

PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR

Dr. Michael Bayly, 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, science, and 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). Students in the BS and BA tracks will complete a similar sequence of courses to achieve their respective degrees. Students following both tracks are required to complete a minimum of 120 credit hours. Both tracks prepare students for entering graduate studies. The BS track is more closely aligned with graduate programs that are primarily focused on psychology research. The BA track is more aligned with graduate studies that are primarily focused on practice. The primary distinction between the two tracks is that the BS is the completion of a research project. Students in the BS track, during their senior year, design and conduct their research with guidance and supervision from psychology faculty.

The Psychology BS Track

The BS track is intended for students who are interested in conducting research in psychology. It is structured to prepare students with the required skills in research methods, design, and analysis that provides a foundation for graduate education that involves research. 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 have the opportunity to present to a professional audience. The BS track is offered at the Charleston campus.

B.S. Track Core Courses in Psychology		
PSYC 101	Introduction to Psychology	3 credits
PSYC 212	Lifespan Development	3 credits
PSYC 342	Social Psychology	3 credits
PSYC 352 or 360	Cognitive Psychology or Learning and Memory	3 credits
PSYC 351, 353, or 358	Biological Psychology Elective*	6-12* credits
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**credits
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 credits
PSYC 315	Psychological Statistics	3 credits
SSCI 320	Computer Assisted Research	3 credits
PSYC 451	Experimental Psychology I	3 credits
PSYC 452	Thesis	3 credits
Total Research Methods Core		15

B.S. Track Math and Science Requirements		
MATH 120 or higher	Intermediate Algebra (or higher)	3-4 credits
BIOL 130, BIOL 215+, CHEM 100+, MATH 123+	Choose three courses from among: Biology (with lab), Chemistry (with lab), and/or Math courses	12 credits
Total Math and Science Requirements		15-16

Psychology BA Track

The BA track is structured for those students who desire a career in psychology or a related field, but are not particularly interested in conducting research. The BA track includes a cultural diversity requirement in order to expose the student to a wide array of unique experiences that they may encounter outside the classroom. The BA track also includes a research component. However, the final step is a senior research proposal. This 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 credits
PSYC 212	Lifespan Development	3 credits
PSYC 342	Social Psychology	3 credits
PSYC 352 or 360	Cognitive Psychology or Learning and Memory	3 credits
PSYC 351, 353, or 358	Biological Psychology Elective*	6-12* credits
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*	6-12** credits
Select from PSYC 300+, SOCI 221, and SOCI 322	Psychology Electives**	
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 credits
PSYC 315	Psychological Statistics	3 credits
SSCI 320	Computer Assisted Research	3 credits
PSYC 441	Psychology BA Capstone	3 credits

Total Research Methods Core		12
B.A. Track Math and Diversity Requirements		
MATH 120 or higher	Intermediate Algebra (or higher)	3-4 credits
HUMN 110	Unheard Voices	3 credits
	Choose two diversity electives from: Foreign Language electives (i.e.-SPAN 101, SPAN 102, SPAN 201, FREN 101, FREN 102, etc.), EDUC-204, ENGL-231, ENGL-307, ENGL- 309, ENGL-320, GEOG-303, HIST-212, HIST-360, HIST-371, HIST-373, MUSC-212, POLS-210, SSCI-105, SSCI-106	6 credits
Total Math and Diversity Requirements		12-13

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 comprehensive examination, 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 credits
PSYC 212	Lifespan Development	3 credits
PSYC 3XX	Electives*	12 credits
	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.