

PSYCHOLOGY, BA

The Psychology major focuses on several areas in the field of psychological science: biological, clinical, cognition and cognitive neuroscience, perception, developmental, and social and personality.

Students in the major have opportunities to:

- learn about the multiple content areas of scientific psychology;
- develop the ability to think critically and quantitatively;
- enhance communication skills in the classroom and in writing;
- prepare for the most rigorous graduate and professional programs;
- apply the science of psychology to the well-being of citizens of Wisconsin and the global community.

Some students will go to graduate school and become the next generation of psychological scientists and educators who will create and disseminate new knowledge. Others will choose careers in other areas, including business, medicine, law, education, and counseling. Through its strong interdisciplinary connections with the natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, and medical sciences, scientific psychology is positioned well to influence critical issues for society. Because all courses in psychology emphasize critical thinking and the analysis of research, the Psychology major prepares students to take on the challenges of and fully participate in an increasingly complex, multicultural world.

HOW TO GET IN

HOW TO GET IN

Students who successfully complete PSYCH 202 (or equivalent) with a grade of C or better are eligible to declare the major.¹

Please refer to the Department website for instructions on how to declare the major (<https://psych.wisc.edu/undergraduate-program/major/#declare-the-major>).

¹ Equivalent include a score of 4 or higher on the IB Psychology exam or a score of 4 or 5 on the AP Psychology exam.

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatestudytext>) section of the Guide.

General Education

- Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits
- Breadth—Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits
- Breadth—Social Studies: 3 credits
- Communication Part A & Part B *
- Ethnic Studies *
- Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B *

* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

Students pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The College of Letters & Science allows this major to be paired with either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science curriculum.

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Mathematics Complete the University General Education Requirements for Quantitative Reasoning A (QR-A) and Quantitative Reasoning B (QR-B) coursework.

Language

- Complete the fourth unit of a language other than English; OR
- Complete the third unit of a language and the second unit of an additional language other than English.

L&S Breadth

- 12 credits of Humanities, which must include 6 credits of literature; and
- 12 credits of Social Science; and
- 12 credits of Natural Science, which must include one 3+ credit Biological Science course and one 3+ credit Physical Science course.

Liberal Arts and Science Coursework Complete at least 108 credits.

Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work Complete at least 60 credits at the intermediate or advanced level.

Major Declare and complete at least one major.

Total Credits Complete at least 120 credits.

UW-Madison Experience

- 30 credits in residence, overall; and
- 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit.

Quality of Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.000 in all coursework at UW–Madison • 2.000 in Intermediate/Advanced level coursework at UW–Madison
-----------------	--

NON–L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR

Non–L&S students who have permission from their school/college to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements. They do not need to complete the L&S Degree Requirements above.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

The major requires the completion of the six categories below (Foundation, Biology, Breadth, Depth, Capstone and Electives) and a minimum of 30 credits in PSYCH (<https://guide.wisc.edu/courses/psych/>) coursework.

FOUNDATION

Foundation courses provide a grounding in basic psychological facts and an understanding of the methodologies used to produce those facts. **Foundation courses are required with grades of C or better** in each course;

Code	Title	Credits
Introductory Psychology—one course: ¹		3–4
PSYCH 202	Introduction to Psychology	3
Statistics—one course:		3
PSYCH 210	Basic Statistics for Psychology	3
STAT 324	Introduction to Statistics for Science and Engineering	3
STAT 371	Introductory Applied Statistics for the Life Sciences	3
Research Methods—one course:		4
PSYCH 225	Research Methods	4

BIOLOGY

Foundational knowledge in biology is critical to the study of psychological science and the understanding of human and animal behavior, as well as the brain sciences.

Code	Title	Credits
Introductory Biology—complete one of following: ²		
BIOLOGY/ ZOOLOGY 101	Animal Biology	3
BIOLOGY/BOTANY/ ZOOLOGY 151	Introductory Biology	5
BIOCORE 381 & BIOCORE 383	Evolution, Ecology, and Genetics and Cellular Biology	6

BREADTH

Breadth courses familiarize students with the breadth of psychology in the following area groups: Biological, Clinical, Cognitive & Perceptual Science, Development, and Social & Personality. Complete one course from three different area groups for a total of three courses:

Biological

Code	Title	Credits
PSYCH 449	Animal Behavior	3–4
PSYCH 450	Primate Psychology: Insights into Human Behavior	3
PSYCH 454	Behavioral Neuroscience	3–4
PSYCH/ ZOOLOGY 523	Neurobiology	3

Clinical

Code	Title	Credits
PSYCH 401	Psychology, Law, and Social Policy	3
PSYCH 405	Adult Psychopathology	3–4

Cognitive and Perceptual Sciences

Code	Title	Credits
PSYCH 406	Psychology of Perception	3–4
PSYCH 414	Cognitive Psychology	3–4

Developmental

Code	Title	Credits
PSYCH/SOC 453	Human Sexuality	4
PSYCH 460	Child Development	3–4
PSYCH 462	Adolescent Development	3–4
PSYCH 464	Adult Development and Aging	3

Social and Personality

Code	Title	Credits
PSYCH 403	Psychology of Personality	3
PSYCH 456	Social Psychology	3–4
PSYCH/ GEN&WS 522	Psychology of Women and Gender	3

DEPTH

Depth courses allow students to engage in depth with material in specific content areas in psychology. Depth courses include both a lecture component and a required discussion/lab section for all students, and they help students develop a deeper understanding of particular areas of psychology. **Two courses** are required:

Code	Title	Credits
PSYCH 501	Depth Topic in Social Science (multiple separate topics offered each semester)	4
PSYCH 502	Cognitive Development	4
PSYCH 503	Social Development	4
PSYCH 505	Depth Topic in Biological Science	4
PSYCH 508	Psychology of Human Emotions: From Biology to Culture	4
PSYCH 507	Introduction to Clinical Psychology	4
PSYCH 510	Critical Issues in Child Psychopathology	4
PSYCH 513	Hormones, Brain, and Behavior	4
PSYCH 515	Animal Cognition	4
PSYCH 521		
PSYCH 526	The Criminal Mind: Forensic and Psychobiological Perspectives	4

PSYCH 528	Cultural Psychology	4
PSYCH 532	Psychological Effects of the Internet	4

CAPSTONE

Capstone courses allow students to explore current research in psychology in a seminar setting. **One course** is required:

Code	Title	Credits
PSYCH 601	Current Topics in Psychology (many separate topics each semester)	3
PSYCH 602	Intermediate Statistics for Psychology	3
PSYCH 603	Epigenetics and the Brain	3
PSYCH 607	Introduction to Psychotherapy	3
PSYCH 612	Neuropharmacology	3
PSYCH 626	Issues in Prisoner Reentry	3

ELECTIVES

In addition to completion of the courses required above, students must complete at least **3 additional credits** in PSYCH (<https://guide.wisc.edu/courses/psych/>) in courses numbered **300 and above**. Students may complete any additional PSYCH course(s), including courses from: the Breadth, Depth, or Capstone areas, or directed/independent study and mentored research.

RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

- 2.000 GPA in all PSYCH and major courses
- 2.000 GPA on 15 upper-level major credits, taken in residence³
- 15 credits in PSYCH, taken on the UW–Madison campus

HONORS IN THE MAJOR

Students who are declared psychology majors may opt to pursue Honors in the Major. Honors in the Major is especially appropriate for students who want more in-depth exposure and experiences in psychology courses, as well as substantive research involvement in the Department. Honors in the Major also provides opportunities to develop leadership, writing, and critical thinking skills beneficial to a wide range of graduate programs and career choices.

Students must have a minimum GPA of 3.3 within the Psychology major as well as minimum GPA of 3.3 overall, and have met with a Psychology Advisor regarding Honors in the Major in order to declare their intent to complete Honors in the Major in Psychology.

Please refer to the Department website for instructions on how to declare intent to complete honors in the major (<https://psych.wisc.edu/undergraduate-program/major/#honors-in-the-major>).

HONORS IN THE PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

To earn Honors in the Major in Psychology, students must satisfy both the requirements for the major (above) and the following additional requirements:

- Earn a 3.300 University GPA
- Earn a 3.300 GPA in all PSYCH and major courses

- Complete the following courses with Honors and a grade of B or higher:
 - PSYCH 380 (Junior year) or two semesters of PSYCH 686 Senior Thesis Seminar in Psychology (requires Fall and Spring enrollment)
 - Three Psychology Breadth and/or Depth courses OR Two Psychology Breadth and/or Depth courses and one of the following: PSYCH 210 Basic Statistics for Psychology or PSYCH 225 Research Methods
 - A two-semester Senior Honors Thesis in PSYCH 681 and PSYCH 682 for a total of 6 credits.

FOOTNOTES

- ¹ Equivalents may include credit awarded by appropriate scores on AP, IB, or A-level exams or transfer credit.
- ² A score of 4 or better on the IB Biology exam, or a score of 4 or 5 on the AP Biology exam will satisfy the Introductory Biology requirement.
- ³ PSYCH 300–699 are upper-level in the major.

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total Degree To receive a bachelor's degree from UW–Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.

Residency Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. "In residence" means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. "In residence" credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.

Quality of Work Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Gain an appreciation for the contributions that psychology is making to our understanding of human and animal behavior.
2. Learn to analyze and construct arguments, define and solve problems, and understand and apply scientific reasoning.
3. Learn to communicate their ideas in a clear, organized, and compelling way.
4. Gain a specific understanding of how to use data and research methodology in their critical thinking.
5. Acquire an appreciation of and respect for individual differences and diversity of experiences and background.
6. Acquire the statistical and research skills used in the behavioral sciences.

7. Have the opportunity to evaluate the diverse professional opportunities in psychology.

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

This Four-Year Plan is only one way a student may complete an L&S degree with this major. Many factors can affect student degree planning, including placement scores, credit for transferred courses, credits earned by examination, and individual scholarly interests. In addition, many students have commitments (e.g., athletics, honors, research, student organizations, study abroad, work and volunteer experiences) that necessitate they adjust their plans accordingly. Informed students engage in their own unique Wisconsin Experience by consulting their academic advisors, Guide, DARS, and Course Search & Enroll for assistance making and adjusting their plan.

First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Communication A	3 Psych Breadth Course	3
Quantitative Reasoning A	3 ZOOLOGY/ BIOLOGY 101 ¹	3
Foreign Language (if required)	3 Ethnic Studies	3
PSYCH 202	3-4 Literature Breadth	3
Physical Science Breadth	3 Electives	3
	15	15

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Psych Breadth Course	3 PSYCH 210 (satisfies QR-B) ²	3
Literature Breadth course	3 INTER-LS 210 (optional)	1
Physical Science Breadth (if needed)	3 Psych Breadth Course	3
Electives	6 Humanities Breadth	3
	Electives	5
	15	15

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
PSYCH 225 (satisfies Com-B)	4 Psych Depth Course (may be taken in Fourth Year)	4
Humanities Breadth	3 Psych Elective (3 PSYCH elective credits needed) ³	3
I/A Comp Sci, Math, or Stats (if needed for the BS)	3 Electives	8
Electives	5	
	15	15

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Psych Depth Course (Fall and/or Spring)	4 Electives	15
Psych Capstone (Fall or Spring)	3	

I/A Comp Sci, Math, or Stats (if required for the BS) 3

Electives	5
	15

Total Credits 120

- Other courses satisfy the Biology requirement for this major. Consult the Requirements page and adjust your plan accordingly.
- Or accepted Statistics course (STAT 324 or STAT 371); We recommend a Psych Breadth course before completing the statistics requirement.
- PSYCH 300-699 are electives in the major.

ADVISING AND CAREERS

ADVISING AND CAREERS

ADVISING

Any current UW–Madison undergraduate student interested in the Psychology major is welcome to schedule an appointment using Starfish (<https://wisc.starfishsolutions.com/starfish-ops/dl/instructor/serviceCatalog.html?bookmark=service/64232/schedule>) with a Psychology academic advisor.

For more information about psychology advising visit psych.wisc.edu/undergraduate-program/advising (<http://psych.wisc.edu/undergraduate-program/advising/>).

Are you a prospective student? The Department of Psychology welcomes prospective students to attend our Information Sessions held throughout the year. Please visit the Office of Admissions' Visit Bucky website (<https://www.admissions.wisc.edu/visitbucky/>) for information on dates and times of our Psychology Major Information Sessions.

CAREERS

Students who major in Psychology enter a wide variety of careers, both with and without education beyond a Bachelor's degree. The American Psychological Association with the Center for Workforce Studies has recent statistics on What do you do with a Psychology degree? CWS Data Tool: Careers in Psychology (<https://www.apa.org/workforce/data-tools/careers-psychology/>).

There are several campus resources to guide students in their career search. Students who are unsure about their desired major/career are encouraged to visit the Career Exploration Center (<https://cec.ccas.wisc.edu/>). The SuccessWorks at the College of Letters & Science (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/>) offers a variety of opportunities ranging from career assessment, resume writing, interviewing techniques, internships, graduate school, and more. Additionally, the Department of Psychology offers career support and resources (<https://psych.wisc.edu/undergraduate-program/career-exploration/>) for current students who have declared a Psychology major.

SUCCESSWORKS

SuccessWorks (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/>) at the College of Letters & Science helps you turn the academic skills learned in your classes into a fulfilling life, guiding you every step of the way to securing jobs, internships, or admission to graduate school.

Through one-on-one career advising, events, and resources, you can explore career options, build valuable internship and research experience, and connect with supportive alumni and employers who open doors of opportunity.

- What you can do with your major (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/what-you-can-do-with-your-major/>) (Major Skills & Outcomes Sheets)
- Make a career advising appointment (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment/>)
- Learn about internships and internship funding (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/finding-a-job-or-internship/>)
- Try “Jobs, Internships, & How to Get Them,” (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/canvas/>) an interactive guide in Canvas for enrolled UW–Madison students