skills necessary to actively support projects and/or programs in employment settings where concerns focus on addressing organization, community and societal challenges. The program will enhance student interest and require student exposure to social science research in the context of human psychological, social and community social systems and organization problems.

With breadth in both the academic and professional arenas, the organizational psychology degree offers unique training and internship experiences, a positive entry-level employment outlook in industrial and service firms involved in management, consulting and employment services and an academic platform to continue graduate training in fields such organization psychology, business administration, public health and social work.

This new degree program is just one of the many ways the University of Minnesota, Crookston is working to enhance academic offerings for students; and recent campus surveys indicate that psychology is in demand. During the past two years alone, seven other degree options, including several online degrees, have been added to the academic mix. Increasing the number of degree programs and the breadth of their underlying disciplines, are among the top campus priorities in order to increase enrollment and to better serve the University's land-grant commitment to the region.

The University of Minnesota, Crookston delivers more than 25 applied-science undergraduate degree programs and 50 concentrations, including several online degrees, in agriculture; arts, humanities and social sciences; business; math, science and technology; and natural resources. Invent yourself at the University of Minnesota, Crookston – become a leader, innovate through technology and research and secure the career you want. To learn more, visit www.UMCrookston.edu.

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