

# School of Behavioral Sciences

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## Mission

The mission of the **School of Behavioral Sciences** is to provide an academically challenging education, innovative instruction, pioneering research, and impactful community engagement. We merge theory and practice to create high-impact programs which inspire students to build connected communities. We equip students with lasting, transferable skills that prepare them for comprehensive and meaningful careers.

## Vision

The **School of Behavioral Sciences** aspires to advance the theory, practice, and real-world application of Counseling, Psychology, Child Development and Family Studies, and Sociology by offering programs that resonate with the needs of our communities. We are leaders in teaching, research, and scholarship as we serve our professions and communities by fostering collaborative innovation that addresses local and global challenges. We empower undergraduate and graduate students to elevate the public's understanding of human behavior.

## Organizational Structure

The **School of Behavioral Sciences** consists of the **Division of Sociology**, the **Division of Child and Family Studies**, the **Department of Counseling**, and the **Department of Psychological Sciences**- which offers flexible degree plans at the undergraduate level as follows:

- BS in Psychology
- BS in Applied Sociology
- BS in Child and Family Studies
- BAAS in Child and Family Studies

Minor programs (this consists of 18-hours in any one of our programs below)

- Psychology
- Counseling
- Sociology
- Child and Family Studies

## Department of Psychological Sciences

The Department of Psychological Sciences is committed to providing exciting and challenging ways to develop bright new leaders in the field of psychology. Our program is tailored to meet the needs of traditional undergraduates seeking a bachelor's degree in psychology at our Stephenville campus, as well as those students attending our satellite campuses in Fort Worth and Waco.

This Bachelor of Science degree at Tarleton State University is available through three program formats. Courses are offered face-to-face, hybrid (combination of face-to-face and online), and online. All psychology course requirements are available at all four campus locations. The program offers three concentrations, including **General Psychology**, **Pre-Clinical** and **Educational Psychology**.

The department offers student research opportunities with our faculty. Our undergraduates have joined faculty at professional meetings, including the Southwestern Psychological Association and the Association of Psychological Science.

For more information about Psychological Sciences, please reach out to the main office at 254-968-9090.

## Department of Counseling

The Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling program is designed to accommodate working professionals, offering courses primarily in the evenings and on weekends. Students progress through the program in cohorts, completing their degrees over 8 to 11 semesters in Stephenville, Fort Worth, and Waco. The curriculum is accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), ensuring rigorous academic and clinical training that meets the requirements for becoming a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) in Texas. With a focus on developing ethical and effective counseling professionals, the program emphasizes experiential learning, comprehensive theoretical knowledge, and a strong professional identity.

Graduates may work in a variety of fields including, but not limited to, private practice, community mental health agencies, hospitals or healthcare settings, schools and educational institutions, university counseling centers, or corporate programs.

For more information about Counseling, please reach out to the Interim Department Head, Dr. Ryan Foster at [rdfooster@tarleton.edu](mailto:rdfooster@tarleton.edu)

## Division of Sociology

The Bachelor of Science in Applied Sociology at Tarleton State University is designed to prepare you to recognize and adapt to social change by equipping you with the lasting and transferable skills employers are seeking. Coursework focuses on developing skills like critical thinking, effective communication, data analysis, and intercultural competency and applying these skills in real-world contexts. With these skills, our graduates are working in a range of career fields and occupations. Applied Sociology is also excellent preparation for graduate school, too!

The Bachelor of Science degree at Tarleton State University equips students with the lasting skills employers seek. Our programs show students how to think critically, understand and conduct research, communicate effectively, and adapt to the ever-changing social world. The program offers three concentrations, including **General Sociology**, **Community Engagement** and **Sociology of Education**.

For more information about Sociology, please reach out to the Division Director, Dr. Derek Lehman at [lehman@tarleton.edu](mailto:lehman@tarleton.edu)

## Division of Child and Family Studies

The Bachelor of Science degree in Child and Family Studies is designed to train professionals who are dedicated to the well-being and development of children and families. The child and family studies courses are offered completely online. This program offers a comprehensive curriculum with three distinct concentrations, allowing students to tailor their studies to align with their specific interests and career aspirations.

The **Child Life** concentration equips students with specialized skills in supporting children facing medical challenges and fostering resilience and emotional well-being in healthcare settings. The **Early Childhood Education** concentration provides a strong foundation in pedagogy and child development, preparing graduates for impactful roles in early learning environments. Finally, the **Family Life** concentration delves into the complexities of family dynamics, equipping students with the knowledge and skills needed to provide meaningful support and resources for families across diverse contexts.

For more information about Child and Family Studies, please reach out to the Division Director, Dr. Kristina Higgins at [higgins@tarleton.edu](mailto:higgins@tarleton.edu)