

BA in Psychological Sciences

Degree Program Description

The study of Psychology aims to understand the mind, behavior, and mental health. The Bachelor of Arts in Psychological Sciences (BA) degree is for students interested in studying human behavior in preparation for either employment after completion of the undergraduate psychology degree, or in preparation for applied psychology and other related graduate programs (e.g., counseling, social work, management). Regardless of a student's ultimate goals, our faculty members believe that students will be best served by completing a rigorous research-oriented program of study. Therefore, students should expect their instructors to take a scientific approach to the particular psychological content of each course. Psychological Sciences majors work in diverse fields such as community and social services, human resources, management and business, health care, student affairs and services, law enforcement, education, and scientific research.

Major Program Requirements

In addition to University (<http://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegreerequirements/universityrequirements/>), general education (<http://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegreerequirements/generaleducationrequirements/>), and College of Arts and Science (<http://catalog.missouri.edu/collegeofartsandscience/#undergraduatetext>) requirements, students must also meet the following major program requirements. All major requirements in the College of Arts and Science must be completed with grades of C- or higher unless otherwise indicated. Students are reminded to check the Undergraduate Catalog for course descriptions and prerequisite information.

Major Core Requirements

- The psychology major requires 30 credit hours in psychology coursework.
- All courses that count toward the psychology major requirements must be completed with a grade of C- or better. Grades of D+ or below or U will not be accepted. This includes STAT 1200 or its equivalent (a required course for all psychology majors).
- Students must complete STAT 1200 and PSYCH 3010 as a prerequisite for PSYCH 3020. PSYCH 3020 is a prerequisite for the capstone lab. PSYCH 3020 may be taken concurrently with PSYCH 4976HW or PSYCH 4976W. PSYCH 3020 must be completed before PSYCH 4977HW or PSYCH 4977W. We make no other exceptions to the research methods sequence requirements.
- Students must complete at least two psychology courses (6 credit hours) numbered 4000 or above. The Psychology capstone lab may be used to meet this requirement.
- Students must complete at least one psychology course numbered 3000 or above that is designated Writing Intensive. A WI psychology capstone lab can meet this requirement.
- Students may use no more than 12 hours of Special Problems Courses, Special Readings Courses, or Internship Courses (PSYCH 2950, PSYCH 4940, PSYCH 4950 & PSYCH 4960) toward graduation. Within the 12 hours, no more than 9 hours may be Special Problems Courses. (i.e., psychology research credit hours). A

student may complete either 6 hours of PSYCH 2950 and 3 hours of PSYCH 4950, or they may complete 3 hours of PSYCH 2950 and 6 hours of PSYCH 4950.

- Psych majors may have up to a total of 6 hours of PSYCH 4940. Internships are not required for the psychology major.

Required Courses

| | | |
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| PSYCH 1000 or PSYCH 1000H | General Psychology General Psychology - Honors | 3 |
| STAT 1200 or STAT 1300 or STAT 1300H or STAT 1400 or STAT 2500 | Introductory Statistical Reasoning Elementary Statistics Elementary Statistics - Honors Elementary Statistics for Life Sciences Introduction to Probability and Statistics I | 3 |

Research Methods Sequence

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| PSYCH 3010 or PSYCH 3010H | Research Methods in Psychology I Research Methods in Psychology I - Honors | 3 |
| PSYCH 3020 or PSYCH 3020H | Research Methods in Psychology II Research Methods in Psychology II - Honors | 3 |

Capstone course (psychology lab course) 3-6

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|--------------|---|---|
| PSYCH 4010W | Topics in Psychology Capstone - Writing Intensive | 3 |
| PSYCH 4971W | Developmental Psychology Capstone - Writing Intensive | 3 |
| PSYCH 4972W | Animal Learning Capstone - Writing Intensive | 3 |
| PSYCH 4973W | Human Cognition Capstone - Writing Intensive | 3 |
| PSYCH 4974W | Psychology of Art Capstone - Writing Intensive | 3 |
| PSYCH 4975W | Social/Personality Capstone - Writing Intensive | 3 |
| PSYCH 4977W | Independent Research Capstone II - Writing Intensive | 3 |
| PSYCH 4977HW | Honors Research Capstone II - Honors/ Writing Intensive | 3 |
| PSYCH 4978W | Clinical Psychology Capstone - Writing Intensive | 3 |
| PSYCH 4980W | Human Relationships Capstone - Writing Intensive | 3 |
| PSYCH 4987W | Cross-Cultural Psychology Capstone - Writing Intensive | 3 |
| PSYCH 4988W | Medical Decision Making Capstone - Writing Intensive | 3 |
| PSYCH 4991W | The Science of Mindfulness Capstone - Writing Intensive | 3 |

Distribution Areas

Psychology majors are required to complete four distribution courses -- two courses in each of two distribution areas. This ensures that students will have exposure to a wide range of psychological theory and research. In addition, students choose two required additional Psychology courses (6 credit hours) to receive further education according to their interests. Although the distribution areas are presented below as distinct areas of study, a great deal of overlap exists among them. Students should understand the ways in which the various areas complement one another and gain the ability to integrate information learned in the different areas.

Clinical/Social/Developmental Distribution

This distribution area studies the nature and causes of individuals' thoughts, feelings and behavior in social situations. It analyzes the cultural and biological influences on age-related changes in cognition, emotion, and social behavior that take place throughout an individual's lifespan. It focuses on scientific study of the causes of mental disorders as well as methods for assessing and alleviating mental health problems. It also is concerned with the study of mental health and wellness, including strategies for preventing the development of mental disorders. Courses in this distribution area include:

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|------------------------------|--|---|
| PSYCH 2310 | Social Psychology | 3 |
| PSYCH 2311 | The Art and Science of Living | 3 |
| PSYCH 2320 | Introduction to Personality | 3 |
| PSYCH 2410 or PSYCH 2410H | Developmental Psychology Developmental Psychology - Honors | 3 |
| PSYCH 2411 | Stories and Selves | 3 |
| PSYCH 2510 or PSYCH 2510H | Survey of Psychopathology Survey of Psychopathology - Honors | 3 |
| PSYCH 2511 | Military and Veterans Psychology | 3 |
| PSYCH 2520 | Introduction to Addiction Science | 3 |
| PSYCH 2810 | Human Sexuality | 3 |
| PSYCH 2830 | Human-Companion Animal Interaction | 3 |
| PSYCH 3232 | Psychology of Trauma | 3 |
| PSYCH 3280 | Psychology of Death and Dying | 3 |
| PSYCH 3310 | Intergroup Relations | 3 |
| PSYCH 3350 | Positive Psychology | 3 |
| PSYCH 3351 | Positive Motivation | 3 |
| PSYCH 3370 or PSYCH 3370W | The Science of Mindfulness The Science of Mindfulness - Writing Intensive | 3 |
| PSYCH 3420 | Cognitive Development in Childhood | 3 |
| PSYCH 3430 or PSYCH 3430H | Social Development in Childhood Social Development in Childhood - Honors | 3 |
| PSYCH 3440 or PSYCH 3440H | Women's Professional Development Women's Professional Development - Honors | 3 |
| PSYCH 3510 or PSYCH 3510W | Introduction to Clinical Psychology Introduction to Clinical Psychology - Writing Intensive | 3 |
| PSYCH 3511 | Emotion Regulation and the Brain | 3 |
| PSYCH 3815 | Cross-Cultural Psychology | 3 |
| PSYCH 3830 | Health Psychology | 3 |
| PSYCH 3840 | Individual Differences | 3 |
| PSYCH 3880 | African American Psychology | 3 |
| PSYCH 4376 | Mental Health and Aging | 3 |
| PSYCH 4440 | Sex Differences | 3 |
| PSYCH 4441 | Psychology of Youths' Close Relationships | 3 |
| PSYCH 4442 | Language and Development in Infancy | 3 |
| PSYCH 4530 | Research in Psychopathology | 3 |
| PSYCH 4540 | Emotional Disorders in Childhood and Adolescence | 3 |
| PSYCH 4560 | Schizophrenia | 3 |
| PSYCH 4561 | Psychosis and the Brain | 3 |
| PSYCH 4563 | Behavioral and Technology Addictions | 3 |
| PSYCH 4564 | Psychobiology of Sex and Gender | 3 |
| PSYCH 4570 | Pediatric Neuropsychology | 3 |

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|------------|----------------------------------|---|
| PSYCH 4580 | Externalizing Spectrum Disorders | 3 |
| PSYCH 4830 | Psychology of Women | 3 |

Note: Due to the overlap in course content, a student may receive credit for only one of the following three courses: PSYCH 2410 or PSYCH 2410H, or ESC_PS 2500.

Note: Due to overlap in content, a student may not receive credit for both PSYCH 3350 AND ESC_PS 4200.

Cognitive/Neuroscience Distribution

This distribution area studies the mechanisms of the mind and how they are altered by experience. It also examines the biological basis of the behavior of humans and animals. Courses in this distribution area include:

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| PSYCH 2017 | World of Neuroscience | 1 |
| PSYCH 2110 | Learning, Memory, and Cognition | 3 |
| PSYCH 2210 | Mind, Brain, and Behavior | 3 |
| PSYCH 2220 | Drugs and Behavior | 3 |
| PSYCH 2810 | Human Sexuality | 3 |
| PSYCH 2820 | Minds, Brains, and Machines | 3 |
| PSYCH 3110 | Theories of Learning | 3 |
| PSYCH 3130 or PSYCH 3130H | Decisions, Values and Choice Decisions, Values and Choice - Honors | 3 |
| PSYCH 3140 | Cognitive Psychology | 3 |
| PSYCH 3150 | Human Memory | 3 |
| PSYCH 3160 | Perception and Thought | 3 |
| PSYCH 3420 | Cognitive Development in Childhood | 3 |
| PSYCH 3511 | Emotion Regulation and the Brain | 3 |
| PSYCH 3830 | Health Psychology | 3 |
| PSYCH 3890 | Music and the Mind | 3 |
| PSYCH 4110 | Perception | 3 |
| PSYCH 4210 | Physiological Psychology | 3 |
| PSYCH 4220 | Animal Behavior and Cognition | 3 |
| PSYCH 4240 | Cognitive Neuroscience | 3 |
| PSYCH 4376 | Mental Health and Aging | 3 |
| PSYCH 4564 | Psychobiology of Sex and Gender | 3 |
| PSYCH 4570 | Pediatric Neuropsychology | 3 |

Note: A student may not receive credit for PSYCH 2210 if it is completed after PSYCH 4210.

Psychology Electives (2000-level) 6 credit hours

Students must complete 6 credit hours of psychology elective courses numbered 2000 or above. Up to 3 credit hours may include special problems (e.g., PSYCH 2950 or PSYCH 4950), readings (e.g., PSYCH 4960) or internship (e.g., PSYCH 4940). Capstone Labs may not be counted in this area.

Semester Plan

Below is a sample plan of study, semester by semester. A student's actual plan may vary based on course choices where options are available. Psychology majors are required to earn a C- or higher (no D+ or below) in all Psychology courses and STAT 1200.

| First Year | | | |
|--|----|---|-----------|
| Fall | CR | Spring | CR |
| Missouri State Law: Social Science Course ⁺ | | 3 A&S Diversity Requirement ⁺ | 3 |
| Behavioral Science Course ⁺ | | 3 Humanities (2000+ Arts and Science approved) ⁺ | 3 |
| ENGLISH 1000 ⁺ | | 3 Psych Cognitive/Neuroscience Distribution Course ¹ | 3 |
| Humanities Course ⁺ | | 3 Social Science Course ⁺ | 3 |
| PSYCH 1000 ¹ | | 3 STAT 1200 | 3 |
| | | 15 | 15 |

| Second Year | | | |
|--|----|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Fall | CR | Spring | CR |
| Biological/Physical/Mathematics Science Course ⁺ | | 3 Second Language II ⁺⁺ | 4-6 |
| Second Language I ⁺⁺ | | 4-6 Psych 2000+ elective | 3 |
| Psych Clinical/Social/Developmental Distribution Course ¹ | | 3 PSYCH 3010 ¹ | 3 |
| 1000+ elective | | 3 1000+ elective | 1 |
| 1000+ elective | | 1 1000+ elective | 3 |
| | | 14-16 | 14-16 |

| Third Year | | | |
|--|----|---|-----------|
| Fall | CR | Spring | CR |
| Biological/Physical/Mathematics Science Course | | 3 Biological/Physical Science Course (with LAB) ⁺ | 3 |
| Second Language III ⁺⁺ | | 3-4 PSYCH 3020 ¹ | 3 |
| Psych Clinical/Social/Developmental Distribution Course ¹ | | 3 Social Science (2000+ Arts and Science approved) ⁺ | 3 |
| Psych Cognitive/Neuroscience Distribution Course ¹ | | 3 1000+ elective | 3 |
| 1000+ elective (Writing Intensive) ⁺⁺ | | 3 3000+ elective | 3 |
| | | 1000+ elective | 1 |
| | | 15-16 | 16 |

| Fourth Year | | | |
|--|----|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Fall | CR | Spring | CR |
| Behavioral Science Course (2000+ Arts and Science approved) ⁺ | | 3 Humanities Course ⁺ | 3 |
| Humanities Course ⁺ | | 3 Psych 4000+ elective ¹ | 3 |
| Psych Capstone (Writing Intensive) ¹⁺⁺ | | 3 3000+ elective | 3 |
| 3000+ elective | | 3 3000+ elective | 3 |
| 3000+ elective | | 3 3000+ elective | 3 |
| | | 15 | 15 |

Total Credits: 119-124

¹ Course meets degree program requirements

* Course meets University general education and/or campus graduation requirements

+ Course meets College of Arts and Science Foundation