

Psychology (PSYC)

Schmale (chair), Bennett, Gray

The mission of the psychology major is to prepare its students for lives of significance, intellectual growth, and service through the science and profession of psychology—lives marked by an understanding of the complexity of behavior, informed about its biological, cognitive, developmental, social, and cultural dimensions; and by the use of empirical methods, interpretive skills, and faith, in the application of knowledge for human well-being.

Requirements for the B.A. degree in Psychology

Required semester hours

36 sh

Prerequisites and supporting courses

STAT 1490

Required core courses

PSYC 1000, 2100, 2700, 3010, 3100, 3500, 4901. One course from Group A: PSYC 3200, 3600, 3700. Two courses from Group B: PSYC 3020, 3400, 3800, 3900

Notes and Restrictions

All majors are required to take and pass an objective comprehensive exam during the final semester of the major; or, anyone failing that exam will be required to take and pass a departmental comprehensive essay exam. Students must enroll in PSYC 4901: Psychology Comprehensive Exam (0sh) to complete this requirement.

Students with a human services focus should select PSYC 4100, 4200, and 4970. Students preparing for graduate school in psychology should select PSYC 3400, 4100 and 4500.

In unusual circumstances, particular course prerequisites may be waived by the course professor. All majors are required to take and pass a national major field achievement test midway through the final semester of the major; or, anyone failing that exam will be required to take and pass a departmental comprehensive essay exam.

Honors

For Departmental Honors in Psychology, 4 sh of PSYC 4000 are required in addition to the 36 sh for the B.A. degree. Application for admission should be made the second semester of the third year. For Departmental Honors requirements and PSYC 4000 course description, see appropriate sections of this catalog.

Requirements for the B.S. degree in Psychology

Required semester hours

52 sh

Prerequisites and supporting courses

STAT 1490

4sh in Life, Physical or Mathematical Sciences

Required core courses

PSYC 1000, 2100, 2700, 3010, 3100, 3500, 3910, 4000 or 4970, 4901. One course from Group A: PSYC 3200, 3600, 3700. Two courses from Group B: PSYC 3020, 3400, 3800, 3900, 8 additional sh from either Group A or B.

Notes and Restrictions

- Students who wish to pursue doctoral studies in Psychology should choose the BS option. Graduate psychology programs are extremely competitive and this curriculum offers the most thorough preparation.
- Students should seek regular advising regarding which courses would be most appropriate for their specific career goals.
- Students must verify the eligibility of the science course with their PSYC advisor for approval for the BS degree. Advisors have a list of appropriate course options to recommend based on advice from the chairs of the science departments.
- Students must verify the eligibility of the PSYC 3910 section with the instructor and declare their intention to use the course as a requirement for the Bachelor of Science degree. Some PSYC 3910 courses may not be eligible to meet this requirement if they are not structured as advanced seminars on a detailed topic.
- Student may complete a 4sh internship or two 2sh internships to fulfill this requirement. Internships must be officially recorded as PSYC 4970 and arranged through Career Services. Students must have a current psychology faculty member as a faculty sponsor.
- If student meets the criteria for Honors and has a faculty sponsor, s/he may complete a senior honors project (PSYC 4000) as an alternative to an internship. Students particularly interested in an experimental PhD program should pursue this option.
- Students must enroll in and pass PSYC 4902, Psychology Portfolio in their final semester.

Honors

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Minor requirements in Psychology

Required semester hours

20 sh

Prerequisites and supporting courses

STAT 1490

Required core courses

PSYC 1000, 2100

Electives

12 additional hours in psychology

GE Designates a course that fulfills all or part of a General Education (G.E.) requirement; see the General Education Program section of the catalog for more information.

1000 Introduction to Psychology (4 sh)

An introduction to the methodology and the major content areas of psychology.

1200 Stress and Health (2 sh) GE

Introduces the concepts of stress and health, including physical and psychological well-being, nutrition and exercise.

2100 Research Methods in Psychology (4 sh)

Introduces the methods and statistics used in the study of psychology, including case study, survey, observation, and experimentation.

Special attention to the unique requirements of human subjects. Lecture plus lab experience. Prerequisite: PSYC 1000, STAT 1490.

2700 Human Lifespan Development (4 sh)

Studies physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development across the human lifespan. The course incorporates theories, methods, and research with both children and adults. Prerequisite: PSYC 1000.

3010 Behavioral Neuroscience (4 sh)

Explores how biological mechanisms interact with experience to create behavior, with an emphasis on components of the nervous system, and the biological bases of the sensory systems. Labs included. Prerequisite: PSYC 1000, 2100.

3020 Neuropsychology (4 sh)

An in depth exploration of functional neuroanatomy and the psychobiology of cognition, consciousness, learning, emotion, movement, and psychopathology. Labs included. Prerequisite: PSYC 3010.

3100 Learning and Cognition (4 sh)

Examines some of the central aspects of behavior and mental life: classical and operant conditioning, remembering, forgetting, solving problems, making decisions, and communicating. Combines experimental data, everyday experience, and psychological theory. Lecture plus lab experience. Prerequisite: PSYC 1000, 2100, STAT 1490.

3200 Personality (4 sh)

Focuses on the scientific investigation of individuals' characteristic patterns of thinking, feeling, and behaving from a psychological perspective. Includes historical and contemporary approaches, current research, personality assessment, and the application of personality concepts in everyday life. Lecture plus lab experience. Prerequisite: PSYC 1000, 2100, STAT 1490.

3400 Psychological Testing (4 sh)

Studies the history, principles, and applications of psychological testing and assessment. Included are: the functions of psychological testing; technological and methodological components such as reliability and validity; test development and construction. Particular focus on the theories and uses of intelligence and personality tests. Lecture plus lab experience. Prerequisite: PSYC 1000, 2100, STAT 1490.

3500 Social Psychology (4 sh)

Introduces the study of human behavior in groups, including social cognition, social influence, attribution, social comparison, attraction and friendship, stereotypes, and the self. The course incorporates theory, research, and application. Prerequisite: PSYC 1000, 2100, STAT 1490.

3600 Abnormal Psychology (4 sh)

Studies psychological disorders, etiologies, assessment, and interventions. This includes the history of abnormal psychology; theory and research; and biological, psychological, and social approaches to treatment. Field visits and extensive use of video recordings are included. Prerequisite: PSYC 1000, 2100, STAT 1490.

3700 Counseling Psychology (4 sh)

Introduces research and principles, theories, and techniques of counseling. Emphasizes the practice and mastery of basic listening and responding skills; sound judgment and the limits of practice; and professional ethics. Lab experience using video recordings of skills practiced by the students. Prerequisite: PSYC 1000, 2100, STAT 1490.

3800 Perception (4 sh)

Studies the relationship between the external world and our internal representation of it. Considers the bases of accurate perception, factors contributing to perceptual distortion and disability, the dimensions and processes of consciousness, and the nature of reality. Lecture plus lab experience. Prerequisite: PSYC 1000, 2100, STAT 1490.

3900 Psychology of Language (4 sh)

Examines the nature and origin of human language and what is known about how humans speak, listen, comprehend, converse, and read, as well as how language influences other aspects of cognition. Included are the neurological and social underpinnings of language, time-course of acquisition, sign language, bilingualism, and animal language. Prerequisite: PSYC 1000, 2100, STAT 1490.

3910 Topics in Psychology (2 or 4 sh)

Studies in depth and detail selected topics in psychology. Repeatable. Prerequisite: PSYC 1000, 2100.

4000 Departmental Honors in Psychology (2-4 sh)

Studies an approved research topic in depth and detail under the supervision of department faculty. Involves a literature review, design of a study, analysis, and write-up. The final paper is presented to the larger university and/or psychological community. Students may register for PSYC 4000 in one semester for 4 sh, or two semesters for 2 sh each. Student must have approval of the project proposal by the department faculty and assignment of the supervisor.

4400 History and Systems of Psychology (4 sh)

A capstone seminar for students applying to graduate programs in psychology. A systematic review of the roots of psychology in philosophy and physiology; emphasizes the historical development of and connections in thought and methods among major subfields of contemporary psychology. Admission to the course is limited to third and fourth year psychology majors who obtain permission of the instructor based upon superior grade point averages.

4901 Psychology Comprehensive Exam (0 sh)

All majors are required to complete and pass the psychology comprehensive exam prior to graduation. Students should enroll in PSYC 4901 in their final fall or spring semester at North Park University. The psychology comprehensive exam is a cumulative exam covering all content in major PSYC courses offered at North Park University.

4902 Psychology Portfolio (0 sh)

Reviews academic progress, career planning and exploration, and evidence of major outcomes in psychology through personal reflection. Student will submit an organized sample of education work samples and skills for review. Independent study.

4910 Independent Study in Psychology (1-4 sh)

Studies in detail a topic chosen by the student in consultation with a department faculty member whose approval is required for the course. Repeatable.

4930 Directed Research (2-4 sh)

This course is open to students with an interest in a special topic in psychological research. Students must be a psychology major, in their final year, with a minimum Psychology GPA of 3.0. Students will work under the direction of a faculty mentor on a novel research project. Permission of the faculty mentor and departmental approval is required prior to enrollment in this course.

4970 Internship in Psychology (1-4 sh)

Please refer to the internship section of the catalog for requirements and guidelines.