

Psychology, B.A.

An undergraduate degree in psychology provides students with skills that are relevant to many career paths. The major in psychology is designed to contribute to students' general liberal arts and sciences education and to provide a foundation for postbaccalaureate training in psychology and closely related disciplines as well as areas such as business, law, communication, medicine, and the allied health sciences. Students who intend to enter the job market immediately after graduation should complement their psychology major with substantial preparation in another program that is more closely tied to their area of interest (e.g., education, social work, business, journalism, nursing). Almost all vocational opportunities in psychology require advanced degrees.

The Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree has fewer specific requirements than the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree and places less emphasis on methodology. The program leaves time for students to supplement the psychology major with another program of study.

Students who change to a psychology major after two years of undergraduate work may find they do not have sufficient background for the B.S. program. They may wish to enrich the B.A. program with courses in experimental psychology and other advanced electives if they intend to pursue graduate work in psychology or a related field.

Students begin with a general introductory course, followed by methodology and data analysis courses, and introductory courses in several broad areas: behavioral neuroscience, developmental science, clinical psychology, cognitive psychology, and social psychology. These courses are followed by upper-level psychology courses selected by each student. For additional information regarding the undergraduate major and career information, visit Undergraduate Program on the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences website.

The department maintains excellent facilities to support teaching and research on human and animal behavior. All faculty members are directly engaged in research, and they bring to their undergraduate teaching the excitement that such activity generates. Many opportunities exist for interested and capable students to participate in current research projects in the department.

The department has an active undergraduate organization, the Iowa Students Psychology Association, which is open to all interested students. The group sponsors speakers, films, career days, and student symposia.

Learning Outcomes

The learning outcomes for students in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences align with several of the learning goals from the American Psychological Association's guidelines for undergraduate psychology education. These learning outcomes expand and deepen students' foundational knowledge obtained through the GE CLAS Core program.

Psychology majors will:

- understand psychology as an empirical science;
- graduate with a knowledge base in psychology, including an understanding of the major principles and theories in the field's main content areas;

- have learned how to use scientific reasoning to understand psychological phenomena and how to interpret and conduct psychological research; and
- be able to apply their knowledge of psychology to real world situations and recognize the importance of ethical standards and diversity in psychology.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in psychology requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including 46-47 s.h. of work for the major, with at least 34 s.h. in psychology courses. Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core. Transfer credits must be approved by the department, and transfer students must complete at least 18 s.h. of psychology courses at the University of Iowa.

The major for the B.A. is designed for students who wish to gain considerable knowledge in psychology but do not necessarily plan a professional career in the discipline. It is appropriate for students preparing for careers in law, business, counseling, social work, or secondary school teaching (see "Teacher Licensure" below). It can be combined with a second major more easily than can the Bachelor of Science program.

Choice of a degree program should be dictated by a student's personal career goals. B.A. students interested in pursuing graduate study in psychology or other social sciences may enrich their program by taking courses in mathematics, statistics, research methods, and the natural sciences.

B.A. and B.S. students complete the same psychology core and psychology electives. The major for the B.A. also requires an additional statistics or computer science course plus a second concentration area.

Students are advised to take PSY:1001 Elementary Psychology as the first course in the major; however, if a student must take PSY:1001 for the first time after completing another psychology course with a higher number, the student may do so. Students may retake PSY:1001 for a second-grade-only option; however, this must be completed before taking any upper-level psychology courses (PSY:3000-PSY:3800). Students may not retake PSY:1001 after taking an upper-level psychology course; this is considered regression and no credit will be awarded.

The B.A. with a major in psychology requires the following courses or their equivalents.

Code	Title	Hours
	Psychology Core	6
	Lower-Level Psychology Requirements	19
	Upper-Level Psychology Electives	9
	Cognate Requirement	3-4
	Second Concentration Area Courses	9
Total Hours		46-47

Psychology Core

All majors complete the following coursework for the psychology core.

Code	Title	Hours
	Both of these:	
PSY:1001	Elementary Psychology	3

PSY:2811	Research Methods and Data Analysis in Psychology I	3
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Lower-Level Psychology Requirements

Students take these courses after completing PSY:1001 Elementary Psychology.

Code	Title	Hours
All of these:		
PSY:2301	Introduction to Clinical Psychology	3
PSY:2401	Introduction to Developmental Science	3
PSY:2501	Introduction to Social Psychology	3
PSY:2601	Introduction to Cognitive Psychology	3
PSY:2701	Introduction to Behavioral Neuroscience	4
PSY:2812	Research Methods and Data Analysis in Psychology II	3

Upper-Level Psychology Electives

Students take three advanced psychology courses (total of 9 s.h.) after satisfactorily completing the psychology core and other specified prerequisites. Psychology courses (prefix PSY) numbered 3000 or above may be used to fulfill this requirement, except those in the following list.

Code	Title	Hours
PSY:3994	Research Practicum in Psychology	arr.
PSY:3995	Advanced Research Practicum	1-3
PSY:3996	External Practicum in Psychology	1-3
PSY:3997	Teaching/Advising Practicum in Psychology	1-3
PSY:3998	Individual Readings and Projects	1-3
PSY:3999/ BIOL:3999	Independent Research in Neuroscience	2-3
PSY:4020	Laboratory in Psychology	4
PSY:4025	Laboratory in Cognitive Neuroscience	4
PSY:4090	Psychology Seminar	3
PSY:4990	Honors Thesis Research	1-3
PSY:4995/ BIOL:4995	Honors Research in Neuroscience	arr.

Additional Requirements

Cognate Requirement

Students complete one of the following math, statistics, or computer science courses.

Code	Title	Hours
Statistics		
BIOS:4120	Introduction to Biostatistics	3
STAT:1020/ PSQF:1020	Elementary Statistics and Inference	3
STAT:1030	Statistics for Business	4

STAT:3510/ IGPI:3510	Biostatistics	3
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STAT:4143/ PSQF:4143	Introduction to Statistical Methods	3
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Computer Science

CS:1020	Principles of Computing	3
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CS:1110	Introduction to Computer Science	3
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CS:1210	Computer Science I: Fundamentals	4
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Mathematics

MATH:1860	Calculus II	4
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MATH:2700	Introduction to Linear Algebra	4
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Second Concentration Area

Students complete 9 s.h. of graded coursework in a single department other than the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences. Courses used to fulfill this requirement must be taken at the University of Iowa and may not be used to fulfill GE CLAS Core requirements. A second major or a minor may be used to fulfill the requirement.

Teacher Licensure

Students interested in teaching in elementary and/or secondary schools should seek admission to the Teacher Education Program (TEP) in the College of Education.

To qualify for licensure in secondary teaching, students in the TEP complete a degree in education as well as a related College of Liberal Arts and Sciences degree. See Apply on the College of Education website for details on requirements and deadlines for applying to the College of Education and about TEP choices of majors leading to licensure.

Honors

Honors in the Major

Students majoring in psychology have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. They must maintain a cumulative University of Iowa g.p.a. of at least 3.33 and a minimum g.p.a. of 3.50 in the major.

There are two routes for honors in the major, one of which involves a thesis project as a capstone. For students who pursue honors without a thesis, other experiences constitute the capstone. Both routes include extra coursework. Interested students are encouraged to read Honors in the Psychology Major on the department's website.

National Honor Society

The department sponsors a chapter of Psi Chi, the national honor society in psychology and affiliate of the American Psychological Association. Students who have a g.p.a. of at least 3.00 overall and in psychology coursework and who have completed 9 s.h. of psychology courses may request a membership application form. Consult the department's academic coordinator for more information.

University of Iowa Honors Program

In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the

University of Iowa Honors Program. Visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the University's honors program.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the psychology major.

Combined Programs

B.A./M.P.H. (Community and Behavioral Health Subprogram)

Bachelor of Arts students majoring in psychology who are interested in earning a Master of Public Health degree with a community and behavioral health subprogram may apply to the combined B.A./M.P.H. program offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the College of Public Health. The program permits students to count 12 s.h. of credit toward the requirements for both degrees, enabling them to begin the study of public health before they complete the bachelor's degree. For information about the public health program, see "Community and Behavioral Health Subprogram" under Requirements in the Master of Public Health section of the Catalog.

Admission

Admission to the psychology major is open; any University of Iowa undergraduate student may enter the B.A. program.

Entering first-year and transfer students who have completed less than 30 s.h. of coursework and are interested in entering the B.S. program are admitted to the B.A. program until they satisfy the admission requirements for the B.S. program. New transfer students who meet the admission requirements for the B.S. program may choose to enter the B.S. or the B.A. program.

Students in the B.A. program may switch to the B.S. program if they meet admission requirements at the time of the request. Students may switch from the B.S. to the B.A. program at any time.

Career Advancement

The major in psychology is designed to contribute to students' general liberal arts and sciences education and to provide a foundation for postbaccalaureate training in psychology and closely related disciplines as well as in areas such as business, law, communication, medicine, and the allied health sciences.

Undergraduate psychology students who do not intend to enroll in graduate school immediately after earning their bachelor's degree frequently earn a second major in a discipline that has broad opportunities for employment, such as education, social work, business, journalism, or nursing.

Learn more about careers in psychology at the American Psychological Association website.

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.

Academic Plans

Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the University's Four-Year Graduation Plan. Courses in the

major are those required to complete the major; they may be offered by departments other than the major department.

In addition to courses in psychology, the B.A. requires three graded courses in a second concentration area.

Before the third semester begins: PSY:1001 Elementary Psychology.

Before the fifth semester begins: PSY:2811 Research Methods and Data Analysis in Psychology I and one or more lower-level psychology requirements.

Before the seventh semester begins: four courses in the major (including PSY:2701 Introduction to Behavioral Neuroscience and PSY:2812 Research Methods and Data Analysis in Psychology II), one course in the second concentration area, and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree.

Before the eighth semester begins: two additional courses in the major and an additional course in the second concentration area.

During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining coursework in the major, all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate.

Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

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Course	Title	Hours
Academic Career		
Any Semester		
GE CLAS Core: Sustainability ^a		
Hours		0
First Year		
Fall		
PSY:1001	Elementary Psychology ^b	3
ENGL:1200	The Interpretation of Literature	3 - 4
	or RHET:1030 or Rhetoric	
GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion ^c		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course ^d		4 - 5
CSI:1600	Success at Iowa	2
Hours		15-17
Spring		
Major: lower-level psychology course (or elective course)		3
RHET:1030	Rhetoric	3 - 4
	or ENGL:1200 or The Interpretation of Literature	
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues ^c		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course ^d		4 - 5
Elective course ^e		3
Hours		16-18
Second Year		
Fall		
PSY:2811	Research Methods and Data Analysis in Psychology I	3

Major: lower-level psychology course	3
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives ^c	3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course ^d	4 - 5
Elective course ^e	2 - 3

Hours 15-17

Spring

PSY:2812 Research Methods and Data Analysis in Psychology II	3
Major: lower or upper-level psychology course	3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab ^c	3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course ^d	4 - 5
Elective course ^e	3

Hours 16-17

Third Year

Fall

PSY:2701 Introduction to Behavioral Neuroscience	4
Major: lower or upper-level psychology course	3
Major: second area of concentration course	3
GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture ^c	3
Elective course ^e	3

Hours 16

Spring

Major: second area of concentration course	3
Major: lower or upper-level psychology course	3
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts ^c	3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab ^c	4
Elective course ^e	2 - 3
Major: cognate course ^b	3 - 4

Hours 18-20

Fourth Year

Fall

Major: lower or upper-level psychology course	3
GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning (if not met by cognate course) ^c	3
Elective course ^e	3
Elective course ^e	3

Hours 12

Spring

Major: second area of concentration course	3
Major: lower or upper-level psychology course	3
Elective course ^e	3
Elective course ^e	3
Elective course ^e	3

Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall) ^f

Hours 15

Total Hours 123-132

c GE CLAS Core courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses.

d Students who have completed four years of a single language in high school have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course.

e Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.

f Please see Academic Calendar, Office of the Registrar website for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor or Graduation Services.

a Sustainability must be completed by choosing a course that has been approved for Sustainability AND for one of these General Education areas: Natural Sciences; Quantitative and Formal Reasoning; Social Sciences; Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; or Values and Culture.

b Fulfills a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.