

PSYCHOLOGY, BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

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 Center (<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/>).

Biological Emphasis

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>Mathematics</i>		
Choose one series:		6-8
MAT 016A & MAT 016B	Short Calculus and Short Calculus	

OR		PSC 101	Introduction to Biological Psychology	
MAT 017A & MAT 017B	Calculus for Biology & Medicine and Calculus for Biology & Medicine	PSC 113	Developmental Psychobiology	
OR		PSC 121	Physiological Psychology	
MAT 021A & MAT 021B	Calculus and Calculus	PSC 122/NPB 150	Advanced Animal Behavior	
<i>Physics</i>		PSC 123/NPB 152	Hormones & Behavior (3 units) ³	
Choose PHY 010 (or 010C or 010CY) or 007A & B:		PSC/NPB 124	Comparative Neuroanatomy (3 units) ³	
PHY 010	Topics in Physics for Nonscientists	PSC 125	Behavioral Epigenetics	
or PHY 010C	Physics of California	PSC 126	Health Psychology	
or PHY 010CY	Physics of California	PSC 137	Neurobiology of Learning & Memory	
OR		PSC 159	Gender & Human Reproduction	
PHY 007A & PHY 007B	General Physics and General Physics	Core Group C: Social/Personality; choose one:		4
<i>Biological Science</i>		PSC 151	Social Psychology	
BIS 002A	Introduction to Biology: Essentials of Life on Earth ²	PSC 152	Social Cognition	
BIS 002B	Introduction to Biology: Principles of Ecology & Evolution	PSC 154	Psychology of Emotion	
BIS 002C	Introduction to Biology: Biodiversity & the Tree of Life	PSC 158	Sexual Orientation & Prejudice	
<i>Chemistry</i>		PSC 161	Psychology of the Self	
CHE 002A	General Chemistry	PSC 162	Introduction to Personality Psychology	
CHE 002B	General Chemistry	PSC 165	Introduction to Clinical Psychology	
Choose one series:		PSC 168	Abnormal Psychology	
CHE 008A & CHE 008B	Organic Chemistry: Brief Course and Organic Chemistry: Brief Course	Core Group D: Developmental; choose one:		4
OR		PSC 140	Developmental Psychology ⁴	
CHE 118A & CHE 118B	Organic Chemistry for Health & Life Sciences and Organic Chemistry for Health & Life Sciences	or PSC 140Y	Developmental Psychology	
OR		or HDE 100A	Infancy & Early Childhood	
CHE 128A & CHE 128B	Organic Chemistry and Organic Chemistry	or HDE 100B	Middle Childhood & Adolescence	
Preparatory Subject Matter Subtotal		PSC 141	Cognitive Development	
	52-61	PSC 142	Social & Personality Development	
Depth Subject Matter		PSC 143	Infant Development	
BIS 101	Genes & Gene Expression	PSC 145	Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience	
NPB 101	Systemic Physiology	PSC 146	The Development of Memory	
<i>Seven Psychology Courses Distributed as Specified</i>		PSC 148	Developmental Disorders	
Core Group A: Perception, Cognition, & Cognitive Neuroscience; choose two:		<i>Approved Major Electives</i>		
PSC 100	Introduction to Cognitive Psychology	Additional units to achieve a total of 40 units of approved upper division major elective coursework. See list of Approved Major Electives below. ³		12-14
or PSC 100Y	Introduction to Cognitive Psychology	<i>Recommended Coursework for Those Interested in Graduate Programs in Biological Psychology</i>		
PSC 130	Human Learning & Memory	PSC 180B	Research in Psychobiology (on a Biological Psychology topic)	
PSC 131	Perception	PSC 199	Special Study for Advanced Undergraduates	
PSC 132	Language & Cognition	ANT 154A	The Evolution of Primate Behavior	
PSC 133/CGS 107/ECN 107	Neuroeconomics/Reinforcement Learning & Decision Making	ESP 110	Principles of Environmental Science	
PSC 135	Cognitive Neuroscience: The Biological Foundations of the Mind	EVE 100	Introduction to Evolution	
PSC 136	Psychology of Music	EVE 101	Introduction to Ecology	
PSC 139	Advanced Cognitive Neuroscience	Depth Subject Matter Subtotal		47-51
Core Group B: Psychobiology; choose three:		Total Units		99-112
	10-12			

¹ Strongly recommended that PSC 041 and PSC 012Y or STA 013 or STA 013Y or STA 100 be completed in the first year.

² Recommended to take CHE 002A before taking 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.

Approved Major Electives

Code	Title	Units
Any upper division Psychology (PSC) course(s). ¹		1-14
AAS 141	Psychology of the African American Experience	4
ANT 132	Psychological Anthropology	4
CHI 120	Chicana/o Psychology	4
CHI 121	Chicana/o Community Mental Health	4
CHI 122	Psychology Perspectives Chicana/o & Latina/o Family	4
CHI 123	Psychological perspectives on Chicana/o & Latina/o Children & Adolescents	4
CMN 120	Interpersonal Communication	4
CMN 122	Nonverbal Communication	4
CNS 100	Consumer Behavior ²	3
EDU 110	Educational Psychology: General	4
EXB 102	Introduction to Motor Learning & the Psychology of Sport & Exercise	4
HDE 100A	Infancy & Early Childhood	4
HDE 100B	Middle Childhood & Adolescence	4
HDE 100C	Adulthood & Aging	4
HDE/ENT 117	Longevity	4
HDE 163	Cognitive Neuropsychology in Adulthood & Aging	4
LIN 171	Introduction to Psycholinguistics	4
NPB 102	Animal Behavior ²	3
NPB 168	Neurobiology of Addictive Drugs	4
POL 170	Political Psychology	4
SOC 126	Social Interaction	4
SOC 135	Social Relationships	4
SOC 152	Juvenile Delinquency	4
SOC 171	Sociology of Violence & Inequality	4

¹ Except PSC 197T.

² 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.

Quantitative Emphasis

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>Mathematics</i>		
MAT 021A	Calculus	4
MAT 021B	Calculus	4
MAT 021C	Calculus	4
<i>Computer Science Engineering</i>		
ECS 032A	Introduction to Programming	4
or ECS 036A	Programming & Problem Solving	
<i>Chemistry</i>		
Choose 010 or 002A & B or 002AH & BH:		4-10
CHE 010	Concept of Chemistry	
OR		
CHE 002A	General Chemistry	
& CHE 002B	and General Chemistry	
OR		
CHE 002AH	Honors General Chemistry	
& CHE 002BH	and Honors General Chemistry	
<i>Physics</i>		
Choose PHY 010 (or 010C or 010CY) or 007A & B:		3-8
PHY 010	Topics in Physics for Nonscientists	
or PHY 010C	Physics of California	
or PHY 010CY	Physics of California	
OR		
PHY 007A	General Physics	
& PHY 007B	and General Physics	
<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		40-54
Depth Subject Matter		
<i>Psychology Statistical Analysis and Applied Psychometrics Courses</i>		
PSC 103A	Statistical Analysis of Psychological Data	5
PSC 103B	Statistical Analysis of Psychological Data	4-5
or PSC 104	Applied Psychometrics: An Introduction to Measurement Theory	
<i>Statistics</i>		
Choose one series:		8
STA 106	Applied Statistical Methods: Analysis of Variance	
& STA 108	and Applied Statistical Methods: Regression Analysis	

OR		
STA 130A & STA 130B	Mathematical Statistics: Brief Course and Mathematical Statistics: Brief Course	
OR		
STA 131A & STA 131B	Introduction to Probability Theory and Introduction to Mathematical Statistics	
<i>Five Psychology Courses, Distributed as Specified</i>		
Core Group A: Perception, Cognition, & Cognitive Neuroscience; choose two:		8
PSC 100 or PSC 100Y	Introduction to Cognitive Psychology 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	
PSC 139	Advanced Cognitive Neuroscience	
Core Group B: Psychobiology: choose two:		6-8
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	
Choose one course from Group C or Group D:		4
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 or PSC 140Y or HDE 100A or HDE 100B	Developmental Psychology ⁴ Developmental Psychology Infancy & Early Childhood 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	

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. (p.) ³	10-13
Depth Subject Matter Subtotal	45-51
Total Units	85-105

- 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 taking PSC 041.
- ² Recommended to take CHE 002A before taking BIS 002A.
- ³ If you take one or more 3-unit course(s), you may 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.

Approved Major Electives

Code	Title	Units
Any upper division Psychology (PSC) course(s). ¹		1-13
AAS 141	Psychology of the African American Experience	4
ANT 132	Psychological Anthropology	4
CHI 120	Chicana/o Psychology	4
CHI 121	Chicana/o Community Mental Health	4
CHI 122	Psychology Perspectives Chicana/o & Latina/o Family	4
CHI 123	Psychological perspectives on Chicana/o & Latina/o Children & Adolescents	4
CMN 120	Interpersonal Communication	4
CMN 122	Nonverbal Communication	4
CNS 100	Consumer Behavior ²	3
EDU 110	Educational Psychology: General	4
EXB 102	Introduction to Motor Learning & the Psychology of Sport & Exercise	4
HDE 100A	Infancy & Early Childhood	4
HDE 100B	Middle Childhood & Adolescence	4
HDE 100C	Adulthood & Aging	4
HDE/ENT 117	Longevity	4
HDE 163	Cognitive Neuropsychology in Adulthood & Aging	4
LIN 171	Introduction to Psycholinguistics	4
NPB 102	Animal Behavior ²	3
NPB 168	Neurobiology of Addictive Drugs	4
POL 170	Political Psychology	4
SOC 126	Social Interaction	4
SOC 135	Social Relationships	4
SOC 152	Juvenile Delinquency	4
SOC 171	Sociology of Violence & Inequality	4

- ¹ Except PSC 197T.
- ² 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.