PSYCHOLOGY, B.A.

The psychology major is the largest major in the College of Letters & Science, focusing on five areas in the field of psychological science: biological, clinical, cognitive and cognitive neuroscience, developmental, and social and personality.

The mission of the undergraduate program in psychology is to provide students with opportunities to:

- learn about the multiple content areas of scientific psychology
- develop the ability to think critically and quantitatively
- enhance written and oral communication skills
- prepare for the most rigorous graduate and professional programs
- apply the science of psychology to the well-being of citizens of Wisconsin and the global community

Some students will go to graduate school and become the next generation of psychological scientists and educators who will create and disseminate new knowledge. Others will choose careers in other areas, including but not limited to business, medicine, law, education, and counseling. Through its strong interdisciplinary connections with the natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, and medical sciences, scientific psychology is positioned well to influence critical issues for society. Because all courses in psychology emphasize critical thinking and the analysis of research, the undergraduate program prepares students to take on the challenges of and fully participate in an increasingly complex, multicultural world.

HOW TO GET IN

To declare the psychology major, a student must successfully complete PSYCH 202 Introduction to Psychology (or equivalent) with a grade of C or better and schedule an appointment (http://psych.wisc.edu/undergraduate-schedule-an-appointment.htm) with an advisor.

Requirements Detail

General Education

- Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits
- Breadth—Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits
- Breadth—Social Studies: 3 credits
- Communication Part A & Part B *
- Ethnic Studies *
- Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B *

* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE BREADTH AND DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.)

Students pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The College of Letters & Science allows this major to be paired with either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science curriculum. View a comparison of the degree requirements here. (https://pubs.wisc.edu/home/archives/ug15/images/babs2009.pdf)

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Requirements Detail

Mathematics

- Fulfilled with completion of University General Education requirements Quantitative Reasoning a (QR A) and Quantitative Reasoning b (QR B) coursework. Please note that some majors may require students to complete additional math coursework beyond the B.A. mathematics requirement.

Foreign Language

- Complete the fourth unit of a foreign language; OR
- Complete the third unit of a foreign language and the second unit of an additional foreign language

Note: A unit is one year of high school work or one semester/term of college work.

L&S Breadth

- Humanities, 12 credits: 6 of the 12 credits must be in literature
- Social Sciences, 12 credits
- Natural Sciences, 12 credits: must include one 3+ credit course in the biological sciences; must include one 3+ credit course in the physical sciences

Liberal Arts and Science Coursework 108 credits

Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work 60 intermediate or advanced credits

Major Declare and complete at least one (1) major

Total Credits 120 credits

UW-Madison

Experience 30 credits in residence, overall

Experience 30 credits in residence after the 90th credit
Minimum GPAs
- 2.000 in all coursework at UW–Madison
- 2.000 in intermediate/advanced coursework at UW–Madison

NON–L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR
Non–L&S students who have permission from their school/college to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements and do not need to complete the L&S breadth and degree requirements above.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR
The major requires 33 credits in PSYCH and completion of these four learning areas:

FOUNDATION
Foundation courses provide a grounding in basic psychological facts and an understanding of the methodologies used to produce those facts. Four courses are required with grades of C or better in each category:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 202</td>
<td>Introduction to Psychology</td>
<td>3-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 210</td>
<td>Basic Statistics for Psychology</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 280</td>
<td>Honors Basic Statistics for Psychology (with a grade of B or better to earn honors)</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC/ C&amp;E SOC 360</td>
<td>Statistics for Sociologists I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 371</td>
<td>Introductory Applied Statistics for the Life Sciences</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 225</td>
<td>Research Methods</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 406</td>
<td>Psychology of Perception</td>
<td>3-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 413</td>
<td>Language, Mind, and Brain</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 414</td>
<td>Cognitive Psychology</td>
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BREADTH
Breadth courses familiarize students with the breadth of psychology. Three (3) courses from at least three different topic groups are required:

<table>
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<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 450</td>
<td>Primates and Us: Insights into Human Biology and Behavior</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 454</td>
<td>Behavioral Neuroscience</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH/ ZOOLOGY 523</td>
<td>Neurobiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 311</td>
<td>Issues in Psychology (Topic: Psychology Law and Social Policies)</td>
<td>1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 405</td>
<td>Abnormal Psychology</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 406</td>
<td>Psychology of Perception</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 413</td>
<td>Language, Mind, and Brain</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 414</td>
<td>Cognitive Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH/SOC 453</td>
<td>Human Sexuality</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 460</td>
<td>Child Development</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 464</td>
<td>Adult Development and Aging</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

DEPTHER household courses allow students to engage in depth with material in specific content areas in psychology. Depth courses include both a lecture component and a required discussion/lab section for all students, and they help students develop a deeper understanding of particular areas of psychology. Each depth course has a prerequisite of one relevant breadth course; please check each course for possible prerequisites. Two courses are required:

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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 501</td>
<td>Depth Topic in Social Science (multiple separate topics offered each semester)</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 502</td>
<td>Cognitive Development</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 503</td>
<td>Social Development</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 508</td>
<td>Psychology of Human Emotions: From Biology to Culture</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 520</td>
<td>How We Read: The Science of Reading and Its Educational Implications</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 521</td>
<td>The Structure of Human Thought: Concepts, Language and Culture</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 526</td>
<td>The Criminal Mind: Forensic and Psychobiological Perspectives</td>
<td>4</td>
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1 A score of 4 or higher on the IB Psychology exam or a score of 4 or 5 on the AP Psychology exam.
2 A score of 4 or better on the IB Biology exam, or a score of 4 or 5 on the AP Biology exam will satisfy the Introductory Biology requirement.
University Degree Requirements

**Total Degree**
To receive a bachelor's degree from UW–Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.

**Residency**
Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. "In residence" means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. "In residence" credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.

**Quality of Work**
Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.

**Learning Outcomes**
1. Students will gain an appreciation for the contributions that psychology is making to our understanding of human and animal behavior.
2. Students will learn to analyze and construct arguments, define and solve problems, and understand and apply scientific reasoning.
3. Students will learn to communicate their ideas, both written and spoken, in a clear, organized, and compelling way.
4. Students will gain a specific understanding of how to use data and research methodology in their critical thinking.
5. Students will acquire an appreciation of and respect for individual differences and diversity of experiences and background.
6. Students will acquire the statistical and research skills used in the behavioral sciences.
7. Students will have the opportunity to evaluate the diverse professional opportunities in psychology.

**Advising and Careers**
Advising appointments can be made through the WiscCal Scheduling Assistant. All major declarations require an appointment. You must have a NetID to make an appointment.

Melanie Jones ([https://calendar.wisc.edu/scheduling-assistant/public/profiles/DKwbhrvb.html](https://calendar.wisc.edu/scheduling-assistant/public/profiles/DKwbhrvb.html)): Students whose last name begins with A–H; Room 426 Brogden Psychology Building

Stephanie Osborn ([https://calendar.wisc.edu/scheduling-assistant/public/profiles/PmTkxMuT.html](https://calendar.wisc.edu/scheduling-assistant/public/profiles/PmTkxMuT.html)): Students whose last name begins with I–L; Room 428 Brogden Psychology Building

Valerie Johnson ([https://calendar.wisc.edu/scheduling-assistant/public/profiles/ZRvJFZZg.html](https://calendar.wisc.edu/scheduling-assistant/public/profiles/ZRvJFZZg.html)): Students whose last name begins with M–Z; Room 430 Brogden Psychology Building
Please see this link for instructions on how to use Scheduling Assistant (http://kb.wisc.edu/page.php?id=11776). We have three advisors in the psychology department; all currently declared students should try to schedule an appointment with their assigned advisor.

**Appointments may be made up to two weeks in advance, with at least 24 hours advance notice.** Students are allowed only one appointment in a two week period. Please note that students are limited to one 25-minute appointment within a two-week interval. Students who are more than 10 minutes late for an appointment will be required to reschedule.

**If you need to cancel an appointment, you must do so through Scheduling Assistant.** Students who have migrated to Office365 and are using the Outlook Web App should be sure to send us a response if they decline their appointment.

Please also note that there is a high demand for advising in the psychology department. It is common for appointments to be filled quickly. Requests for appointments cannot be made via email. If you have more immediate advising needs, please refer to the weekly drop-in hours (http://psych.wisc.edu/undergraduate-drop-in-hours.htm). All students, regardless of their assigned advisor, may attend drop-in advising.

**Are you a prospective student?**

We are happy to meet with prospective UW–Madison students to discuss the psychology major during nonpeak advising. Peak advising occurs during the first three weeks of each semester and during registration time (during the months of March/April and October/November). We require a minimum of two weeks advance notice to schedule an appointment. You may contact us via email: advisor@psych.wisc.edu.

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**PEOPLE**

Professors Goldsmith (chair), Abramson, Alibali, Auger, Berridge, Brauer, Coe, Curtin, Davidson, Devine, Gernsbacher, Goldsmith, Gooding, Harackiewicz, Hyde, Jenison, MacDonald, Marler, Niedenthal, Pollak, Postle, Rogers, Rosengren, Ryff, Saffran, Seidenberg, Snowdon

Associate Professors Bennett, Lupyan, Miyamoto, Rokers, Shutts

Assistant Professors Austerweil, Green, Li, Saalmann, Schloss, Simmering