

BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE AND PUBLIC SERVICE

The Behavioral Science and Public Service area of study is designed for students who are interested in understanding human behavior, social systems, and public institutions while preparing to transfer to a bachelor's degree program. This Associate in Science degree provides a strong foundation in the social and behavioral sciences, emphasizing critical thinking, research, communication, and the application of theory to real-world challenges.

Students are encouraged to select a concentration to guide their coursework and align with their intended transfer major. Concentrations provide structured advising pathways in areas such as Criminal Justice, Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Forensic Psychology, Political Science and Public Administration, Psychology, Social Work, and Sociology and Anthropology. These pathways help ensure students complete appropriate prerequisite coursework for upper-level study while exploring specific academic and career interests.

In addition to degree pathways, students may also pursue certificates in Addictions Counseling or Paralegal Studies to gain specialized knowledge that supports career preparation or complements transfer goals.

Associate in Science Degree

Behavioral Science and Public Service, Associate in Science (<https://catalog.ocean.edu/areas-study/behavioral-science-public-service/as-bsps/>)

Students are encouraged to choose a concentration to guide their studies and get on a pathway to transfer. A concentration is an advising structure used to help students focus their coursework within a broader degree program. Concentrations provide guidance toward a particular area of interest or intended transfer major and ensure students complete the appropriate prerequisite courses. A concentration is not a separate major or credential and will not appear on the diploma or transcript.

Concentrations

- Criminal Justice Concentration (<https://catalog.ocean.edu/areas-study/behavioral-science-public-service/criminal-justice/>)
- Early Childhood and Elementary Education Concentration (<https://catalog.ocean.edu/areas-study/behavioral-science-public-service/early-ed/>)
- Elementary and Middle School Education Concentration (<https://catalog.ocean.edu/areas-study/behavioral-science-public-service/elem-ed/>)
- Forensic Psychology Concentration (<https://catalog.ocean.edu/areas-study/behavioral-science-public-service/forensic-psych/>)
- Political Science and Public Administration Concentration (<https://catalog.ocean.edu/areas-study/behavioral-science-public-service/poli-sci/>)
- Psychology Concentration (<https://catalog.ocean.edu/areas-study/behavioral-science-public-service/psych/>)
- Social Work Concentration (<https://catalog.ocean.edu/areas-study/behavioral-science-public-service/social-work/>)
- Sociology and Anthropology Concentration (<https://catalog.ocean.edu/areas-study/behavioral-science-public-service/soci-anth/>)

Certificates

- Addictions Counseling, Certificate of Proficiency (<https://catalog.ocean.edu/areas-study/behavioral-science-public-service/aldc/>)
- Paralegal Studies, Certificate of Completion (<https://catalog.ocean.edu/areas-study/behavioral-science-public-service/paralegal/>)

Workforce Education

- 50-Hour Pre-Service to Teaching