

# 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 Psychology (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. Psychology 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

To graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology in the College of Arts and Science, a student must complete all degree, college, and university graduation requirements (<http://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegreerequirements/universityrequirements/>), including university general education (<http://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegreerequirements/generaleducationrequirements/>) as well as all degree and college or school requirements. 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 and grades of S/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, before PSYCH 3020, before the capstone lab. We make no exceptions to the research methods sequence requirements.
- Students must complete at least two psychology courses numbered 4000 or above. The Psychology capstone lab will meet one of these 4000-level courses.
- Students must complete at least one psychology course numbered 3000 or above that is designated Writing Intensive. The psychology capstone lab will meet the WI requirement if completed during the fall or spring semesters. Capstones are not WI in the summer sessions.
- 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	Research Methods in Psychology I	3
PSYCH 3020	Research Methods in Psychology II	3
Capstone course (psychology lab course)		3-6

## 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 additional Psychology courses 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:

PSYCH 2310	Social Psychology	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	Survey of Psychopathology	3
PSYCH 2511	Military and Veterans Psychology	3
PSYCH 2520	Introduction to Addiction Science	3
PSYCH 2830	Human-Companion Animal Interaction	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 3430W	Social Development in Childhood Social Development in Childhood - Writing Intensive	3
PSYCH 3440	Women's Professional Development	3

or PSYCH 3440H	Women's Professional Development - Honors	
PSYCH 3510	Introduction to Clinical Psychology	3
or PSYCH 3510W	Introduction to Clinical Psychology - Writing Intensive	
PSYCH 3511	Emotion Regulation and the Brain	3
PSYCH 3815	Cross-Cultural Psychology	3
or PSYCH 3815H	Cross-Cultural Psychology - Honors	
PSYCH 3830	Health Psychology	3
PSYCH 3840	Individual Differences	3
PSYCH 4440	Sex Differences	3
PSYCH 4441	Psychology of Youths' Close Relationships	3
PSYCH 4442	Language and Development in Infancy	3
PSYCH 4520	Behavior Genetics	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 4570	Pediatric Neuropsychology	3
PSYCH 4580	Externalizing Spectrum Disorders	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 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 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 3870	Sleep and Sleep Disorders	3
PSYCH 3890	Music and the Mind	3
PSYCH 4110	Perception	3
PSYCH 4210	Physiological Psychology	3
PSYCH 4240	Cognitive Neuroscience	3
PSYCH 4440	Sex Differences	3
PSYCH 4520	Behavior Genetics	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 two psychology elective courses numbered 2000 or above, excluding Special Problems/Readings (i.e., PSYCH 2950, PSYCH 4950, PSYCH 4960), Internship PSYCH 4940, and Capstone Labs.

### 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
AGH: Social Science Course <sup>++</sup>		3 A&S Diversity Requirement <sup>+</sup>	3
Behavioral Science Course <sup>+</sup>		3 Humanities (2000+ Arts and Science approved) <sup>+</sup>	3
ENGLISH 1000 <sup>++</sup>		3 Psych Cognitive/Neuroscience Distribution Course <sup>1</sup>	3
Humanities Course <sup>+</sup>		3 Social Science Course <sup>+</sup>	3
PSYCH 1000 <sup>1</sup>		3 STAT 1200	3
			<b>15</b>

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

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

Fourth Year			
Fall	CR	Spring	CR
Behavioral Science Course (2000+ Arts and Science approved) <sup>+</sup>		3 Humanities Course <sup>+</sup>	3
Humanities Course <sup>+</sup>		3 Psych 4000+ elective <sup>1</sup>	3
Psych Capstone (Writing Intensive) <sup>1++</sup>		3 3000+ elective	3
3000+ elective		3 3000+ elective	3

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3000+ elective	3 3000+ elective	3
	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>

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**Total Credits: 119-124**

- <sup>1</sup> Course meets degree program requirements
- \* Course meets University general education and/or campus graduation requirements
- + Course meets College of Arts and Science foundation (Basic Skills)