

Psychology (B.A.)

This document has been created for advising purposes only. Please contact the department for major and/or graduation requirements.

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Potential Career Paths

- Residential Care (BA)
- Social and Human Services (BA, MA)
- Business (BA)
- Therapy (MA, PhD, PsyD)
- Teaching (MA, PhD)
- Research (BA, MA, PhD)

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What is Psychology?

Psychology is the scientific study of behavior and mental processes in both human and animal. Psychology is a broad discipline encompassing topics from the social sciences as well as the natural sciences, especially biology. Psychologists study the relationship between brain function and behavior, as well as the relationship between the environment and behavior. Because psychology is a science, psychologists follow the scientific methods of careful observation, experimentation, and analysis.

Psychologists may work in a variety of roles. For example, psychologists conduct both basic and applied research, serve as consultants, diagnose and treat people, teach future psychologists, test intelligence and personality, and work as health care providers.

Psychologists may work independently, as well as with other professionals such as physicians, lawyers, school personnel, computer experts, engineers, policymakers, managers, and other scientists. Psychologists may work in a variety of settings such as laboratories, schools, universities, community health centers, prisons, corporate offices, hospitals, and courtrooms.

There are many opportunities for individuals with a background in psychology, especially for those with graduate degrees. However, an undergraduate degree in psychology is good preparation for many other professions. Employers are interested in the statistical and experimental design skills of psychology students, as well as the communication and interpersonal skills, problem-solving skills, psychological knowledge, and computer literacy skills.

The purpose of this program is to provide students with a well-rounded liberal arts education, with an in-depth study in psychology.



Additional Resources

To become more involved in psychology or to learn about the profession, here is what you can do.

- 1 Visit the website of the American Psychological Association, www.apa.org, and the website for the Association for Psychological Science, www.psychologicalscience.org.
- 2 Explore psychology resources in the Psychology Department Advising and Resource Center.
- 3 Join Psi Chi and/or the Psychology Club.
- 4 Schedule a meeting with a psychology faculty member to discuss the profession.

A student who is interested in pursuing a career in psychology should work with an advisor to develop an academic plan that is tailored to the student's interests, yet leads to the completion of coursework that will be helpful in attaining the student's educational or professional goals.

University and College Requirements

In addition to the requirements for the major, which are listed below, be sure to complete all other university and college requirements, including the foreign language requirement.

If you are planning to start college-level foreign language with a course beyond 111, you are advised to begin foreign language in your first year. If you are starting foreign language with 111, begin language courses no later than the junior year.

Required Courses in Psychology

PSY 101	General Psychology (5)	Developmental—at least two of the following:	PSY 310	Motivation (4)	
PSY 221	Statistics (5)	PSY 273	Child & Adolescent (4)	PSY 336	Social Psychology (4)
PSY 226	Research Methods (4)	PSY 315	Behavior Genetics (5)	PSY 337	Social Psych of Justice (4)
Biological—at least one of the following:		PSY 317	Adulthood & Aging (4)	PSY 361	Adv Org Psychology (4)
PSY 201	Sensation & Perception (4)	PSY 376	Disorders of Childhood (4)	PSY 362	Personnel Psychology (4)
PSY 203	Learning (4)	PSY 378	Psychology of Gender (4)		
PSY 312	Physiological Psy (4)	PSY 470	Prenatal Infl on Dev (4)	Note: Courses in bold are required for the psychology major and courses in <i>italics</i> are recommended.	
PSY 314	Comparative Psych (5)	Clinical—at least two of the following:		The following courses are recommended if you are planning on pursuing the doctoral degree in psychology:	
PSY 327	Human Psychophys (4)	PSY 233	Psych of Personality (4)	PSY 321	Advanced Statistics (5)
PSY 380	Psy of Health & Illness (4)	PSY 332	Abnormal Psych (4)	PSY 418	History & Systems of Psy (4)
Cognitive—at least one of the following:		PSY 341	Tests & Measurements (4)		
PSY 304	Learning & Cog Proc (4)	PSY 351	Intro to Clin & Couns (4)		
PSY 305	Human Memory (4)	PSY 430	Psychoactive Drugs (4)		
PSY 307	Psycholinguistics (4)	Social/Organizational—at least two of the following:			
PSY 308	Human Judgment (4)	PSY 261	Industrial and Org (4)		

Fieldwork and Research in Psychology

PSY 489 (1-5, 5 max)—Credit for volunteer work in a mental health or health care setting.

PSY 390 (1-5, 15 max)—Credit for participating in research under the supervision of a faculty member.

Extra-Departmental Required Courses

Psychology majors must complete three courses in ONE of the following natural science areas: Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Environmental and Plant Biology, Geography, Geology, or Physics.

Courses that fulfill this requirement are listed under the Natural Sciences Area Requirement in the College of Arts and Sciences section of the catalog. The three courses that you choose must have the same departmental prefix, with the following exception: BIOL 101 may be combined with either two Environmental/Plant Biology (PBIO) courses or two Biological Sciences (BIOS) courses.

Psychology majors must complete two courses in either mathematics or computer science. Students may select any two courses in Mathematics (MATH) 113 or above except (251) OR any two courses in Computer Science (CS) 200 or above. You may choose MATH 250, but only if completed BEFORE you take PSY 221.

Additional Recommendations

As students pursue a liberal arts education in psychology and prepare for a career in a variety of settings, there are steps you can take to make yourself more marketable to potential employers, as well as to prepare for graduate school.

Students should also consider completing additional relevant coursework, including courses in oral communication (school of communication) and written communication (department of English). Consult with your advisor to develop a curricular plan tailored to your own needs and interests.

Students who intend to go to graduate school in psychology are encouraged to complete the three courses in Biological Sciences.

These other activities include:

- A minor/certificate
- Elective classes
- Work experience
- Internships
- Volunteer positions
- Extracurricular involvement