

Psychology

(Bachelor of Science)

Psychology is the systematic and scientific study of behavior and mental processes (e.g., memory, emotion). It seeks to explain how physiological, personal, cultural, social, developmental, and environmental conditions influence thought and action. Research aims to understand, predict, and influence behavior.

In the past century, psychology has moved from being a branch of philosophy to being both an experimental science and an active helping profession.

Likewise, psychologists work in a variety of settings where their expertise in human behavior is applied to increase efficiency, assist in product design, improve work conditions, and more. To quote the American Psychological Association, "In every conceivable setting from scientific research centers to mental healthcare services, 'the understanding of behavior' is the enterprise of psychologists" (www.apa.org).

A strong grasp of psychology also requires knowledge of the approach and content of considered core to the field as a whole. Students gain this understanding by completing coursework in the primary areas of Psychology: Research Methods, Physiological/Cognitive, Social/Personality, Culture/Gender, and Clinical/Counseling. Students complete the major by choosing additional courses to meet individual needs with the help of their Professional Advisor. Students should consult with their Faculty Mentor about career planning and professional development.

The program offers special opportunities for qualified students to strengthen their professional preparation. Psychology faculty frequently work with students on collaborative research projects. Support for advanced student research is enhanced by technology in several research labs. Although all courses are taught by faculty members, undergraduate teaching assistantships allow students to master course content and receive valuable training in the teaching of psychology. Internships can be acquired in a variety of university and community settings.

Psychology helps to deepen understanding of individual and social behavior and provides a strong general background for many careers. Psychology graduates are employed in a variety of positions with their bachelor's degree, including in social and community service, business, research, and education-related fields from after-school programs to college admissions. Because of the wide range of possibilities, students should select courses and pursue applied experiences relevant to the occupational area of greatest interest. Preparation for specialized professional work — such as testing, counseling, university teaching, consulting, and many research activities — usually requires a master's or doctoral degree. Psychology majors have pursued graduate school in many fields, including psychology sub-disciplines such as experimental, developmental, neuroscience, industrial/organizational, social, sport, exercise, and performance psychology, clinical, counseling, and school psychology, as well as the related fields of social work, education, medicine, law, and business.

There are many different complementary minors. They vary based on individual interests and future career or educational goals, so students are encouraged to discuss options with an advisor.

Psychology Learning Outcomes

Goal 1: Knowledge Base in Psychology

- 1.1 Describe key concepts, principles, and overarching themes in psychology
- 1.2 Develop a working knowledge of psychology's content domains
- 1.3 Describe applications of psychology

Goal 2: Scientific Inquiry and Critical Thinking

- 2.1 Use scientific reasoning to interpret psychological phenomena
- 2.2 Demonstrate psychology information literacy
- 2.3 Engage in innovative and integrative thinking and problem solving
- 2.4 Interpret, design, and conduct basic psychological research
- 2.5 Incorporate sociocultural factors in scientific inquiry

Goal 3: Ethical and Social Responsibility in a Diverse World

- 3.1 Apply ethical standards to evaluate psychological science and practice
- 3.2 Build and enhance interpersonal relationships
- 3.3 Adopt values that build community at local, national, and global levels

Goal 4: Communication

- 4.1 Demonstrate effective writing for different purposes
- 4.2 Exhibit effective presentation skills for different purposes
- 4.3 Interact effectively with others

Goal 5: Professional Development

- 5.1 Apply psychological content and skills to career goals
- 5.2 Exhibit self-efficacy and self-regulation
- 5.3 Refine project-management skills
- 5.4 Enhance teamwork capacity

5.5 Develop meaningful professional direction for life after graduation

Major

Code	Title	Credits
Supporting Courses		13-14
PSYCH 102	Introduction to Psychology	
PSYCH 203	Introduction to Lifespan Development	
Biology (choose one of the following):		
BIOLOGY 201 & BIOLOGY 202	Principles of Biology: Cellular and Molecular Processes and Principles of Biology Lab: Cellular and Molecular Processes	
HUM BIOL 102	Introduction to Human Biology	
HUM BIOL 240	Anatomy and Physiology	
Statistics (choose one of the following):		
PSYCH 205	Social Science Statistics	
BUSAN 220	Business Statistics (for Business major and minors only)	
MATH 260	Introductory Statistics	
Upper-Level Courses		28
PSYCH 300	Research Methods in Psychology	
Core Courses		
Physiological/Cognitive (choose one of the following):		
PSYCH 308	Physiological Psychology	
PSYCH 417	Psychology of Cognitive Processes	
Social/Personality (choose one of the following):		
PSYCH 330	Social Psychology	
PSYCH 429	Theories of Personality	
Culture/Gender (choose one of the following):		
PSYCH 350	Cultural Psychology	
PSYCH 401	Psychology of Women and Gender	
Clinical/Counseling (choose one of the following):		
PSYCH 435	Psychopathology	
PSYCH 438	Counseling and Psychotherapy	
Elective Courses (choose 12 credits - any Psychology Upper-Level course in the areas above not already taken or any of the following):		
PSYCH 310	Drugs and Behavior	
PSYCH 315	Social Cognitive Affective Neuroscience	
PSYCH 321	Sport and Performance Psychology	
PSYCH 331	Infancy and Early Childhood Development	
PSYCH 332	Middle Childhood and Adolescent Development	
PSYCH 343	Adult Development and Aging	
PSYCH 344	Dying, Death, and Loss	
PSYCH 380	Conservation Psychology	
PSYCH 415	Industrial and Organizational Psychology	
PSYCH 424	Psychology of Emotion	
PSYCH 440	Multicultural Counseling and Mental Health	
PSYCH 443	Spirituality and Development	
PSYCH 450	Health Psychology	
PSYCH 483	Selected Topics	
PSYCH 490	Capstone in Psychology	
PSYCH 492	Applied Research Lab	
PSYCH 499	Travel Course	
One (or more) of the following is encouraged, but does not count toward major requirements:		
PSYCH 471	Field Experience I	

PSYCH 472	Field Experience II
PSYCH 478	Honors in the Major
PSYCH 495	Teaching Assistantship
PSYCH 496	Project/Research Assistantship
PSYCH 497	Internship
PSYCH 498	Independent Study

Total Credits 41-42

Minor

Code	Title	Credits
Supporting Courses		9-10
PSYCH 102	Introduction to Psychology	
PSYCH 203	Introduction to Lifespan Development	
Choose one:		
PSYCH 205	Social Science Statistics	
or BUSAN 220	Business Statistics	
or MATH 260	Introductory Statistics	

Upper-Level Courses 12-13

Choose any four upper-level (300 or 400 level) psychology prefix courses

Total Credits 21-23

¹ Courses not used in one of the four core requirement areas may be completed as the one additional elective course.

Curriculum Guide

The following is only an example of a four-year Psychology degree program and is subject to change without notice. Students should consult an advisor to ensure that they have the most accurate and up-to-date information available about a particular four-year degree option.

An example: Four year plan for **Psychology Major**

120 credits necessary to graduate.

Plan is a representation and categories of classes can be switched. Check with your advisor.

Course	Title	Credits
Freshman		
Fall		
PSYCH 102	Introduction to Psychology	3
First Year Seminar		3
General Ed		3
General Ed		3
General Ed		3
		Credits 15
Spring		
HUM BIOL 102	Introduction to Human Biology	3
PSYCH 203 Introduction to Lifespan Development		3
General Ed		3
General Ed		3
General Ed		3
		Credits 15
Sophomore		
Fall		
PSYCH 205	Social Science Statistics	4
PSYCH 3XX/4XX Psychology Upper Level Core Course		3
General Ed		3
General Ed		3
General Ed		3
		Credits 16

Spring			
PSYCH 300	Research Methods in Psychology		4
PSYCH 3XX/4XX Psychology Upper Level Core Course			3
General Ed			3
General Ed			3
General Ed			3
		Credits	16
Junior			
Fall			
PSYCH 3XX/4XX Psychology Upper Level Core Course			3
PSYCH 3XX/4XX Elective			3
Elective			3
Elective			3
Elective			3
		Credits	15
Spring			
PSYCH/HUM DEV 3XX/4XX Psychology Upper Level Core Course			3
PSYCH 3XX/4XX Elective			3
Elective			3
Elective			3
Elective			3
		Credits	15
Senior			
Fall			
PSYCH 3XX/4XX Psychology Upper Level Elective			3
PSYCH 495 or PSYCH 496 or PSYCH 497	Teaching Assistantship or Project/Research Assistantship or Internship		3
Elective			3
Elective			3
Elective			3
		Credits	15
Spring			
PSYCH 3XX/4XX Psychology Elective			3
PSYCH 494 Capstone in Psychology			3
PSYCH 495 or PSYCH 496 or PSYCH 497	Teaching Assistantship or Project/Research Assistantship or Internship		3
Elective			3
Elective			3
		Credits	15
		Total Credits	122

Faculty

Ryan C Martin; Professor; Ph.D., University of Southern Mississippi, chair

Christine A Smith; Professor; Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh

Kristin M Vespia; Professor; Ph.D., University of Iowa

Dean D VonDras; Professor; Ph.D., Washington University in St. Louis

Georjeanna J Wilson-Doenges; Professor; Ph.D., University of California - Irvine

Jason Cowell; Associate Professor; Ph.D., University of Minnesota

Todd Hillhouse; Associate Professor; Ph.D., Virginia Commonwealth University

Jenell L Holstead; Associate Professor; Ph.D., University of Indiana

Joanna Morrisey; Associate Professor; Ph.D., University of Iowa

Sawa Senzaki; Associate Professor; Ph.D., University of Alberta

Elif Ikizer; Assistant Professor; Ph.D., University of Connecticut

Alison Martingano; Assistant Professor; Ph.D., The New School for Social Research

Abigail Nehr Korn-Bailey; Assistant Professor; Ph.D., West Virginia University

Herbert Covington; Assistant Teaching Professor; Ph.D., Tufts University

Stephanie Cutlan; Assistant Teaching Professor; Ph.D., University of Memphis

Macrae Husting; Assistant Teaching Professor; Ph.D., University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee