

# PSYCHOLOGY, BA

## REQUIREMENTS

### UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students must complete both the following Core General Education (Core GenEd) and University Degree and Quality of Work requirements. The requirements below apply to students whose first term at UW-Madison or whose earliest post-high school college attendance at any institution is Summer 2026 or later.

Students whose first term at UW-Madison or whose earliest post-high school college attendance at any institution occurred before Summer 2026 should refer to the archived Guide (<https://guide.wisc.edu/archive/>) for the requirements that apply to them.

### CORE GENERAL EDUCATION (CORE GENED) REQUIREMENTS

**Civics & Perspectives** 3 credits of Civics & Perspectives coursework.

**Communication & Literacy** 6 credits of Communication & Literacy coursework. This requirement may be partially satisfied by a qualifying placement test score. More information: <https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingenglishplacement> (<https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingenglishplacement/>)

**Humanities & Arts** 6 credits of Humanities & Arts coursework.

**Mathematics & Quantitative Reasoning** 6 credits of Mathematics & Quantitative Reasoning coursework. This requirement may be partially satisfied by a qualifying placement test score. More information: <https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingmathplacement> (<https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingmathplacement/>)

**Natural Science & Wellness** Complete both:

- 6 credits of Natural Science & Wellness or Natural Science & Wellness + Laboratory coursework.
- one course must be in Natural Science & Wellness + Laboratory coursework.

**Social & Behavioral Science** 3 credits of Social & Behavioral Science coursework.

**Total Credits** 30 credits.

For more information see the policy (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1095/>).

### UNIVERSITY DEGREE AND QUALITY OF WORK REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate degree recipients must complete the following minimum requirements. Requirements for some programs will exceed these requirements; see program requirements for additional information.

**Total Degree** 120 degree credits.

**Residency** Complete 30 credits in residence. A course is considered "in residence" if it is taken when in undergraduate degree-seeking status and:

- is offered by UW-Madison and completed on the UW-Madison campus or at an approved off-site location, or
- is offered by UW-Madison in an online or distance format, or is completed during participation in a UW-Madison study abroad/study away program.

**Quality of Work** Achieve at least the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, and/or academic program.

**Math** Demonstrate minimal mathematics competence by:

- placing above MATH 96, or
- successfully completing MATH 96, or
- successfully completing a more advanced mathematics course such as MATH 112, MATH 113, MATH 114, MATH 141, MATH 211, or MATH 221.

**English Language** If required to take the UW-Madison English as a Second Language Assessment Test (MSN-ESLAT), demonstrate minimal English language competence by:

- earning credit for ESL 118, or
- achieving a qualifying MSN-ESLAT placement test score.

**Language** Complete one:

- 2 high school units of a single language other than English, or
- one course with the second semester Language designation.

**Major Declaration** Declare and complete the requirements for at least one major.

## COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

Students pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. Some courses satisfy more than one L&S degree requirement (visit College of Letters & Science: Requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/#requirementstext>) for details).

This major can be paired with either the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree requirements.

### BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

**Communication** Complete both:

- Part A: one course with the Communication A designation or eligible UW Placement Score; and
- Part B: one course with the Communication B designation

Quantitative Reasoning	Complete both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part A: one course with the Quantitative Reasoning A designation or eligible UW Placement Score; and</li> <li>Part B: one course with the Quantitative Reasoning B designation</li> </ul>
Ethnic Studies	one 3+ credit course with the Ethnic Studies designation
Language	Complete either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the fourth unit of one language other than English; or</li> <li>the third unit of one language other than English and the second unit of an additional language.</li> </ul>
L&S Breadth: Humanities	Complete 12 credits with the Humanities or Literature designation, which must include at least 6 credits with the Literature designation.
L&S Breadth: Social Sciences	Complete 12 credits with the Social Science designation.
L&S Breadth: Natural Sciences	Complete 12 credits with the Natural Science, Biological Science, or Physical Science designations, which must include both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>one 3+ credit course with the Biological Science designation, and</li> <li>one 3+ credit course with the Physical Science designation.</li> </ul>
Liberal Arts and Science (LAS) Coursework	at least 108 credits
Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work	at least 60 credits at the Intermediate or Advanced level
Major	Declare and complete at least one major.
Total Credits	at least 120 credits
UW-Madison Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30 credits in residence, overall; and</li> <li>30 credits in residence after the 86th credit</li> </ul>
Quality of Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.000 in all coursework at UW-Madison</li> <li>2.000 in Intermediate/Advanced level coursework at UW-Madison</li> </ul>

## 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. They do not need to complete the L&S Degree Requirements above.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

The major requires the completion of the six categories below (Foundation, Biology, Breadth, Depth, Capstone and Electives) and a minimum of 30 credits in PSYCH (<https://guide.wisc.edu/courses/psych/>) coursework.

## FOUNDATION

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

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Introductory Psychology—one course:</b> <sup>1</sup>		<b>3-4</b>
PSYCH 202	Introduction to Psychology	
<b>Statistics—one course:</b>		<b>3</b>
PSYCH 210	Basic Statistics for Psychology	
STAT 324	Introduction to Statistics for Science and Engineering	
STAT 340	Data Science Modeling II	
STAT 371	Introductory Applied Statistics for the Life Sciences	
<b>Research Methods—one course:</b>		<b>4</b>
PSYCH 225	Research Methods	

## BIOLOGY

Foundational knowledge in biology is critical to the study of psychological science and the understanding of human and animal behavior, as well as the brain sciences.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Introductory Biology—complete one of following:</b> <sup>2</sup>		
BIOLOGY/ ZOOLOGY 101	Animal Biology	3
BIOLOGY/BOTANY/ ZOOLOGY 151	Introductory Biology	5
BIOCORE 381 & BIOCORE 383	Evolution, Ecology, and Genetics and Cellular Biology	6

## BREADTH

Breadth courses familiarize students with the breadth of psychology in the following area groups: Biological, Clinical, Cognitive & Perceptual Science, Development, and Social & Personality. Complete one course from three different area groups for a total of three courses:

### Biological

Code	Title	Credits
PSYCH 449	Animal Behavior	3-4
PSYCH 450	Primate Psychology: Insights into Human Behavior	3-4
PSYCH 454	Behavioral Neuroscience	3-4
PSYCH/ ZOOLOGY 523	Neurobiology	3

### Clinical

Code	Title	Credits
PSYCH 401	Psychology, Law, and Social Policy	3
PSYCH 405	Adult Psychopathology	3-4

### Cognitive and Perceptual Sciences

Code	Title	Credits
PSYCH 406	Psychology of Perception	3-4
PSYCH 414	Cognitive Psychology	3-4

## Developmental

Code	Title	Credits
PSYCH 460	Child Development	3-4
PSYCH 462	Adolescent Development	3-4
PSYCH 464	Adult Development and Aging	3

## Social and Personality

Code	Title	Credits
PSYCH 403	Psychology of Personality	3
PSYCH/SOC 453	Human Sexuality	4
PSYCH 456	Social Psychology	3-4
PSYCH/ GEN&WS 522	Psychology of Women and Gender	3

## DEPTH

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. **Two courses** are required:

Code	Title	Credits
PSYCH 501	Depth Topic in Social Science (multiple separate topics offered each semester)	4
PSYCH 502	Cognitive Development	4
PSYCH 503	Social Development	4
PSYCH 505	Depth Topic in Biological Science (multiple separate topics offered each semester)	4
PSYCH 507	Introduction to Clinical Psychology	4
PSYCH 508	Psychology of Human Emotions: From Biology to Culture	4
PSYCH 510	Critical Issues in Child Psychopathology	4
PSYCH 513	Hormones, Brain, and Behavior	4
PSYCH 515	Animal Cognition	4
PSYCH 526	The Criminal Mind: Forensic and Psychobiological Perspectives	4
PSYCH 528	Cultural Psychology	4
PSYCH 532	Psychological Effects of the Internet	4

## CAPSTONE

Capstone courses allow students to explore current research in psychology in a seminar setting. **One course** is required:

Code	Title	Credits
PSYCH 601	Current Topics in Psychology (many separate topics each semester)	3
PSYCH 603	Epigenetics and the Brain	3
PSYCH 607	Introduction to Psychotherapy	3
PSYCH 612	Neuropharmacology	3
PSYCH 626	Issues in Prisoner Reentry	3

## ELECTIVES

In addition to completion of the courses required above, students must complete at least **3 additional credits** in PSYCH (<https://guide.wisc.edu/>

courses/psych/) in courses numbered **300 and above**. Students may complete any additional PSYCH course(s), including courses from: the Breadth, Depth, or Capstone areas, or directed/independent study and mentored research.

## 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<sup>3</sup>
- 15 credits in PSYCH, taken on the UW–Madison campus

## HONORS IN THE MAJOR

Students who are declared psychology majors may opt to pursue Honors in the Major. Honors in the Major is especially appropriate for students who want more in-depth exposure and experiences in psychology courses, as well as substantive research involvement in the Department. Honors in the Major also provides opportunities to develop leadership, writing, and critical thinking skills beneficial to a wide range of graduate programs and career choices.

Students must have a minimum GPA of 3.3 within the Psychology major as well as minimum GPA of 3.3 overall, and have met with a Psychology Advisor regarding Honors in the Major in order to declare their intent to complete Honors in the Major in Psychology.

Please refer to the Department website for instructions on how to declare intent to complete honors in the major (<https://psych.wisc.edu/undergraduate-program/major/#honors-in-the-major>).

## 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 University GPA
- Earn a 3.300 GPA in all PSYCH and major courses
- Complete the following courses with Honors and a grade of B or higher:
  - PSYCH 380 (Junior year) or two semesters of PSYCH 686 Senior Thesis Seminar in Psychology (requires Fall and Spring enrollment)
  - Three Psychology Breadth and/or Depth courses OR Two Psychology Breadth and/or Depth courses and one of the following: PSYCH 210 Basic Statistics for Psychology or PSYCH 225 Research Methods
  - A two-semester Senior Honors Thesis in PSYCH 681 and PSYCH 682 for a total of 6 credits.

## FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Equivalent may include credit awarded by appropriate scores on AP, IB, or A-level exams or transfer credit.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> PSYCH 300–699 are upper-level in the major.