Psychology, BS

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 in areas such as business, law, communication, medicine, and the allied health sciences. Students who intend to enter the job market immediately after completing an undergraduate degree should complement their psychology major with substantial preparation in another program more closely tied to the world of work (e.g., education, social work, business, journalism, nursing). Almost all vocational opportunities in psychology require advanced degrees.

The psychology major for the Bachelor of Science is intended for students who plan to pursue advanced work in psychology or in a related discipline. It requires a specific grade-point average for admission and certain courses in experimental psychology, mathematics, and natural science. 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 BS program.

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 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 Science with a major in psychology requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including 54-56 s.h. of work for the major, with at least 41 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 BS emphasizes research methodology, so the BS may be the degree of choice for students who plan to do graduate work in psychology and related research fields. However, a Bachelor of Science is not required for graduate study in psychology. Choice of a degree program should be dictated by a student’s personal career goals.

BA and BS students complete the same psychology core and psychology electives. The major for the BS also requires additional psychology topics courses and natural science courses plus mathematics, statistics, or computer science courses. Unlike the BA, there is no second area course requirement.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Psychology Core</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower-Level Psychology Requirements</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper-Level Psychology Electives</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology Topics Courses</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Sciences Courses</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics, Statistics, or Computer Science Courses</td>
<td>6-8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Psychology Core

All majors complete the following coursework for the psychology core.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Both of these:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY:1001</td>
<td>Elementary Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY:2811</td>
<td>Research Methods and Data Analysis in Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lower-Level Psychology Requirements

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

Course #  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.

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:4995  Honors Research in Neuroscience  arr.

Additional Requirements
Psychology Topics Courses

Course #  Title                        Hours
Both of these:
PSY:4020  Laboratory in Psychology 4
PSY:4090  Psychology Seminar 3

Mathematics, Statistics, or Computer Science Courses

Course #  Title                                Hours
BIOL:1370  Understanding Evolution 3
BIOL:1411  Foundations of Biology 4
BIOL:2120  Good Genes Gone Bad: Genetic Disorders of Notable Celebrities 3
BIOL:2211  Genes, Genomes, and the Human Condition 3
BIOL:2512  Fundamental Genetics 4
CHEM:1070  General Chemistry I 3
CHEM:1080  General Chemistry II 3
CHEM:1090  Supplemental Chemistry Lab 1
CHEM:1110  Principles of Chemistry I 4
CHEM:1120  Principles of Chemistry II 4
CHEM:1160  Principles of Chemistry Lab 2
CSD:2111  Basic Acoustics for Speech and Hearing 3
CSD:3112  Anatomy and Physiology of Speech Production 4
CSD:3113  Introduction to Hearing Science 4
CSD:3116/LING:3116  Basic Neuroscience for Speech and Hearing 3
HHP:1100  Human Anatomy 3
HHP:1110  Human Anatomy Laboratory 1
HHP:1300  Fundamentals of Human Physiology 3
HHP:1310  Human Physiology Laboratory 1
HHP:1400  Human Anatomy and Physiology 3
PHYS:1400  Basic Physics 3-4
PHYS:1409  Basic Physics Lab 1
PHYS:1410  Physics of Sound 3-4
PHYS:1511  College Physics I 4
PHYS:1512  College Physics II 4
PHYS:1611  Introductory Physics I 4
PHYS:1612  Introductory Physics II 4
PHYS:1619  Introductory Physics II Lab 1

At least two courses from these:
BIOI:4120  Introduction to Biostatistics 3
CS:1210  Computer Science I: Fundamentals 4
CS:2110  Programming for Informatics 4
CS:2230  Computer Science II: Data Structures 4
CS:2520  Human-Computer Interaction for Informatics 3
MATH:1350  Quantitative Reasoning for Business 4
MATH:1440  Mathematics for the Biological Sciences 4
MATH:1460  Calculus for the Biological Sciences 4
MATH:1550  Engineering Mathematics I: Single Variable Calculus 4

Mathematics, Statistics, or Computer Science Courses

Course #  Title                                Hours
At least 7 s.h. from these:
BIOL:1140  Human Biology: Nonmajors 4
BIOL:1141  Human Biology: Health Professions 4
BIOL:1251  How the Brain Works (and Why it Doesn’t) 3-4
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 grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.33 and a minimum GPA 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 GPA 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.

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

Admission

Admission to the major is selective. To be eligible for admission to the BS program, students must have completed 30 s.h. of college coursework (excluding any credit by exam) and must have a cumulative grade-point average of 2.67 or higher. There is no limit on the number of qualified students admitted to the BS program. Students who do not meet the minimum admission requirements may petition the department in writing, presenting additional evidence of their qualifications.

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

Students in the BA program may switch to the BS program if they meet admission requirements at the time of the request. Students may switch from the BS to the BA 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 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.

The psychology major for the BS is open only to students who have earned 30 s.h. and have a grade-point average of at least 2.67. Students complete 7 s.h. of natural science coursework, either as part of the GE CLAS Core or in addition to it. Students also must complete two quantitative and formal reasoning courses which may require some preliminary work.

Before the third semester begins: PSY:1001 Elementary Psychology and one additional course in the major.

Before the fifth semester begins: one course for the department’s quantitative and formal reasoning requirement and three additional courses in the major, including PSY:2811 Research Methods and Data Analysis in Psychology I and

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH:1850</td>
<td>Calculus I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH:1860</td>
<td>Calculus II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH:2700</td>
<td>Introduction to Linear Algebra</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT:1020/PSQF:1020</td>
<td>Elementary Statistics and Inference</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT:1030</td>
<td>Statistics for Business</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT:2010</td>
<td>Statistical Methods and Computing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT:3200/IGPI:3200/ISE:3760</td>
<td>Applied Linear Regression</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT:3210</td>
<td>Experimental Design and Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT:3510/IGPI:3510</td>
<td>Biostatistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT:4143/PSQF:4143</td>
<td>Introduction to Statistical Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Before the seventh semester begins: two more courses in the major, one course for the major’s natural science requirement, and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree.

Before the eighth semester begins: second course for the department’s quantitative and formal reasoning requirement and two more courses in the major.

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.

Psychology, BS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any Semester</td>
<td>GE CLAS Core: Sustainability</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

First Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PSY:1001</td>
<td>Elementary Psychology b</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200</td>
<td>Rhetoric or The Interpretation of Literature</td>
<td>3 - 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course</td>
<td>4 - 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CSI:1600</td>
<td>Success at Iowa</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Hours | 15-17 |

| Spring | Major: lower-level psychology course (or elective course) | 3     |
|        | RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200 | Rhetoric or The Interpretation of Literature | 3 - 4 |
|        | GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course | 4 - 5 |
|        | Elective course e | 3     |
|        | Elective course e | 3     |

| Hours | 16-18 |

Second Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PSY:2811</td>
<td>Research Methods and Data Analysis in Psychology I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GE: Natural Sciences without Lab b f</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GE CLAS Core: World Languages Third Level Proficiency or elective course</td>
<td>4 - 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elective course e</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elective course e</td>
<td>2 - 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Hours | 15-17 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PSY:2812</td>
<td>Research Methods and Data Analysis in Psychology II</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Hours | 15-17 |

Total Hours: 122-132

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.

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 Choose from an approved list to meet Psychology BS major requirements.
g Enrollment in math courses requires completion of a placement exam.
h 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.