Psychology, BA

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 grade-point average 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 BA 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 the section titled “Teacher Licensure”). 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. BA 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.

BA and BS students complete the same psychology core and psychology electives. The major for the BA 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.

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

Requirements

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Psychology Core

All majors complete the following coursework for the psychology core.

Course #  Title  Hours
Both of these:
PSY:1001  Elementary Psychology  3
PSY:2811  Research Methods and Data Analysis in Psychology I  3

Lower-Level Psychology Requirements

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

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.

Course #  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:4035  Laboratory in Computational Neuroscience  4
PSY:4090  Psychology Seminar  3
PSY:4990  Honors Thesis Research  1-3
PSY:4995/BIOL:4999  Honors Research in Neuroscience  arr.

Additional Requirements

Cognate Requirement

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

Course #  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
STAT:4143/PSQF:4143  Introduction to Statistical Methods  3

Computer Science

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

**Mathematics**
MATH:1860  Calculus II  4
MATH:2700  Introduction to Linear Algebra  4

**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.