

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.

Preparatory Requirements

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. 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.

Career Alternatives

A degree in psychology provides broad intellectual foundations which 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 Young Hall; psychadvising@ucdavis.edu; 530-752-5104. For more information on how to make an appointment or join Drop-In Advising hours, please see Yellow Cluster Undergraduate Advising (<https://yellowcluster.ucdavis.edu/advising/undergraduate/>).

Graduate Study

The Department offers programs of study and research leading to the Ph.D. degree in psychology. Detailed information regarding graduate study may be obtained on our website (<https://psychology.ucdavis.edu/graduate/>).

Graduate Advisor

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

Code	Title	Units
Preparatory Subject Matter		
<i>Psychology</i> ¹		
Choose one:		4
PSC 001	General Psychology	
or PSC 001Y	General Psychology	
or the equivalent		
<i>Statistics</i> ¹		
Choose one:		4
PSC/CMN/SOC/ POL 012Y	Data Visualization in the Social Sciences	
STA 013	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
<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	Human Evolutionary Biology (Hybrid Version)
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

Core Group A: Perception, Cognition, & Cognitive Neuroscience

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

Core Group B: Psychobiology

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

Core Group C: Social/Personality

PSC 151	Social Psychology
PSC 152	Social Cognition
PSC 154	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	Abnormal Psychology

Core Group D: Developmental

PSC 140	Developmental Psychology ⁴
or PSC 140Y	Developmental Psychology
or HDE 100A	Infancy & Early Childhood
or HDE 100B	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

Additional units to achieve a total of 40 units of approved upper division major elective coursework. See list of Approved Major Electives below: 16-18

Any upper division Psychology (PSC) course(s). ⁵	
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
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
HDE 100A	Infancy & Early Childhood
HDE 100B	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

¹ Strongly recommended that PSC 001, PSC 041, and PSC 012Y or STA 013 or STA 100 be completed in the first year. Recommended to take Statistics before PSC 041.

² Recommended to take CHE 002A before BIS 002A.

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 100B prior to PSC 140 will receive 2 units of credit for PSC 140.

⁵ Except PSC 197T.