At some level, everyone is a psychologist. Humans have always tried to understand why people and animals act the way they do, and have formed theories to explain and predict those actions. However, the founding of the discipline of psychology as a science is usually dated 1879 when Wilhelm Wundt nailed a sign on his University of Leipzig laboratory door distinguishing his work from biology and philosophy.

Experimental research forms the foundation of all modern psychological thought. Through research, new and old ideas alike are critically examined to see if they are opinions or facts, and to understand how generally they can be applied.

Recognizing the importance of a strong background in experimental methods and research as part of a complete undergraduate training in psychology, as well as preparation for graduate training, the Department of Psychology and Sociology at Northwest Nazarene University requires a full year of coursework in experimental design and statistical analysis. We also encourage students to pursue further research either individually or teamed with another student or a professor.

Criteria for the Award

1. The scholarship shall be awarded to the student having the best all-around research project and poster in the spring Psychology Research Forum as voted by the students and faculty;

2. The recipient is to be a sophomore or junior psychology major enrolled in the Experimental Design and Statistical Analysis course;

3. The recipient must be a person who meets the general scholastic requirements and shows potential for academic success and degree completion;

4. Should the student selected be the recipient of a departmental scholarship with greater value, this scholarship will be awarded to the first alternate.