# Psychology, BA

**Degree:** Bachelor of Arts (BA)

**Major:** Psychology

## Program Overview

An undergraduate major in psychology provides preparation for graduate training in psychology, medicine, social work, allied health professions, education, business, computer science, or law. The undergraduate degree directly prepares students for careers that require knowledge and understanding of behavior, research design, and the ability to collect, analyze, and interpret data.

## Declaring a Psychology Major

Students who wish to major in psychology must complete a Major Declaration Form, available from the Office of Undergraduate Studies, and then meet with Dr. Jennifer Butler, who will assign them an advisor and review the degree requirements.

## Undergraduate Policies

For undergraduate policies and procedures, please review the Office of Undergraduate Studies section of the General Bulletin.

## Accelerated Master's Programs

Undergraduate students may participate in accelerated programs toward graduate or professional degrees. For more information and details of the policies and procedures related to accelerated studies, please visit the Office of Undergraduate Studies section of the General Bulletin.

## Program Requirements

Students seeking to complete this major and degree program must meet the general requirements for bachelor's degrees and the general requirements of the College of Arts and Sciences. Students completing this program as a secondary major while completing another undergraduate degree program do not need to satisfy the latter set of requirements.

Beginning with Allport (1937), scientific psychology has historically relied on two broad complementary traditions in the study of human behavior. The nomothetic or experimental approach focuses on identifying general laws about human behavior. The idiographic approach is concerned with the uniqueness of people and focuses on differences among individuals. Although all psychology courses apply both perspectives to specific topics in psychology, subsets of psychology courses rely more heavily on one or the other; therefore, the major requirements below ensure training that reflects a balance of nomothetic and idiographic approaches.

The psychology major requires a total of 30 credit hours consisting of PSCL 101 General Psychology I and PSCL 282; two nomothetic courses; and two idiographic courses. The remaining 12 credits of elective coursework can be drawn from any combination of PSCL courses.

Psychology majors must complete 30 hours of coursework in the department.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSCL 101</td>
<td>General Psychology I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSCL 282</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods in Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
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### Nomothetic Courses

Select two of the following:

- PSCL 315 Social Psychology
- PSCL 352 Physiological Psychology
- PSCL 353 Psychology of Learning
- PSCL 357 Cognitive Psychology

### Idiographic Courses

Select two of the following:

- PSCL 230 Child Psychology
- PSCL 313 Psychology of Personality
- PSCL 321 Abnormal Psychology
- PSCL 325 Psychotherapy and Personality Change
- PSCL 369 Adult Development and Aging

### Elective Courses *

Any combination of additional PSCL courses | 12

### Total Hours

30

* Although not required for the Psychology Major, PSCL 375 (Research Design and Analysis) is a prerequisite for most of the senior capstone courses in psychology.

Psychology majors should work closely with their major advisors to customize the selection of required and elective courses to provide them with courses suited to their own individual career goals.

## Departmental Honors

Qualified psychology majors are encouraged to consider the department’s honors program, which leads to a BA with honors in psychology. The program's purpose is to provide intensive, supervised research experience. Completion of the honors program also satisfies the SAGES capstone graduation requirement.

The program consists of PSCL 375 Research Design and Analysis, which students take in their junior year, and PSCL 395 Capstone and Honors Program, which they take as seniors. By the end of the senior year, students design and execute a research project, write it up in scholarly form, and present it in a public setting. Psychology majors who successfully complete PSCL 395, and who attain at least a 3.25 GPA in psychology course work and an overall GPA of at least 3.0, will graduate with honors in psychology.

The selection of a faculty advisor is an important part of the honors program. The first step is to identify a faculty member whose interests are as close as possible to the research area the student wishes to pursue. Students should contact a potential advisor as early as possible (junior year is recommended) and ask about the possibility of registering for PSCL 395. Each section of PSCL 395 is assigned to a specific faculty member, and registration is by permit only.

Because the honors program requires significant time and commitment, only psychology majors with a serious interest in the behavioral sciences should consider completing it.