

PSYCHOLOGY, BS

Interim Chair

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Faculty

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Program 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. The B.S. degree is recommended for students planning professional careers in such fields as medicine, dentistry, and physical therapy. 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. Understand and apply basic principles related to research design, data analysis, and interpretation. This would include the ability to 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
6. Investigate natural phenomena, including the development of predictive explanatory systems, including the study of numerical and other abstract structures and relations

Bachelor of Science in Psychology Degree Program Requirements

The B.S. requires a minimum of 30 credits in psychology (PSY) courses numbered 300 or above. Only PSY courses count toward the 30 required credits. Students must earn a grade point average of at least a 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 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-bs/psyundergrad@syr.edu>). Petitions may take up to two weeks for review. Winter intersession classes are generally not accepted as transfer credit. Students should plan their program of study in consultation with their academic advisor in order to ensure timely completion of degree requirements.

PSY 213 Introduction to Research Methodology and PSY 252 Statistical Methods II must be taken on SU main campus, petitions will not be accepted for these classes.

Advanced electives must be taken at Syracuse University SU main campus, petitions will not be accepted for this requirement.

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 or PSY 209	Foundations of Human Behavior Foundations of Human Behavior/ Honors Section	3
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.

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

Students are required to take one advanced elective. Advanced elective courses are listed below:

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 420	Using Robots to Understand the Mind
PSY 422	The Psychology of Decision Making
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 447	Autism
PSY 472	Laboratory in Social Psychology: Advanced Research Methods and Practice
PSY 484	Laboratory in Forensic Psychology

Psychology Lecture-Lab Combination

B.S. students are required to complete one psychology lecture-laboratory combination. Courses selected to complete the combination may not be used to satisfy other requirements for the major. There are no substitutions for this requirement. The department strongly recommends students take the lecture and lab during the same semester. There is no guarantee that labs will be offered in future semesters. If it is not possible to take the lecture and lab simultaneously, the lecture must be completed as a pre-requisite to the lab. The following course sequences satisfy this requirement:

PSY 321 & PSY 331	Introduction to Sensation and Perception and Laboratory in Sensation and Perception
PSY 324 & PSY 334	Developmental Biopsychology and Laboratory in Developmental Biopsychology

PSY 382 & PSY 383	Health Psychology and Laboratory in Health Psychology
PSY 419 & PSY 420	Complex Cognition & Learning and Using Robots to Understand the Mind
PSY 442 & PSY 443	Research Methods in Child Psychology and Laboratory in Child Psychology
PSY 471 & PSY 472	Experimental Social Psychology: Research Methods and Scientific Inference and Laboratory in Social Psychology: Advanced Research Methods and Practice
PSY 474 & PSY 484	Forensic Psychology and Laboratory in Forensic Psychology

Psychology Electives

Select additional Psychology (PSY) electives to achieve a minimum of 30 PSY credit hours numbered at the 300 level or above if needed

Total Credits	33
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Additional Mathematics and Natural Science Requirements

Natural Science Lecture-Laboratory Requirement

The B.S. student must complete 1 of the 6 lecture-laboratory sets below.

Code	Title	Credits
BIO 121 & BIO 122 & BIO 123 & BIO 124	General Biology I and General Biology I Laboratory and General Biology II and General Biology II Laboratory	8
CHE 106 & CHE 107 & CHE 116 & CHE 117	General Chemistry Lecture I and General Chemistry Laboratory I and General Chemistry Lecture II and General Chemistry Laboratory II	8
CHE 109 & CHE 119 & CHE 129 & CHE 139	General Chemistry Lecture I (Honors and Majors) and General Chemistry Lecture II (Honors and Majors) and General Chemistry Laboratory I (Honors and Majors) and General Chemistry Laboratory II (Honors and Majors)	8
PHY 101 & PHY 102	Major Concepts of Physics I and Major Concepts of Physics II	8
PHY 211 & PHY 212	General Physics I and General Physics II	6
PHY 215 & PHY 221 & PHY 216 & PHY 222	General Physics I for Scientists and General Physics Laboratory I and General Physics II for Scientists and General Physics Laboratory II	8

Mathematics and Natural Sciences Electives

In addition to the natural science lecture-laboratory requirement and the statistics sequence requirement for the Psychology major, the B.S. student must complete three courses (a minimum of 9 credits) in mathematics and/or in the natural sciences. This requirement is intended to deepen or enhance the student's experience and scholarly interests in the sciences. Courses that satisfy this requirement are listed below. Courses used toward the natural science lecture-laboratory requirement cannot be used to fulfill this requirement. Courses used toward the statistics requirement cannot be used to fulfill this requirement.

Anthropology

Code	Title	Credits
ANT 131	Introduction to Biological Anthropology	3
ANT 433	Human Osteology	3

Astronomy

All AST courses.

Biology

All BIO courses.

Chemistry

All CHE courses.

Communication Sciences and Disorders

Code	Title	Credits
CSD 212	Introduction to Communication Sciences and Disorders	3
CSD 315	Anatomy and Physiology of the Speech and Hearing Mechanisms	3
CSD 325	Fundamentals of Hearing Sciences	3
CSD 345	Speech Science	3
CSD 409	Cognitive Neuroscience of Speech and Language	3

Earth Sciences

All EAR courses

(credit will not be given for both EAR 110 Dynamic Earth & EAR 105 Earth Science)

Geography

Code	Title	Credits
GEO 155	The Natural Environment	3
GEO 215	Global Environmental Change	3
GEO 316	River Environments	3
GEO 326	The Geography of Climate and Weather	3
GEO 455	Biogeography	3
GEO 482	Environmental Remote Sensing	3-4
GEO 583	Environmental Geographical Information Science	3

Mathematics

All MAT courses above 230.

Physics

All PHY courses.

Science Teaching

All SCI courses.

David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics

Code	Title	Credits
NSD 225	Nutrition in Health	3

*Applies as Non-Arts & Sciences credit

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/#text>) 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/#text>). 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/idea-course-requirement/>)
- First Year Seminar (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/undergraduate/courses/fys/>)

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