PSYCHOLOGY, B.S.

The psychology major is one of the largest majors in the College of Letters & Science, focusing on five areas in the field of psychological science: biology of brain and behavior; 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 (or equivalent) with a grade of C or better are eligible to declare the major.¹

Please refer to the Department website for instructions on how to declare the major (http://psych.wisc.edu/undergraduate-program/requirements/).

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/#requirementsforundergraduatetext) 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

Minimum

2,000 in all coursework at UW–Madison

GPAs

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 the four learning areas below:

#### 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 course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 202</td>
<td>Introduction to Psychology</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 210</td>
<td>Basic Statistics for Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 302</td>
<td>Accelerated Introduction to Statistical Methods</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>STAT 324</td>
<td>Introductory Applied Statistics for Engineers</td>
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<tr>
<td>STAT 371</td>
<td>Introductory Applied Statistics for the Life Sciences</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Research Methods—one course:**  
- PSYCH 225 Research Methods  

**Introductory Biology—one course:**  
- ZOOLOGY/BIOLOGY 101 Animal Biology and Animal Biology Laboratory  
- ZOOLOGY/BIOLOGY 102 Introductory Biology  
- BIOCORE 381 Evolution, Ecology, and Genetics and Evolution, Ecology, and Cellular Biology  
- BIOCORE 382 Evolution, Ecology, and Genetics Laboratory  

**Total Credits**  
15-21

#### BREADTH

Breadth courses familiarize students with the breadth of psychology. **Three (3) courses** from at least three different topic groups are required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 449</td>
<td>Animal Behavior</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 450</td>
<td>Primates and Us: Insights into Human Biology and Behavior</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 501</td>
<td>Depth Topic in Social Science (multiple separate topics offered each semester)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<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>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 508</td>
<td>Psychology of Human Emotions: From Biology to Culture</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 510</td>
<td>Critical Issues in Child Psychopathology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 513</td>
<td>Hormones, Brain, and Behavior</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<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 525</td>
<td>Cognition in Health and Society</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 526</td>
<td>The Criminal Mind: Forensic and Psychobiological Perspectives</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The requirements for the major (above) and the following additional requirements:

**DISTINCTION IN THE MAJOR**

Students may declare their intent to complete Distinction in the Major with consultation with a psychology undergraduate advisor(s). To earn Distinction in the Major in Psychology, students must satisfy the both the requirements for the major (above) and the following additional requirements:

- A Psychology GPA of 3.7 or higher, AND one of the following options:
  - A total of THREE Psychology Breadth or Depth courses for honors, earning a B or better, OR
  - A Senior Thesis (PSYCH 681/PSYCH 682 for honors students or PSYCH 691/PSYCH 692 for non-honors students)

**FOOTNOTES**

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.
3. PSYCH 300–699 are upper-level in the major.

**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.
SAMPLE FOUR-YEAR PLAN

This Sample Four-Year Plan is a tool to assist students and their advisor(s). Students should use it along with their DARS report, the Degree Planner, and Course Search & Enroll tools—to make their own four-year plan based on their placement scores, credit for transferred courses and approved examinations, and individual interests. As students become involved in athletics, honors, research, student organizations, study abroad, volunteer experiences, and/or work, they might adjust the order of their courses to accommodate these experiences. Students will likely revise their own four-year plan several times during college.

This Sample Four-Year Plan is a tool to assist students and their advisor(s). Students should use it—along with their DARS report, the Degree Planner, and Course Search & Enroll tools—to make their own four-year plan based on their placement scores, credit for transferred courses and approved examinations, and individual interests. As students become involved in athletics, honors, research, student organizations, study abroad, volunteer experiences, and/or work, they might adjust the order of their courses to accommodate these experiences. Students will likely revise their own four-year plan several times during college.

Fourth Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Psych Depth Course (Fall</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>or Spring</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Psych Capstone (Fall or</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Spring)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>I/A Comp Sci, Math, or</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Stats (if required for the</td>
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<td>BS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>5</td>
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</table>

Total Credits 120

1 Other courses satisfy the Biology requirement for this major. Consult the Requirements page and adjust your plan accordingly.
2 Or accepted Statistics course (STAT 302, STAT 324, or STAT 371); We recommend a Psych Breadth course before completing the statistics requirement.

ADVISING AND CAREERS

All current UW-Madison undergraduate students interested in the psychology major are welcome to schedule an advising appointment with a psychology advisor. Advising appointments can be made through the Starfish scheduling tool. Please visit psych.wisc.edu (http://psych.wisc.edu/) —> undergraduate program —> schedule an advising appointment.

For more information about psychology advising visit psych.wisc.edu (http://psych.wisc.edu/) —> undergraduate program —> advising.

Are you a prospective student? The Department of Psychology welcomes prospective students to attend our information sessions held throughout the year. Please visit the Office of Admissions’ Visit Bucky website (https://www.admissions.wisc.edu/visitbucky/) for information on dates and times of our Psychology Major Information Sessions.

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). In short, SuccessWorks helps students in the College of Letters & Science discover themselves, find opportunities, and develop the skills they need for success after graduation.

SuccessWorks can also assist students in career advising, resume 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.

Students should set up their profiles in Handshake (https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/handshake/) to take care of everything they need to explore career events, manage their campus interviews, and apply to jobs and internships from 200,000+ employers around the country.

- 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/)
• INTER-LS 215 Communicating About Careers (3 credits, fulfills Com B General Education Requirement)
• Handshake (https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/handshake/)
• Learn how we’re transforming career preparation: L&S Career Initiative (http://ls.wisc.edu/lsci/)

PEOPLE

Professors Berridge (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, Ward