

PSYCHOLOGY, BACHELOR OF ARTS

College of Letters & Science

The Major Programs

The psychology program at UC Davis is broad and includes students and faculty with a variety of interests. The department has developed around five core areas of psychology:

- *Perception, Cognition, & Cognitive Neuroscience (PCCN)* involves the study of awareness and thought, and includes such topics as perception, learning, memory, language and cognition.
- *Biological Psychology* covers a broad spectrum of topics including evolutionary, neurobiological, and molecular mechanisms of behavior.
- *Social-Personality Psychology* involves the study of the individual in their social environment and includes such topics as personality & individual differences, emotions, stereotyping & prejudice, intergroup relations, the psychology of religion and psychological health & dysfunction.
- *Developmental Psychology* involves the study of changes in behavioral, cognitive, emotional, and social abilities that occur throughout the lifespan. Typical and atypical development is examined using a variety of methods including behavioral, neuroimaging, and physiological assessments.
- *Quantitative Psychology* involves the study of linear & nonlinear models, psychometrics, mixed-effects models, and dynamic models, including experimental design, analysis of variance, regression, multivariate analysis, latent growth models, time series models, and factor analytic models.

The department offers the Bachelor of Arts (A.B.) program for students interested in the liberal arts and the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) program geared for students with an interest in either biology or mathematics. The main objective of both programs is a broad introduction to the scope of contemporary psychology. In addition to completing a number of common core courses for their degree, students may take approved elective courses from a wide range of topics including Educational Psychology, Interpersonal Communication, and Psychological Anthropology, to name a few. The department strongly encourages students to become involved in individual research projects under the direction of faculty members and to participate in our internship program to broaden experience and understanding of the field of psychology.

Change of Major Process

Before declaring a major in Psychology, students must complete PSC 001 and PSC 041 with a combined grade point average of at least 2.500 in those two courses. Both courses must be taken for a letter grade. If a 2.500 GPA is not attained in these two courses, a 2.000 GPA in a minimum of three upper division Psychology courses is also acceptable for major declaration. Once these courses have been completed with the required GPA, students must save their progress toward the major on a Degree Worksheet (<https://students.ucdavis.edu/forms/worksheet/>) in OASIS, and then submit a Change of Major form (<https://students.ucdavis.edu/forms/changeofmajor/>) in OASIS.

Career Pathways

A degree in psychology provides broad intellectual foundations that are useful to the graduate for the development of careers in a variety

of areas, including social work, teaching, business, management, and counseling. An undergraduate education in psychology also provides excellent preparation for graduate study. Individuals with degrees in psychology may enter graduate programs to prepare for teaching, research, or clinical/counseling careers in psychology, or may go on to professional schools for training in veterinary and human medicine, law, and many other professions.

Honors & Honors Program

In order to be eligible for high or highest honors in Psychology, the student must both meet the college criteria for honors and complete a research project involving a minimum of 6 units of course work over at least two quarters which represents an original analysis of data on psychological phenomena. Courses PSC 194HA-PSC 194HB or other approved courses can be used to satisfy the unit requirement. This project is to be written in thesis form and approved by the department. The quality of the thesis work will be the primary determinant for designating high or highest honors at graduation.

Recommended for All Majors

Students who plan to do graduate work in any area of psychology are strongly encouraged to gain experience through research and internship activities.

Major Advisor

Staff advisors are located in the Blue Ridge Office Building. For information about how to contact a major advisor, see Major Advising (<https://yellowcluster.ucdavis.edu/advising/undergraduate/major-advising/>).

Graduate Study

The Department offers programs of study and research leading to the Ph.D. degree in psychology. For more detailed information regarding graduate study, see Graduate Students (<http://psychology.ucdavis.edu/graduate/>).

Graduate Advisor

See Graduate Students (<http://psychology.ucdavis.edu/graduate/>).

The major requirements below are in addition to meeting University Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/university-degree-requirements/>) & College Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/college-degree-requirements/>); unless otherwise noted. The minimum number of units required for the Psychology Bachelor of Arts is 52.

Code	Title	Units
Preparatory Subject Matter		
<i>Psychology</i> ¹		
Choose one:		4
PSC 001	General Psychology	
or PSC 001V	General Psychology	
or PSC 001Y	General Psychology	
<i>Statistics</i> ¹		
Choose one:		4
PSC/CMN/SOC/ POL 012Y	Data Visualization in the Social Sciences	
STA 013 or STA 013V	Elementary Statistics	

or STA 013Y	Elementary Statistics	
STA 100	Applied Statistics for Biological Sciences	
<i>Research Methods</i> ¹		
PSC 041	Research Methods in Psychology	4
or PSC 041V	Research Methods in Psychology	
<i>Biology</i>		
Choose BIS 002A or a combination, as below:		5-8
BIS 002A	Introduction to Biology: Essentials of Life on Earth ²	
OR a combination of:		
BIS 010	Everyday Biology	
AND		
ANT 001	Human Evolutionary Biology	
or ANT 001Y DIS		
or MCB 010	Introduction to Human Heredity	
or NPB 010	Elementary Human Physiology	
Preparatory Subject Matter Subtotal		17-20
Depth Subject Matter		
Choose two courses each from two of the following Core Groups and one course each from the remaining two Core Groups. Total upper division units should equal at least 40 units between core group courses and major elective courses.		22-24
<i>Core Group A: Perception, Cognition, & Cognitive Neuroscience</i>		
PSC 100	Introduction to Cognitive Psychology	
or PSC 100Y	Introduction to Cognitive Psychology	
PSC 130	Human Learning & Memory	
PSC 131	Perception	
PSC 132	Language & Cognition	
PSC 133/ CGS 107/ECN 107	Neuroeconomics/Reinforcement Learning & Decision Making	
PSC 135	Cognitive Neuroscience: The Biological Foundations of the Mind	
PSC 136	Psychology of Music	
<i>Core Group B: Psychobiology</i>		
PSC 101	Introduction to Biological Psychology	
PSC 113	Developmental Psychobiology	
PSC 121	Physiological Psychology	
PSC 122/NPB 150	Advanced Animal Behavior	
PSC 123/NPB 152	Hormones & Behavior (3 units) ³	
PSC/NPB 124	Comparative Neuroanatomy (3 units) ³	
PSC 125	Behavioral Epigenetics	
PSC 126	Health Psychology	
PSC 137	Neurobiology of Learning & Memory	
PSC 159	Gender & Human Reproduction	
<i>Core Group C: Social/Personality</i>		
PSC 151	Social Psychology	
or PSC 151V	Social Psychology	
PSC 152	Social Cognition	
PSC 154	Psychology of Emotion	
or PSC 154V	Psychology of Emotion	
PSC 158	Sexual Orientation & Prejudice	
PSC 161	Psychology of the Self	
PSC 162	Introduction to Personality Psychology	

PSC 165	Introduction to Clinical Psychology	
PSC 168	Mental Health, Mental Illness, & Problems in Living	
<i>Core Group D: Developmental</i>		
PSC 140	Developmental Psychology ⁴	
or PSC 140V	Developmental Psychology	
or PSC 140Y	Developmental Psychology	
or HDE 100A	Infancy & Early Childhood	
or HDE 100AV	Infancy & Early Childhood	
or HDE 100B	Middle Childhood & Adolescence	
or HDE 100BV	Middle Childhood & Adolescence	
PSC 141	Cognitive Development	
PSC 142	Social & Personality Development	
PSC 143	Infant Development	
PSC 145	Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience	
PSC 146	The Development of Memory	
PSC 148	Developmental Disorders	
Depth Subject Matter Subtotal		22-24
Approved Major Electives		
<i>Additional units to achieve a total of 40 units of approved upper division major elective coursework. Each course may only be used to satisfy one Psychology major requirement; the same course cannot be used for multiple Psychology major requirements.</i>		16-18
<i>Approved Psychology Electives</i>		
Any upper division Psychology (PSC) course(s), except PSC 197T, including: (https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/psc/)		
Any course listed in the Core Groups above that you are not using to fulfill a Core Group requirement, plus:		
PSC 103A	Statistical Analysis of Psychological Data	
PSC 103B	Statistical Analysis of Psychological Data	
PSC 104	Applied Psychometrics: An Introduction to Measurement Theory	
PSC 107	Questionnaire & Survey Research Methods	
PSC 120	Agent-Based Modeling	
PSC 124L	Comparative Neuroanatomy Laboratory	
PSC 134	Computational Cognitive Neuroscience	
PSC 138	Consciousness & Cognition	
PSC 139	Advanced Cognitive Neuroscience	
PSC 150	Relationship Science: Lust, Love, & Evolution	
or PSC 150V	Relationship Science: Lust, Love, & Evolution	
PSC 153	Psychology & Law	
PSC 155	The Psychology of Cultural Appropriation	
PSC 156	The Psychology of Diversity in Aging	
PSC 157	Stereotyping, Prejudice, & Stigma	
PSC 169	The Science of Multi-Cultural Psychology	
PSC 170	Psychology of Religion	
PSC 175	Genius, Creativity, & Leadership	
PSC 180A	Research in Cognitive & Perceptual Psychology	
PSC 180B	Research in Psychobiology	
PSC 180C	Research in Personality & Social Psychology	

PSC 180D	Research in Developmental Psychology	3
PSC 182	Methods in Laboratory Research	
PSC 185	History of Psychology	
PSC 190	Seminar in Psychology	
PSC 192	Fieldwork in Psychology	
PSC 194HA	Special Study for Honors Students	
PSC 194HB	Special Study for Honors Students	
PSC 198	Directed Group Study	
PSC 199	Special Study for Advanced Undergraduates	
<i>Additional Non-Psychology Elective Options</i>		
AAS 141	Psychology of the African American Experience	
ANT 132	Psychological Anthropology	
CHI 120	Chicana/o Psychology	
CHI 121	Chicana/o Community Mental Health	
CHI 122	Psychology Perspectives Chicana/o & Latina/o Family	
CHI 123	Psychological perspectives on Chicana/o & Latina/o Children & Adolescents	
CMN 120	Interpersonal Communication	
or CMN 120V	Interpersonal Communication	
CMN 122	Nonverbal Communication	
CNS 100	Consumer Behavior (3 units) ³	
EDU 110	Educational Psychology: General	
EXB 102	Introduction to Motor Learning & the Psychology of Sport & Exercise (Discontinued) **	
HDE 100A	Infancy & Early Childhood	
or HDE 100AV	Infancy & Early Childhood	
HDE 100B	Middle Childhood & Adolescence	
or HDE 100BV	Middle Childhood & Adolescence	
HDE 100C	Adulthood & Aging	
HDE/ENT 117	Longevity	
HDE 163	Cognitive Neuropsychology in Adulthood & Aging	
LIN 171	Introduction to Psycholinguistics	
NPB 102	Animal Behavior (3 units) ³	
NPB 168	Neurobiology of Addictive Drugs	
POL 170	Political Psychology	
SOC 126	Social Interaction	
SOC 135	Social Relationships	
SOC 152	Juvenile Delinquency	
SOC 171	Sociology of Violence & Inequality	
Approved Major Electives Subtotal		16-18
Total Units		55-62

3
If you take one or more 3-unit course(s), you will need additional PSC Major Elective units to fulfill the 40 total units of upper division PSC required in the major.

4
Students who have completed HDE 100A or HDE 100AV or HDE 100B or HDE 100BV prior to PSC 140 or PSC 140V or PSC 140Y will receive 2 units of credit for PSC 140 or PSC 140V or PSC 140Y.

**
Course(s) discontinued; see your advisor for course options.

1

Strongly recommended that PSC 001, PSC 041 or PSC 041V, and PSC 012Y or STA 013 or STA 100 be completed in the first year. Recommended to take Statistics before PSC 041 or PSC 041V.

2

Recommended to take CHE 002A before BIS 002A.