

PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology Overview

For college-level requirements in undergraduate curricula leading to the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science, see College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (<http://catalog.iastate.edu/collegeofliberalartsandsciences/>).

An undergraduate major in psychology provides a liberal arts and science education, which also can serve as preparation for graduate study in psychology, law, or the health professions. The undergraduate major in psychology enables graduates to understand and apply the scientific principles, facts, and basic methods of psychology to their personal and professional activities. Students with a bachelor's degree (B.A./B.S.) in psychology may qualify for a variety of positions including those in social sciences, mental health, corrections, rehabilitation, developmental disability centers, and business (management, insurance, opinion polls). Professional work as a psychologist in academic, business, clinical, government, and school settings requires graduate degrees. Depending on professional goals, a minor in another discipline may be desirable.

Student Learning Outcomes

Following the recommendations of the American Psychological Association, the undergraduate curriculum in psychology is designed to allow each student to:

1. Develop a detailed knowledge of psychology
2. Develop an understanding of scientific inquiry and demonstrate critical thinking
3. Understand the role of ethics and diversity in human behavior
4. Be able to communicate effectively in the discourse of psychology
5. Develop skills supporting employment or graduate/professional education

Degree Requirements

COMMUNICATION PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENT

According to the university-wide Communication Proficiency Grade Requirement (<http://catalog.iastate.edu/academics/#communicationproficiencytext>), students must demonstrate their communication proficiency by earning a grade of C or better in ENGL 2500.

| | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| ENGL 1500 | Critical Thinking and Communication | 3 |
| ENGL 2500 | Written, Oral, Visual, and Electronic Composition | 3 |
| | or ENGL 2500H Written, Oral, Visual, and Electronic Composition: Honors | |

The Department requires a C- or better in one of the following:

| | | |
|------------|--------------------------------|---|
| PSYCH 3020 | Research Methods in Psychology | 3 |
| ENGL 3020 | Business Communication | 3 |
| ENGL 3090 | Proposal and Report Writing | 3 |
| ENGL 3140 | Technical Communication | 3 |

The major must include the following psychology courses each with a minimum grade of C- and an overall average of C or better:

| | | |
|------------|---|---|
| PSYCH 1110 | Orientation to Psychology | 1 |
| | or PSYCH 1120 Psychology Learning Community Seminar | |
| PSYCH 1010 | Introduction to Psychology * | 3 |
| PSYCH 2110 | Career Opportunities in Psychology | 1 |
| PSYCH 3010 | Research Design and Methodology * | 3 |
| PSYCH 4400 | Psychological Measurement I * | 3 |

The major also must include at least one course from four of the following six areas:

| | | |
|------------|---|---|
| Area A | | |
| PSYCH 2300 | Developmental Psychology | 3 |
| PSYCH 3350 | Child and Adolescent Psychopathology | 3 |
| Area B | | |
| PSYCH 2800 | Social Psychology | 3 |
| PSYCH 3800 | Social Cognition | 3 |
| Area C | | |
| PSYCH 3100 | Brain and Behavior | 3 |
| PSYCH 3150 | Drugs and Behavior | 3 |
| Area D | | |
| PSYCH 3120 | Sensation and Perception | 3 |
| PSYCH 3130 | Learning and Memory | 3 |
| PSYCH 3160 | Cognitive Psychology | 3 |
| PSYCH 3180 | Judgment and Decision Making | 3 |
| Area E | | |
| PSYCH 3600 | Personality Psychology | 3 |
| PSYCH 4600 | General Psychopathology | 3 |
| Area F | | |
| PSYCH 2500 | Psychology of the Workplace | 3 |
| PSYCH 3500 | Human Factors in Technology | 3 |
| | Three additional 3-credit courses in psychology | 9 |

Three additional 3-credit courses in psychology must be taken. Area courses may be used to meet this requirement, but variable credit courses (PSYCH 2910, PSYCH 4900, PSYCH 4910, and PSYCH 4920) may not.

In accordance with college requirements, a C or better average is required in the courses used to satisfy the major.

Departmental requirements for the B.A. and B.S. include the following supporting courses:

| | |
|--|-----|
| 6 credits in Philosophy including | 6 |
| PHIL 2010 Introduction to Philosophy (not 207) | 3 |
| Two of the following | |
| BIOL 1010 Introductory Biology | 3 |
| or BIOL 2110 Principles of Biology I | |
| or BIOL 2120 Principles of Biology II | |
| BIOL 1550 Human Biology | 3 |
| or BIOL 2550 Fundamentals of Human Anatomy | |
| or BIOL 2560 Fundamentals of Human Physiology | |
| CHEM 1600 Chemistry in Modern Society | 3 |
| or CHEM 1630 College Chemistry | |
| PHYS 1010 Physics for the Nonscientist (or higher) | 3 |
| STAT 1010 Principles of Statistics * | 3-4 |
| or STAT 1040 Introduction to Statistics | |

3 credits in Mathematics from selected course list**

* minimum grade of C-

**Popular choices include MATH 1040, MATH 1400, MATH 1500, MATH 1650, and STAT 3010. See general education mathematics list for alternative options. Neither MATH 1050 nor MATH 1060 may be used to satisfy this requirement.

Students pursuing a B.S. degree also must complete PSYCH 3020 Research Methods in Psychology with a minimum grade of C- and a minimum of 10 additional credits from courses listed in the LAS Gen Ed Natural Sciences and Mathematical Disciplines Area as follows: six additional credits in natural sciences, one additional credit in a laboratory course, and three additional credits in mathematics. It should be noted that either MATH 1040 or MATH 1500 may be counted toward the B.S. degree requirement, but not both.

Students electing a B.A. degree also must complete an ISU approved minor, certificate or additional major.

As majors in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Psychology students must meet College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (<http://catalog.iastate.edu/collegeofliberalartsandsciences/#lascollegerequirementstext>) and University-wide requirements (<http://catalog.iastate.edu/collegescurricula/>) for graduation in addition to those stated above for the major.

Students in all ISU majors must complete a three-credit course in U.S. diversity and a three-credit course in international perspectives. Check

(<http://www.registrar.iastate.edu/courses/div-ip-guide.html>) for a list of approved courses. Discuss with your advisor how the two courses that you select can be applied to your graduation plan.

LAS majors require a minimum of 120 credits, **including a minimum of 45 credits at the 3000/4000 level**. You must also complete the LAS world language requirement and career proficiency requirement.

Four Year Plans Psychology, B.A.

Freshman

| Fall | Credits Spring | Credits |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| ENGL 1500 | 3 Psychology Choice* | 3 |
| PSYCH 1010 ³ | 3 Social Science Choice* | 3 |
| Required Natural Science* | 3 Required Natural Science* | 3 |
| Required Math* | 3 Arts & Humanities Choice* | 3 |
| Social Science Choice* | 3 Electives | 3 |
| PSYCH 1110 | 1 LIB 1600 | 1 |
| | 16 | 16 |

Sophomore

| Fall | Credits Spring | Credits |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| ENGL 2500 ² | 3 Psychology Choice* | 3 |
| Psychology Choice* | 3 Psychology Choice* | 3 |
| Arts & Humanities Choice* | 3 STAT 1010 ³ | 4 |
| PHIL 2010 | 3 Minor | 3 |
| Required Natural Science* | 3 LAS 2030 | 1 |
| PSYCH 2110 | 1 | |
| | 16 | 14 |

Junior

| Fall | Credits Spring | Credits |
|-------------------------|---|--------------|
| PSYCH 3010 ³ | 3 PSYCH 3020, ENGL 3020, ENGL 3090, or ENGL 3140 ¹ | 3 |
| Psychology Choice* | 3 Minor | 3 |
| Philosophy Choice* | 3 World Language/Elective | 3-4 |
| World Language/Elective | 3-4 Elective | 6 |
| Minor | 3 | |
| | 15-16 | 15-16 |

Senior

| Fall | Credits Spring | Credits |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------|
| PSYCH 4400 ³ | 3 Psychology Choice | 3 |
| Psychology Choice* | 3 Minor | 3 |
| Minor | 3 Electives | 7-10 |

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| Electives | 6 | |
| | 15 | 13-16 |

Total Credits: 120-125

¹ Meets English Proficiency Requirement: C- minimum.

² The university-wide Communication Proficiency Grade Requirement (<http://catalog.iastate.edu/academics/#communicationproficiencytext>) requires a grade of C or better in ENGL 2500.

³ Psych Requirement: C- minimum

* Choose from list of selected courses available from an advisor.

Psychology, B.S

Freshman

| Fall | Credits Spring | Credits |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| ENGL 1500 | 3 Psychology Choice* | 3 |
| PSYCH 1110 | 1 Social Sciences Choice* | 3 |
| PSYCH 1010 ³ | 3 Required Natural Science* | 3 |
| Required Math* | 3 Arts & Humanities Choice* | 3 |
| Social Sciences Choice* | 3 Electives | 3 |
| Required Natural Science* | 3 LIB 1600 | 1 |
| | 16 | 16 |

Sophomore

| Fall | Credits Spring | Credits |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| ENGL 2500 ² | 3 Psychology Choice* | 3 |
| Psychology Choice* | 3 Psychology Choice* | 3 |
| Arts & Humanities Choice* | 3 STAT 1010 ³ | 4 |
| PHIL 2010 | 3 Electives | 3 |
| Required Natural Science* | 3 LAS 2030 | 1 |
| Required Natural Science Laboratory* | 1-2 | |
| PSYCH 2110 | 1 | |
| | 17-18 | 14 |

Junior

| Fall | Credits Spring | Credits |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| PSYCH 3010 ³ | 3 PSYCH 3020 ¹ | 3 |
| Psychology Choice* | 3 Required Math* | 3 |
| World Language/Elective | 3-4 Required Natural Science* | 3 |
| Philosophy Choice* | 3 World Language/Elective | 3-4 |
| Electives | 3 Electives* | 3 |
| | 15-16 | 15-16 |

Senior

| Fall | Credits Spring | Credits |
|-------------------------|----------------------|---------|
| PSYCH 4400 ³ | 3 Psychology Choice* | 3 |

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Psychology Choice* | 3 Electives | 10-13 |
| Electives | 8 | |
| | 14 | 13-16 |

Total Credits: 120-126

¹ Meets English Proficiency Requirement: C- minimum.

² The university-wide Communication Proficiency Grade Requirement (<http://catalog.iastate.edu/academics/#communicationproficiencytext>) requires a grade of C or better in ENGL 2500.

³ Psych Requirement: C- minimum

* Choose from list of selected courses available from an advisor.

Psychology Undergraduate Minor

The department offers a minor in psychology. The minor requires completing 18 credits in psychology, including PSYCH 1010 Introduction to Psychology and PSYCH 3010 Research Design and Methodology, each with a minimum grade of C-. At least 9 of the 18 credits must be in 3000 level courses (or above), but no more than three credits total may be from PSYCH 2910 Introductory Research Experience, PSYCH 4900 Independent Study, PSYCH 4910 Research Practicum, and PSYCH 4920. The minor must include at least 9 credits that are not used to meet any other department, college, or university requirement. In addition to an overall C average or better in courses used to satisfy the minor, a C- or better is required in each course. Contact the psychology advising office for more information.

Graduate Study

The department offers work for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in psychology. A Master of Science may be earned as part of that degree.

The department offers a doctoral specialization in counseling (<https://counseling.psych.iastate.edu/>) psychology (APA accredited) and doctoral areas of concentration in cognitive (<https://psychology.iastate.edu/graduate-study/doctoral-programs/cognitive-psychology/>) psychology and social (<https://psychology.iastate.edu/graduate-study/doctoral-programs/social-psychology/>) psychology.

A basic goal of graduate study in the Department of Psychology is to provide all students with a broad base of knowledge in psychological science, as well as exposure to the content and methodological skills necessary for effective performance in teaching, research and professional practice. Accordingly, graduates have an extensive knowledge of psychological principles and the conceptual and quantitative skills to conduct psychological research and to communicate the results to the scientific community, students in the classroom, and the general public. Graduates in counseling

psychology are skilled in delivering services to diverse clientele in a variety of settings.

The department also participates in the interdepartmental programs in human computer interaction (<http://www.vrac.iastate.edu/hci/>), neuroscience (<http://www.neuroscience.iastate.edu/>) (<http://www.neuroscience.iastate.edu/>) and in the interdepartmental minor in gerontology (<http://www.gerontology.iastate.edu/programs/>).

A formal class and a supervised practicum in the teaching of psychology is recommended for all doctoral students whose future plans may include teaching at the college level. A 12-month internship in a training site or agency approved by the faculty is required of all doctoral students in counseling psychology.