

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 |

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|---|--|-------|
| MAT 016A & MAT 016B | Short Calculus and Short Calculus | |
| OR | | |
| MAT 017A & MAT 017B | Calculus for Biology & Medicine and Calculus for Biology & Medicine | |
| OR | | |
| MAT 021A & MAT 021B | Calculus and Calculus | |
| <i>Physics</i> | | |
| Choose (PHY 007A & PHY 007B) or (PHY 010 or PHY 010C or PHY 010CY): | | 3-8 |
| PHY 007A & PHY 007B | General Physics and General Physics | |
| OR | | |
| PHY 010 or PHY 010C or PHY 010CY | Topics in Physics for Nonscientists Physics of California Physics of California | |
| <i>Biological Science</i> | | |
| BIS 002A | Introduction to Biology: Essentials of Life on Earth ² | 5 |
| BIS 002B | Introduction to Biology: Principles of Ecology & Evolution | 5 |
| BIS 002C | Introduction to Biology: Biodiversity & the Tree of Life | 5 |
| <i>Chemistry</i> | | |
| CHE 002A | General Chemistry | 5 |
| CHE 002B | General Chemistry | 5 |
| Choose one series: | | 6-8 |
| CHE 008A & CHE 008B | Organic Chemistry: Brief Course and Organic Chemistry: Brief Course | |
| OR | | |
| CHE 118A & CHE 118B | Organic Chemistry for Health & Life Sciences and Organic Chemistry for Health & Life Sciences | |
| OR | | |
| CHE 128A & CHE 128B | Organic Chemistry and Organic Chemistry | |
| Preparatory Subject Matter Subtotal | | 52-61 |
| Depth Subject Matter | | |
| BIS 101 | Genes & Gene Expression | 4 |
| NPB 101 | Systemic Physiology | 5 |
| <i>Seven 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 | |

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| PSC 139 | Advanced Cognitive Neuroscience | |
| Core Group B: Psychobiology; choose three: | | 10-12 |
| 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; choose one: | | 4 |
| PSC 151 | Social Psychology | |
| PSC 152 | Social Cognition | |
| PSC 154 or PSC 154V | Psychology of Emotion 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; choose one: | | 4 |
| PSC 140 or PSC 140Y or HDE 100A or HDE 100AV or HDE 100B | Developmental Psychology ⁴ Developmental Psychology Infancy & Early Childhood 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 | |
| <i>Approved Major Electives</i> | | |
| 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 |
| <i>Recommended Coursework for Those Interested in Graduate Programs in Biological Psychology</i> | | |
| PSC 180B | Research in Psychobiology (on a Biological Psychology topic) | |
| PSC 199 | Special Study for Advanced Undergraduates | |
| ANT 154A | The Evolution of Primate Behavior | |
| ESP 110 | Principles of Environmental Science | |
| EVE 100 | Introduction to Evolution | |
| EVE 101 | Introduction to Ecology | |
| Depth Subject Matter Subtotal | | 47-51 |
| Total Units | | 99-112 |

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 100AV 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). (https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/psc/) 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 or HDE 100AV | 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 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 or ECS 036A | Introduction to Programming Programming & Problem Solving | 4 |
| <i>Chemistry</i> | | |
| Choose (CHE 002A & CHE 002B) or (CHE 002AH & CHE 002BH) or CHE 010: | | 4-10 |
| CHE 002A & CHE 002B | General Chemistry and General Chemistry | |
| OR | | |
| CHE 002AH & CHE 002BH | Honors General Chemistry and Honors General Chemistry | |
| OR | | |
| CHE 010 | Concept of Chemistry | |
| <i>Physics</i> | | |
| Choose (PHY 007A & PHY 007B) or (PHY 010 or PHY 010C or PHY 010CY): | | 3-8 |
| PHY 007A & PHY 007B | General Physics and General Physics | |
| OR | | |
| PHY 010 or PHY 010C or PHY 010CY | Topics in Physics for Nonscientists Physics of California Physics of California | |
| <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 or ANT 001Y or MCB 010 or NPB 010 | Human Evolutionary Biology Human Evolutionary Biology (Hybrid Version) Introduction to Human Heredity 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 |

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| or PSC 104 | Applied Psychometrics: An Introduction to Measurement Theory | |
| Statistics | | |
| Choose one series: | | 8 |
| STA 106 & STA 108 | Applied Statistical Methods: Analysis of Variance 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 | |
| Five Psychology Courses, Distributed as Specified | | |
| Core Group A: Perception, Cognition, & Cognitive Neuroscience; choose two: | | 8 |
| PSC 100 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 | |
| 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 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 or PSC 140Y or HDE 100A | Developmental Psychology ⁴ | |

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| or HDE 100AV or HDE 100B | Infancy & Early Childhood | |
| 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). (https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/psc/) 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 or HDE 100AV | 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 |

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|---------|------------------------------------|---|
| 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.