

PSYCHOLOGY, BA

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.

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| General Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 * |
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* 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.

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| Language | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. |
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| L&S Breadth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. |
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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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	
Statistics—one course:		3
PSYCH 210	Basic Statistics for Psychology	
STAT 324	Introduction to Statistics for Science and Engineering	
STAT 371	Introductory Applied Statistics for the Life Sciences	
Research Methods—one course:		4
PSYCH 225	Research Methods	

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 Equivalent 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.