

Psychology

Undergraduate Study

For college-level requirements in undergraduate curricula leading to the degrees of bachelor of arts and bachelor of science, see Liberal Arts and Sciences, Curriculum.

An undergraduate major in psychology may be taken as liberal arts education, as preparation for graduate study in psychology, or as background for professional education in law and in the health professions. A student with a bachelor's degree in psychology may qualify for a variety of positions including those in social sciences, mental health, corrections, rehabilitation, developmental disability centers, business, management, and public opinion surveying. Depending on professional goals, a minor in another discipline may be desirable. Students should consult with their academic advisers early in their undergraduate curriculum. The requirements of the program enable graduates to understand and apply the scientific principles, facts, and basic methods of psychology in their personal and professional activities. Graduates will demonstrate an understanding of the scientific method and will be able to apply that understanding to the study of human behavior and the study of mental processes. They will also demonstrate the ability to effectively communicate their knowledge of psychological concepts through both writing and speech. Graduates will demonstrate a respect for individual and cultural differences and for the ethical issues that relate to the practice of psychology in both research and clinical settings. Professional work with a job title of psychologist in academic, business, clinical, government, and school settings requires graduate degrees.

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

PSYCH 101	Introduction to Psychology *	3
PSYCH 102	Laboratory in Introductory Psychology *	1
PSYCH 111	Orientation to Psychology	0.5
PSYCH 301	Research Design and Methodology *	3
PSYCH 440	Psychological Measurement I *	3

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

Area A

PSYCH 230	Developmental Psychology
PSYCH 335	Abnormal Psychology of Children and Adolescents

Area B

PSYCH 280	Social Psychology
PSYCH 380	Social Cognition

Area C

PSYCH 310	Brain and Behavior
PSYCH 315	Drugs and Behavior

Area D

PSYCH 312	Sensation and Perception
PSYCH 313	Learning and Memory
PSYCH 316	Cognitive Psychology
PSYCH 318	Thinking and Decision Making

Area E

PSYCH 360	Personality Psychology
PSYCH 460	Abnormal Psychology

Area F

PSYCH 250	Psychology of the Workplace
PSYCH 350	Human Factors in Technology

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 291, PSYCH 470, PSYCH 490, PSYCH 491, and PSYCH 492) 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 201	Introduction to Philosophy (not 207)	3

Two of the following

BIOL 101	Introductory Biology (or higher)	
BIOL 155	Human Biology (or 255 or 256)	
BIOL 258	Human Reproduction (or Biol 313 Princ of Genetics)	
CHEM 160	Chemistry in Modern Society (or higher)	
PHYS 101	Physics for the Nonscientist (or higher)	
STAT 101	Principles of Statistics (or higher) *	4
MATH 104	Introduction to Probability (or 150 or higher) **	3

* minimum grade of C-

** excluding MATH 105 Introduction to Mathematical Ideas

Students electing a B.S. degree also must complete PSYCH 302 Research Methods in Psychology with a minimum grade of C- and a minimum of 10 additional supporting credits in supporting courses from the list of courses in the LAS Gen Ed Natural Sciences and Mathematical Disciplines Area (or approved departmental list) as follows: three credits in mathematics, six credits in natural sciences, and one additional credit in a laboratory course.

Students electing a B.A. degree also must complete an ISU approved minor.

The department offers a minor in psychology. The minor requires completing 18 credits in psychology, including PSYCH 101 Introduction to Psychology and PSYCH 301 Research Design and Methodology, each with a minimum grade of C-. At least 9 of the 18 credits must be in 300 level courses (or above), but no more than three credits total may be from PSYCH 291 Introductory Research Experience, PSYCH 490 Independent Study, PSYCH 491 Research Practicum, and PSYCH 492 Fieldwork Practicum. 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.

Communication Proficiency requirement

The department requires a grade of:

C or better in:

ENGL 150	Critical Thinking and Communication	3
ENGL 250	Written, Oral, Visual, and Electronic Composition	3
or ENGL 250H	Written, Oral, Visual, and Electronic Composition: Honors	

C- or better in one of the following:

PSYCH 302	Research Methods in Psychology	3
ENGL 302	Business Communication	3
ENGL 309	Report and Proposal Writing	3
ENGL 314	Technical Communication	3

Four Year Plan

^ Choose from approved departmental list

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 psychology (APA accredited) and doctoral areas of concentration in cognitive psychology and social 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, communicating the results to the scientific community, students in the classroom, and the general public. Graduates in applied programs have specialized knowledge in counseling and program development. They are skilled in delivering such programs and services to diverse clientele in a variety of settings.

The department also participates in the interdepartmental programs in human computer interaction and neuroscience (<http://www.hci.iastate.edu/Academics/index.php>), and in the interdepartmental minor in gerontology (http://www.gerontology.iastate.edu/?expand=graduate_program).

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.