

PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR

Dr. Jason Newsome, Program Director

Psychology Program Mission Statement

The Psychology program helps students understand the operation of behavior and mental processes of organisms; appreciate psychology as a discipline, a science, and a profession; and acquire skills necessary for advanced study or work within the discipline.

Program Description

This unique program, offered in two-degree tracks, helps students to better understand human behavior and the processes of organisms, and to learn to appreciate psychology as a discipline. Students will acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for advanced study or work within the discipline. The degree tracks are tailored to meet students' future career plans, whether that includes immediate employment or graduate studies.

Psychology Program Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this course of study, the graduate will:

1. Demonstrate the ability to understand, use, and apply the scientific method.
2. Demonstrate mastery of the core fields, paradigms, and theories of psychology.
3. Demonstrate innovation and expertise in the skills representative of academic and applied psychology that will culminate in the production of an undergraduate thesis project that is appropriate to their degree.
4. Demonstrate innovation and mastery of the written and oral communication skill standards of the American Psychological Association that will culminate in the production and presentation of a professional undergraduate thesis.
5. Demonstrate understanding and appreciation of the ethical standards in academic and applied psychology through the integration of ethics in their collective works.

What You Will Study

The Psychology major consists of two tracks, the Bachelor of Sciences (BS) and the Bachelor of Arts (BA). Overwhelmingly, students in the BS and BA tracks will complete the same sequences of courses to achieve their respective degrees. The primary distinction between the two tracks is that the BS track is intended for students who plan to pursue an advanced degree in psychology or related fields, such as social work. The BA track is primarily intended for students who plan to pursue employment immediately following completion of their undergraduate degree. Students following both tracks are required to complete a minimum of 120 credit hours. Students following the BA track will take 30 credits of Psychology courses and 12 credits of Research Methods core courses. Students following the BS track will take 27 credits of Psychology courses and 15 credits of Research Methods core courses. Additional distinctions between the two tracks are

discussed below. It is highly recommended that all psychology majors work closely with their program advisor to plan how to best attain their educational goals.

The Psychology BS Track

The BS track is intended for students who plan to continue their education beyond the bachelor’s degree. It is structured to prepare students with the required skills in research methods, design, and analysis that most graduate programs desire in their entering students. Additionally, students will develop a firm foundation in the natural sciences. The BS track culminates in an independent, data-driven human participant research project that the student will present at the UC Innovation Showcase and/or at a regional psychology conference. The BS track is offered at the Charleston campus.

B.S. Track Core Courses in Psychology		
PSYC 101	Introduction to Psychology	3
PSYC 212	Lifespan Development	3
PSYC 342	Social Psychology	3
PSYC 352 or 360	Cognitive Psychology or Learning and Memory	3
PSYC 351, 353, or 358	Biological Psychology Elective*	6-12*
PSYC 351, 353, 354, or 361	Ethics Elective*	
PSYC 355, 359, or 361	Oral Communication Elective*	
PSYC 357 or 498 or SOCI 221	Engagement Elective or 30 hours documented community service*	
Select from PSYC 300+, SOCI 221, and SOCI 322	Psychology Electives	6-12**
Total Psychology Core		27

*Some courses may fulfill more than one requirement

**Take enough electives to reach 27 hours of psychology core courses

B.S. Track Core Courses in Research Methods		
SSCI 203	Methods for Behavioral Sciences	3
PSYC 315	Psychological Statistics	3
SSCI 320	Computer Assisted Research	3
PSYC 451	Experimental Psychology I	3
PSYC 452	Thesis	3
Total Research Methods Core		15

B.S. Track Math and Science Requirements

MATH 120 or higher	Intermediate Algebra (or higher)	3
BIOL 130 or CHEM 100 or	Biology (with lab) or Chemistry (with lab)	3
BIOL 130, BIOL 215+, CHEM 100+, MATH 123+	Choose two courses from among: Biology (with lab), Chemistry (with lab), and/or Math courses	3
Total Math and Science Requirements		15-16

First Year Schedule

Psychology BS Program Typical Four-Year Student Schedule

FIRST YEAR			
FALL SEMESTER		SPRING SEMESTER	
UNIV 104 Orientation to University	3	UNIV 105 University Experience	3
COMM 101 Freshman Writing I	3	SPCH 103 Oral Communication (embedded)	3
PSYC 101 Introduction to Psychology (Social Science Flex)	3	COMM 102 Freshman Writing II	3
MATH 120 Intermediate Algebra or higher (STEM Flex)	3	PSYC 212 Lifespan Development (Social Science Flex)	3
BIOL 130 + BIOL 130L Biology for Majors with Lab (STEM Flex)	4	Humanities Flex Course	3
Total Credits:	16	Total Credits:	15
SECOND YEAR			
FALL SEMESTER		SPRING SEMESTER	
SSCI 203 Methods for Behavioral Sciences	3	PSYC 315 Psychological Statistics	3
CHEM 101 + CHEM 101L General Chemistry I with lab, BIOL-215 or higher, or MATH-123 Precalculus or higher (Elective Flex)	4	CHEM 102 + CHEM 102L General Chemistry II with Lab, BIOL-215 or higher, or MATH- 123 Precalculus or higher (Elective Flex)	3
PSYC 352 Cognitive Psychology	3	PSYC 351 Human Sexuality or PSYC 353 Physiological Psychology	4
Free Elective or Course for Minor	3	Humanities Flex Course	3
Free Elective or Course for Minor	3	Free Elective or Course for Minor	3
Total Credits:	16	Total Credits:	16

THIRD YEAR

FALL SEMESTER		SPRING SEMESTER	
SSCI 320 Computer Assisted Research	3	PSYC 342 Social Psychology	3
PSYC 360 Learning and Memory	3	PSYC 361 Clinical Psychology or PSYC 354 Psychology and the Law	3
PSYC 362 Abnormal Psychology	3	PSYC 358 Health Psychology	3
SOCI 221 Criminology and Juvenile Delinquency	3	Free Elective or Course for Minor	3
Free Elective or Course for Minor	3	Free Elective or Course for Minor	3
Total Credits:	15	Total Credits:	15

FOURTH YEAR

FALL SEMESTER		SPRING SEMESTER	
PSYC 451 Experimental Psychology I	3	PSYC 452 Thesis	3
SOCI 322 Marriage and Family	3	PSYC 355 Advanced Social Psychology	3
Free Elective or Course for Minor	3	Free Elective or Course for Minor	3
Free Elective or Course for Minor	3	Free Elective or Course for Minor	3
Free Elective or Course for Minor	3		
Total Credits:	15	Total Credits:	12

Psychology BA Track

The BA track is structured for those students who do not plan to immediately pursue advanced study in psychology or who are interested in entering the workforce upon completion of their degree. To help the BA student decide her or his future, the track includes a cultural diversity requirement in order to expose the student to a wide array of unique experiences that he or she may encounter outside the classroom. Similar to the BS track, the BA track culminates in a senior research project. The distinction is that the BA project is intended to be more theoretical in nature and will not require the student to conduct human participant research. The BA track is offered at both the Charleston and Online locations.

B.A. Track Core Courses in Psychology

PSYC 101	Introduction to Psychology	3
PSYC 212	Lifespan Development	3
PSYC 342	Social Psychology	3
PSYC 352 or 360	Cognitive Psychology or Learning and Memory	3

PSYC 351, 353, or 358	Biological Psychology Elective*	6-12*
PSYC 351, 353, 354, or 361	Ethics Elective*	
PSYC 355, 359, or 361	Oral Communication Elective*	
PSYC 357 or 498 or SOCI 221	Engagement Elective or 30 hours documented community service*	
Select from PSYC 300+, SOCI 221, and SOCI 322	Psychology Electives**	6-12**
Total Psychology Core		30

*Some courses may fulfill more than one requirement.

**Take enough electives to reach 30 total hours of psychology core courses.

B.A. Track Core Courses in Research Methods

SSCI 203	Methods for Behavioral Sciences	3
PSYC 315	Psychological Statistics	3
SSCI 320	Computer Assisted Research	3
PSYC 441	Psychology BA Capstone	3
Total Research Methods Core		12

B.A. Track Math and Diversity Requirements

MATH 120 or higher	Intermediate Algebra (or higher)	3-4
HUMN 110	Unheard Voices	3
	Choose two diversity electives from: SPAN 101, SPAN 102, SPAN 201, FREN 101, FREN 102, FREN 201, EDUC-204, ENGL-231, ENGL-307, ENGL-309, ENGL-320, GEOG-303, HIST-212, HIST-360, HIST-371, HIST-373, HUMN-201, MUSC-212, POLS-210, SOWK-350, SSCI-104, SSCI-111, SSCI-114, SSCI-310	6
Total Math and Diversity Requirements		12-13

Typical Four-Year Student Schedule First Year Schedule

FIRST YEAR

FALL SEMESTER		SPRING SEMESTER	
UNIV 104 Orientation to University OR UNIV 204 College Success and Leadership	3	UNIV 105 University Experience	3
COMM 101 Freshman Writing I	3	COMM 102 Freshman Writing II	3
PSYC 101 Introduction to Psychology (Social Science Flex)	3	SPCH 103 Oral Communication (embedded in UNIV 105 unless	3

		taken online)	
MATH 120 Intermediate Algebra or higher (STEM Flex)	3	PSYC 212 Lifespan Development (Social Science Flex)	3
HUMN 110 Unheard Voices (Humanities Flex)	3	Humanities Flex Course	3
Total Credits:	15	Total Credits:	15

SECOND YEAR

Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
SSCI 203 Methods for Behavioral Sciences	3	PSYC 315 Psychological Statistics	3
PSYC 360 Learning and Memory	3	Diversity Elective	3
PSYC 362 Abnormal Psychology	3	PSYC 358 Health Psychology	3
Elective Flex Course	3	STEM Flex Course	3
Free Elective or Course for Minor	3	Free Elective or Course for Minor	3
Total Credits:	15	Total Credits:	15

THIRD YEAR

Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
SSCI 320 Computer Assisted Research	3	Diversity Elective	3
PSYC 352 Cognitive Psychology	3	PSYC 359 Advanced Developmental Psychology	3
PSYC 342 Social Psychology	3	PSYC 353 Physiological Psychology	3
Elective Flex Course	3	Free Elective or Course for Minor	3
Free Elective or Course for Minor	3	Free Elective or Course for Minor	3
Total Credits:	15	Total Credits:	15

FOURTH YEAR

Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
PSYC 357 Psychological Aspects of Aging	3	PSYC 441 Psychology BA Capstone	3
PSYC 362 Abnormal Psychology	3	PSYC 361 Clinical Psychology	3
Free Elective or Course for Minor	3	PSYC 343 Personality	3
Free Elective or Course for Minor	3	Free Elective or Course for Minor	3
Free Elective or Course for Minor	3	Free Elective or Course for Minor	3
Total Credits:	15	Total Credits:	15

Admission Requirements

Students must gain general admission to the University of Charleston.

Additional Requirements for BA and BS Degrees

Students must earn a C or better in all courses, including Psychology electives, that are taken to meet a requirement for the degree program in which they are enrolled. To satisfy graduation requirements, students must also take and pass a series of 6 comprehensive examinations (or their equivalent, as determined by the Psychology Program Director).

PSYCHOLOGY MINOR

The minor in Psychology requires that the student complete 18 credits of courses in Psychology. These courses must be completed with a C or better to count toward the minor requirements.

Psychology Minor Must Include:		
PSYC 101	Introduction to Psychology	3
PSYC 212	Lifespan Development	3
PSYC 3XX	Electives*	12
	Total Credits	18

*Nine of the 12 credits of electives must be at the 300 level or above and should be selected in conversation with a member of the Psychology faculty and the student's major advisor to ensure the student's educational objectives are met. Other relevant courses may be substituted with the Program Director's approval.