

# 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 (<https://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegreerequirements/universityrequirements/>), general education (<https://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegreerequirements/generaleducationrequirements/>), and College of Arts and Science (<https://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

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)

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 12 hours in distribution courses, 6 hours in each of 2 distribution areas. This ensures 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 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:

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 3451	Psychology of Gender	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 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
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.

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 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
PSYCH 1000		3 Psych Cognitive/Neuroscience Distribution Area	3
Behavioral Science		3 Humanities from Arts and Science, 2000+ level	3

ENGLISH 1000	3 Second major, minor, certificate, or elective, 1000+ level	3
Humanities	3 Social Science	3
Missouri State Law Requirement: Social Science from Arts and Science	3 STAT 1200 (Math and Quantitative Reasoning)	3

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**Second Year**

Fall	CR	Spring	CR
Psych Clinical/Social/ Developmental Distribution Area		3 PSYCH 3010	3
Biological or Physical Science Lab		3 Biological, Physical, or Mathematical Science	3
Second Language Requirement		4 Second Language Requirement	4
Second major, minor, certificate, or elective, 1000+ level		3 Second major, minor, certificate, or elective, 1000+ level	3
Second major, minor, certificate, or elective, 1000+ level		2 Second major, minor, certificate, or elective, 3000+ level	3

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**Third Year**

Fall	CR	Spring	CR
PSYCH 3020		3 Psych Cognitive/Neuroscience Distribution Area	3
Psych Clinical/Social/ Developmental Distribution Area		3 Psych Elective, 2000+ level	3
Biological, Physical, or Mathematical Science		3 First Writing Intensive	3
Second Language Requirement		4 Second major, minor, certificate, or elective, 3000+ level	3
Second major, minor, certificate, or elective, 1000+ level		1 Social Science, 2000+ level	3

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**Fourth Year**

Fall	CR	Spring	CR
Psych Capstone, 4000+ level, Writing Intensive		3 Psych Elective, 4000+ level	3
Behavioral Science, 2000+ level		3 Humanities	3
Humanities		3 Second major, minor, certificate, or elective, 3000+ level	3
Second major, minor, certificate, or elective, 3000+ level		3 Second major, minor, certificate, or elective, 3000+ level	3
Second major, minor, certificate, or elective, 3000+ level		3 Second major, minor, certificate, or elective, 3000+ level	3

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**Total Credits: 120**