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 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/).

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparatory Subject Matter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychology 1</td>
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<td>Choose one:</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSC 001</td>
<td>General Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>or PSC 001Y</td>
<td>General Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statistics 1</td>
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<td>Choose one:</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSC/CMN/SOC/POL 012Y</td>
<td>Data Visualization in the Social Sciences</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>STA 013</td>
<td>Elementary Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>or STA 013Y</td>
<td>Elementary Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>STA 100</td>
<td>Applied Statistics for Biological Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Methods 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSC 041</td>
<td>Research Methods in Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Choose BIS 002A or a combination, as below:</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIS 002A</td>
<td>Introduction to Biology. Essentials of Life on Earth 2</td>
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<td>OR a combination of:</td>
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Psychology, Bachelor of Arts

Preparatory Subject Matter Subtotal  

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.

Core Group A: Perception, Cognition, & Cognitive Neuroscience

- PSC 100 Introduction to Cognitive Psychology
- 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)
- PSC/NPB 124 Comparative Neuroanatomy (3 units)
- 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 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 Abnormal Psychology

Core Group D: Developmental

- PSC 140 Developmental Psychology
- PSC 140Y Developmental Psychology
- 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

Preparatory Subject Matter Subtotal 17-20

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:

- Any upper division Psychology (PSC) course(s) (https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/psc/)
- 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)
- EDU 110 Educational Psychology General
- EXB 102 Introduction to Motor Learning & the Psychology of Sport & Exercise
- HDE 100A Infancy & Early Childhood
- HDE 100AV 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)
- 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 002.

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

5 Except PSC 197T.