PSYCHOLOGY, B.S.

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

Students who successfully complete PSYCH 202 Introduction to Psychology (or equivalent) with a grade of C or better are eligible to declare the major. Please refer to the Department website for instructions on how to declare the major.

1 Equivalents include a score of 4 or higher on the IB Psychology exam or a score of 4 or 5 on the AP Psychology exam.

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatestudytext) section of the Guide.

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 SCIENCE (B.S.)

Students pursuing a bachelor of science 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 SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Mathematics

Two (2) 3+ credits of intermediate/advanced level MATH, COMP SCI, STAT
Limit one each: COMP SCI, STAT

Foreign Language

Complete the third unit of a 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 6 credits in biological science; and must include 6 credits in physical science

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

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. Please note that the following special degree programs are not considered majors so are not available to non-L&S-degree-seeking candidates:

- Applied Mathematics, Engineering and Physics (Bachelor of Science–Applied Mathematics, Engineering and Physics)
- Journalism (Bachelor of Arts–Journalism; Bachelor of Science–Journalism)
- Music (Bachelor of Music)
- Social Work (Bachelor of Social Work)

**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>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC/C&amp;E SOC 360</td>
<td>Statistics for Sociologists I</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 371</td>
<td>Introductory Applied Statistics for the Life Sciences</td>
<td>1</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:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 449</td>
<td>Animal Behavior</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<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/ZOLOGY 523</td>
<td>Neurobiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DEPT**

Depth 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:

<table>
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<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 505</td>
<td>Depth Topic in Biological Science</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 508</td>
<td>Psychology of Human Emotions: From Biology to Culture</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
PSYCH 510 Critical Issues in Child Psychopathology 4
PSYCH 513 Hormones, Brain, and Behavior 4
PSYCH 520 How We Read: The Science of Reading and Its Educational Implications 4
PSYCH 521 The Structure of Human Thought: Concepts, Language and Culture 4
PSYCH 525 Cognition in Health and Society 4
PSYCH 526 The Criminal Mind: Forensic and Psychobiological Perspectives 4
PSYCH 532 Psychological Effects of the Internet 4

CAPSTONE Courses allow students to engage in depth with particular content areas in psychology in a seminar setting. One course is required:

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 601</td>
<td>Current Topics in Psychology (many separate topics each semester)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 602</td>
<td>Intermediate Statistics for Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 607</td>
<td>Introduction to Clinical Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 610</td>
<td>Statistical Analysis of Psychological Experiments</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

2.000 GPA in all PSYCH and major courses
2.000 GPA on 15 upper-level major credits, taken in residence
15 credits in PSYCH, taken on the UW–Madison campus

PSYCH 300–699 are upper level in the major.

HONORS IN THE MAJOR

Students may apply for Honors in the Psychology Major in consultation with the psychology undergraduate advisor(s). Decisions on admission to the Honors in the Major in Psychology program are made on a rolling basis throughout the year by a committee of psychology faculty. Overall, criteria emphasize demonstrated ability and commitment to becoming a first-rate scholar. Performance in coursework at the university, particularly Honors courses in psychology and related fields, is among the criteria for admission. Consistent with the philosophy that there is more to honors scholarship than distinguished grades, commitment to excellence in the science of psychology, evidence of broad scholarship (including mathematics and sciences), and evidence of involvement within the university and the broader community enhance students’ credentials.

HONORS IN THE PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

To earn Honors in the Major in Psychology, students must satisfy both the requirements for the major (above) and the following additional requirements:

- Earn a 3.300 overall university GPA
- Earn a 3.300 GPA for all PSYCH courses, and all courses in the major
- Complete the following courses, taken for Honors, with individual grades of B or better:
  - PSYCH 380 Junior Honors Seminar
  - Three Psychology Breadth and/or Depth courses
  - A two-semester Senior Honors Thesis in PSYCH 681 Senior Honors Thesis and PSYCH 682 Senior Honors Thesis, for a total of 6 credits.

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. Gain an appreciation for the contributions that psychology is making to our understanding of human and animal behavior.
2. Learn to analyze and construct arguments, define and solve problems, and understand and apply scientific reasoning.
3. Learn to communicate their ideas, both written and spoken, in a clear, organized, and compelling way.
4. Gain a specific understanding of how to use data and research methodology in their critical thinking.
5. Acquire an appreciation of and respect for individual differences and diversity of experiences and background.
6. Acquire the statistical and research skills used in the behavioral sciences.
7. 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.

last name begins with A–H; Room 426 or 430 Brogden Psychology Building

Stephanie Osborn (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): 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 two 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-program/drop-in-hours). 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 winter, spring, and summer break. We require a minimum of two weeks advance notice to schedule an appointment. You may contact us via email: advisor@psych.wisc.edu.

## L&S Career Resources

SuccessWorks at the College of Letters & Science helps students leverage the academic skills learned in their major, certificates, and liberal arts degree; explore and try out different career paths; participate in internships; prepare for the job search and/or graduate school applications; and network with professionals in the field (alumni and employers).

SuccessWorks can also assist students in career advising, résumé and cover letter writing, networking opportunities, and interview skills, as well as course offerings for undergraduates to begin their career exploration early in their undergraduate career.

- SuccessWorks (https://careers.ls.wisc.edu)
- Set up a career advising appointment (https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment)
- INTER-LS 210 L&S Career Development: Taking Initiative (1 credit, targeted to first- and second-year students)—for more information, see Inter-LS 210: Career Development, Taking Initiative (https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/inter-ls-210-career-development-taking-initiative)

- Learn how we’re transforming career preparation: L&S Career Initiative (http://ls.wisc.edu/lsci)

### People

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

Associate Professors Bennett, Green, Lupyan, Miyamoto, Rokers, Shutts

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