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 194A-PSC 194B 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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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preparatory Subject Matter</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Psychology</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Choose one:</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSC 001 or PSC 001Y</td>
<td>General Psychology</td>
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<td>OR</td>
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<td>The equivalent.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Statistics</strong></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>
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<tr>
<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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<tr>
<td><strong>Research Methods</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSC 041</td>
<td>Research Methods in Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Biology</strong></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</td>
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<td>OR a combination of:</td>
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Psychology, Bachelor of Arts

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  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  
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  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/)  
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 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.