PSYCHOLOGY, BA

Department Chair

Sarah Karalunas, Ph.D.
352 Marley Education Center
315-443-2354
psychology@syr.edu

Faculty

Kevin Antshel, Sara E. Burke, Catherine A. Cornwell, Daniel Corral, Amy H. Criss, Joseph W. Ditre, Katie Duchscherer, Tanya L. Eckert, Les A. Gellis, Brett K. Jakubiak, Jessie Joyce, Michael L. Kalish, Afton Kapuscinski, Sarah Karalunas, David Kellen, Katie Kidwell, Lynn Lohnas, Laura V. Machia, Meredith Martin, Leonard S. Newman, Jeewon Oh, Aesoon Park, Natalie Russo, Lael J. Schooler, Bradley Seymour, Linda Sun, Shannon M. Sweeney, Peter A. Vanable, Zahra Vahedi, Sarah Woolf-King, Michelle Zaso, and Jeffrey C. Zemla

Description

Psychology is the scientific study of behavior. Professional psychologists may be researchers investigating behavior and/or practitioners, applying their knowledge and skills to individual and social problems.

The Psychology Department offers several options for students. These include a Bachelor of Arts major (B.A.), a Bachelor of Science major (B.S.), and a minor. Students planning to pursue a career in which a background in psychology is useful, such as business, communications, or social services, will find the B.A. degree to be an appropriate track. These students are encouraged to pursue experiences through part-time work or internships in their area of interest. Students interested in pursuing professional careers in psychology, social work, or other professional fields such as law will need to attend graduate school and obtain an advanced degree. These students are encouraged to consult with their academic advisor for advice on whether the B.A. or B.S. degree is most appropriate to meet their long-term goals. All students are encouraged to utilize the career resources available in the Department of Psychology, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the University to learn about opportunities and prepare strategies to meet their goals.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Identify the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends relevant to the foundational domains of psychology, including cognitive, social, clinical, and developmental bases of behavior
2. Formulate testable research hypotheses, design a simple study to test the hypothesis, and apply appropriate statistical tests to answer basic research questions relevant to the field of psychology
3. Demonstrate a basic understanding of the American Psychological Association (APA) ethical guidelines and their applications in the context of conducting psychological research
4. Employ the effective use of written communication in the psychological sciences. Employ the effective use of oral communication in the psychological sciences
5. Demonstrate the ability to effectively work in the field of psychology through involvement in faculty-mentored research, community-based internships, and independent study

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology Degree

Program Requirements

The B.A. requires a minimum of 30 credits in psychology (PSY) courses, 18 of which must be numbered 300 or above. Only PSY courses count toward the 30 required credits. Students must earn a grade point average of at least 2.0 in all upper-division Psychology (PSY) courses taken at Syracuse University and counted towards the completion of the major (see MySlice for the GPA calculator). No more than three credits of PSY 270 Experience Credit or PSY 470 Experience Credit (Experience Credit) may be counted toward the major. A course may be used to satisfy only one requirement.

Petitions

Students interested in taking a psychology class at another institution and transferring it to Syracuse University to count toward either the major or minor should discuss the process with his/her academic advisor. An electronic petition form must be completed. Be sure to include all identifying information, such as your name and SU ID number, in the appropriate fields.

Prior to enrolling in the course, email the form and a copy of the course syllabus to the psychology department's inbox at psyundergrad@syr.edu (https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/psychology-ba/psyundergrad@syr.edu). Petitions may take up to two weeks for review. Winter intersession classes are generally not accepted as transfer credit. Advanced electives must be taken at Syracuse University SU main campus, petitions will not be accepted for this requirement.

Students should plan their program of study in consultation with their academic advisor in order to ensure timely completion of degree requirements.

Foundations

Students must complete 6 courses that establish the foundation for the study of psychological science. PSY 205 Foundations of Human Behavior (or the honors equivalent, PSY 209 Foundations of Human Behavior/ Honors Section) is a prerequisite for most PSY courses. We recommend that students take PSY 213 Introduction to Research Methodology early in the major.

Code	Title	Credits
Foundations		
PSY 205	Foundations of Human Behavior	3
or PSY 209	Foundations of Human Behavior/ Honors Section	
PSY 213	Introduction to Research Methodology	3
PSY 322	Cognitive Psychology	3
PSY 335	Psychology of Childhood	3
PSY 374	Social Psychology	3
PSY 395	Mental Health Disorders	3
Statistics Sequence Options		
Majors must satisfy a two semester statistics sequence from the list below which also satisfies the quantitative skills requirement of the Liberal Arts Core. PSY 252 counts towards the 30 required credits in Psychology, but MAT courses do not.		6
Preferred Option for Statistics Sequence		
MAT 221	Elementary Probability and Statistics I	
PSY 252	Statistical Methods II	

Alternative Statistics Sequence 1		
MAT 121	Probability and Statistics for the Liberal Arts I	
PSY 252	Statistical Methods II	
Alternative Statistics Sequence 2		
MAT 285	Life Sciences Calculus I	
PSY 252	Statistical Methods II	
Alternative Statistics Sequence 3		
MAT 295	Calculus I	
PSY 252	Statistical Methods II	
Psychology Advanced Electives		
Select one Advanced Elective of the following:		3
PSY 331	Laboratory in Sensation and Perception	
PSY 332	Experiments in Cognitive Psychology	
PSY 334	Laboratory in Developmental Biopsychology	
PSY 373	Human Memory	
PSY 379	The Social Psychology of Stigma	
PSY 383	Laboratory in Health Psychology	
PSY 410	Close Relationships	
PSY 415	Introduction to Clinical Psychology	
PSY 422	The Psychology of Decision Making	
PSY 420	Using Robots to Understand the Mind	
PSY 424	Social Dilemmas	
PSY 425	Internships in Clinical Psychology	
PSY 430	Psychology of Film	
PSY 431	Alcohol Use and Abuse	
PSY 432	Applied Behavior Analysis	
PSY 443	Laboratory in Child Psychology	
PSY 472	Laboratory in Social Psychology: Advanced Research Methods and Practice	
PSY 447	Autism	
PSY 484	Laboratory in Forensic Psychology	
Psychology Electives		
The B.A. student selects additional Psychology (PSY) electives to achieve a minimum of 30 PSY credit hours (18 credits of which must be at the 300 level or above).		3
Total Credits		**30**

Distinction Program

Program faculty will invite majors who meet the eligibility requirements to participate in the Distinction Program. The Distinction Program offers an enhanced research and mentoring experience. Distinction candidates must, at the time of graduation, have a GPA of at least 3.6 in Psychology courses and 3.4 overall. They must also complete two required psychology distinction courses (PSY 497 Distinction in Psychology I and PSY 498 Distinction in Psychology II). In addition, they will conduct faculty-sponsored empirical or theoretical research using real or simulated data on a topic that is appropriate for psychology journals. Distinction candidates must write a research paper in a style appropriate for psychology journals and receive approval of their final document from their faculty sponsor and one faculty reader. The Distinction Program provides scholars the skills and support needed to produce a project suitable for presentation at an academic conference or for publication in a psychology journal.

College of Arts and Sciences Requirements

For all Arts and Sciences|Maxwell students, successful completion of a bachelor's degree in this major requires a minimum of 120 credits, 96 of which must be Arts and Sciences|Maxwell credits, completion of the Liberal Arts Core (https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/) requirements, and the requirements for this major (30 credits) that are listed above.

Dual Enrollments:

Students dually enrolled in **Newhouse*** and Arts and Sciences|Maxwell will complete a minimum of 122 credits, with at least 90 credits in Arts and Sciences|Maxwell coursework and an Arts and Sciences|Maxwell major.

*Students dually enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences|Maxwell as first year students must complete the Liberal Arts Core (https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/). Students who transfer to the dual program after their first year as singly enrolled students in the Newhouse School will satisfy general requirements for the dual degree program by completing the Newhouse Core Requirements.

Undergraduate University Requirements

The following requirements and experiences apply to all Syracuse University Undergraduate matriculated degree programs.

- IDEA Course Requirement (https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/undergraduate/university-requirements/idea-course-requirement/)
- First Year Seminar (https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/undergraduate/university-requirements/first-year-seminar/)