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/).

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

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 Neuron Economics/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 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
or PSC 140Y    Developmental Psychology
or HDE 100A    Infancy & Early Childhood
or HDE 100AV   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:

Any upper division Psychology (PSC) course(s), (https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/psc/) 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)
EDU 110        Educational Psychology: General
EXB 102        Introduction to Motor Learning & the Psychology of Sport & Exercise
HDE 100A       Infancy & Early Childhood
or 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 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 100AV or HDE 100B prior to PSC 140 will receive 2 units of credit for PSC 140.
5 Except PSC 197T.