

PSYCHOLOGY, B.A.

Program Description

The Department of Psychology offers the Bachelor of Arts in Day and Evening Programs on Main Campus. Our curriculum was designed to prepare students for success in three general career paths: graduate study in Psychology, both research and applied; professional school (e.g., medicine, law, business); and entry directly into the workforce. The Psychology major requires 12 courses, none of which may be taken Pass/Fail.

Why Take This Major?

Psychology is a science that seeks to understand and describe human behavior and relationships. Students in this major will continuously build their awareness of the needs of our diverse society, the role that research plays in enriching our understanding of life, and the ways in which the profession of psychology serves to improve the human condition through ethical research, practice, and application.

A major in Psychology offers a number of desirable skills. First, students develop a sophisticated understanding of the complexities of human behavior and thinking. Second, students develop quantitative and research skills that allow them to appreciate and undertake the study of human behavior and thinking. Third, students gain interpersonal skills for collaboration and teamwork. In addition, students become part of a community of scholars that includes faculty, graduate students, and fellow undergraduate students.

Degree Earned

B.A.

Required for Graduation

- Courses
 - Major: 12
 - Total: 40
- Credits
 - Major: 37
 - Total: 120
- GPA
 - Major: 2.0
 - Cumulative: 2.0

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of a psychology major, students will be able to:

- Recognize key concepts, principles, and overarching themes in psychology.
- Utilize skills in scientific reasoning for consuming and producing psychological research.
- Communicate statistically supported findings in psychology.
- Recognize major ethical issues in psychological research.
- Apply knowledge base in psychology to one of the following areas of psychology: emotions, biological psychology, history and systems, or personality.

Progress Chart

Level One - Core Courses

12 courses and 2 modules required.

Major Requirements

Major requirements include 4 Level Two ILO requirements, *fulfilled through the major*.

Students in this major must complete **40** courses in total in order to graduate. **12** courses will be from this major program.

Code	Title	Credits
Level One - Core Courses		
<i>Universal Required Courses</i>		
Students must complete the following 4 courses.		
ILO 8.1: Written Communication (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		
ENG 110	College Writing I: Persuasion	3
ILO 5.1: Information Literacy (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		
ENG 210	College Writing II: Research	3
ILO 1.1: Understanding Diverse Perspectives (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		
FYS 130	First-Year Academic Seminar ¹	3
ILO 2.1: Reflective Thinking and Valuing (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		
REL 100	Religion Matters	3
<i>Elective Core Courses</i>		
Students must complete 1 course in each of the following 4 ILOs.		
ILO 3.1a: Scientific Reasoning (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		
PSY 155	Introduction to Psychology	3
ILO 3.1b: Quantitative Reasoning (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		
MTH 150	Mathematics: Myths and Realities	3
ILO 6.1: Technological Competency (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		
Choose course within ILO (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		3
ILO 8.1a/12.1: Oral Communication/Collaborative Engagement (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		
Choose course within ILO (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		3
<i>Distinct Discipline Core Courses</i>		
ILO 4.1: Critical Analysis and Reasoning (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		
Choose course within ILO (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		3
ILO 9.1: Creative and Artistic Expression (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		
Choose course within ILO (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		3
ILO 10.1: Ethical Understanding and Reasoning (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		
Choose course within ILO (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		3

ILO 11.1: Cultural and Global Awareness and Sensitivity (<https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/>)

Choose course within ILO (<https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/>) 3

Universal Required Modules

Students must complete the following 2 non-credit modules. ²

ILO 7.1a (<https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/>)

Health Literacy Module

ILO 7.1b (<https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/>)

Financial Literacy Module

Major Requirements

Level Two

Students must complete 1 course/learning experience in each of the 4 commitments.

ILO 2.2: Broader Identity (Capstone Course/Experience) (<https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/>)

Select one of the following: ILO 2.2 3

PSY 405 Emotions

PSY 420 Biological Psychology

PSY 425 Theories of Personality

PSY 430 History and Systems of Psychology

Select one ILO from 3.2a, 3.2b, 4.2, 5.2, 6.2, 7.2a, or 7.2b: Expanded Literacies (<https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/>)

PSY 330 Research Design I (ILO 3.2b) 4

ILO 8.2b: Effective Expression (Writing-Intensive Course) (<https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/>)

PSY 311 Statistics II (ILO 8.2b) 3

Select one ILO from 10.2, 11.2, or 12.2: Active Responsibility (<https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/>)

PSY 330 Research Design I (ILO 10.2) 4

All Other Required Courses

MTH 150 Mathematics: Myths and Realities 3

PSY 155 Introduction to Psychology 3

PSY 310 Statistics I 3

PSY 311 Statistics II 3

PSY 330 Research Design I 4

Select three of the following: 9

PSY 405 Emotions

PSY 410 Theories of Learning

PSY 415 Cognitive Psychology

PSY 420 Biological Psychology

PSY 425 Theories of Personality

PSY 430 History and Systems of Psychology

4 additional PSY electives 12

Free Electives

In addition to the requirements listed above, students must take enough courses to the fulfill graduation credit requirements for their School and major.

Total Credits 87

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NOTE. The following students use Level 2 Capstone Experience in Major instead of FYS 130 First-Year Academic Seminar: Honors, BUSCA, Core-to-Core, Transfer, and Non-Traditional/Evening.

2

The Modules are **not** required for Transfer Students, Core-to-Core Students, or BUSCA Students. BUSCA students are required to take modules if/when they pursue a bachelor's degree.

Recommended Course Sequence

We strongly recommend that students consult with their academic advisers in planning their course sequence in the math, statistics, and research design courses.

Minors

- Psychology, Minor (<https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/psychology/psychology-ba/psychology-minor/>)

Course Descriptions

Psychology

PSY 155 Introduction to Psychology

This course provides a general introduction to the discipline of psychology. Emphasis is given to the methods, theories, and findings of psychological research. Areas covered may include biological bases of behavior, learning, perception, thinking, development, personality, abnormality, and social behavior.

PSY 170 Special Topics

PSY 171 Special Topics

PSY 210 Developmental Psychology

This course provides a study of the theories and research relevant to understanding human development from conception through adulthood, with special emphasis on childhood and adolescence. Biological, cognitive, and socioemotional processes are examined.

PSY 215 Adult Development and Aging

This course is an introduction to the scientific study of adulthood, with a special emphasis on gerontology. Focuses on the theories, principles, and research related to cognitive change and on social development, particularly in the context of intergenerational relationships.

PSY 220 Psychopathology

This is an introductory course surveying the principal forms of mental disorders, with emphasis on causes, symptoms, and treatment. An analysis of the problem of maladaptive behavior and the study of certain personality and behavior patterns.

PSY 225 Social Psychology

This course provides a study of the research findings and theories dealing with the phenomena of social behavior. Focuses on individual behavior as it affects and is affected by the behavior of others.

PSY 230 Industrial and Organizational Psychology

This course offers a study of the application of psychological principles and theories to organizational settings. Topics examined include research methodology, employee selection and assessment, leadership, motivation, job satisfaction, and characteristics of the workplace that affect employee and organizational well-being. Prerequisite(s): PSY 310

PSY 242 Introduction to Language and Communication

This course presents an introduction to linguistics, which is the study of human language and communication. Each major branch of linguistics is surveyed with an emphasis on the structure, content, and use of English. This course also explores language variation and the relationship between language and culture, language and the brain, and how children develop language. Students practice techniques for linguistic analysis, and clinical applications to the fields of speech-language pathology and psychology are discussed. This class is cross-listed with COSD 100.

PSY 245 Forensic Psychology

This course addresses selected topics in the area of forensic psychology. The focus of the course will center on the theory, science, applications, and practices of psychology in the criminal justice system. Topics will include police and investigative psychology, family forensic psychology, psychology of crime and delinquency, legal psychology, expert witness testimony, and issues related to corrections.

PSY 250 Human Sexuality

This course is a survey of the theory, research, and issues related to sexuality from a psychological perspective. Topics will include the biological, psychological, and social foundations of human sexuality, human reproduction, cross-cultural perspectives on social behavior and contemporary society, gender roles and stereotypes, the expression of human sexuality, sexual deviancy, and violence.

PSY 255 Psychology of Women

This course provides an overview of psychological theory and research related to the study of women, including research on gender, gender socialization, and sex differences. It will evaluate traditional views and feminist perspectives. Students will learn how gender and sexism interact with ethnicity, class, and age across the lifespan to influence women's lives and understandings.

PSY 260 Sport Psychology

Students will be introduced to concepts in sport psychology. Issues of individual athletes, athletic teams, and sport psychology interventions are discussed. Students are introduced to conceptualizing and presenting sport psychology issues and interventions.

PSY 265 Stress and Health

This course explores the relationship between stress and health through both a didactic method as well as experiential group exercises, journal writing, guided imagery, and drawing. Introduction to stress-management strategies is provided through readings and hands-on application of demonstrated techniques.

PSY 270 Special Topics

This course examines contemporary issues in psychology (e.g., psychology of women, drug abuse, forensic psychology, sports psychology, or prejudice). Prerequisite: varies with topics.

PSY 271 Special Topics

This course examines contemporary issues in psychology (e.g., psychology of women, drug abuse, forensic psychology, sports psychology, or prejudice). Prerequisite: varies with topics.

PSY 272 Special Topic**PSY 273 Special Topics****PSY 275 Special Topics****PSY 276 Special Topics****PSY 310 Statistics I**

This course is the first semester of a two semester sequence in statistics covering descriptive and inferential statistics and the logic of hypothesis testing. Emphasis in this course is on understanding the statistical technique and its meaning in making research decisions.

PSY 311 Statistics II

This course is the second part of a two semester sequence in statistics focusing on the use of SPSS as a tool to assist in describing data, hypothesis testing, and making data supported decisions. Emphasis in this course is on the analysis of data and the communication of statistically supported findings. Prerequisite(s): PSY 310

PSY 330 Research Design I

This course focuses on introducing students to the techniques and methods of descriptive and inferential research, as well as research ethics, as they are applied to psychological science. Prerequisite(s): PSY 155, PSY 310, and 311.

PSY 331 Research Design II

This course offers lectures, discussions, and practice in the application of psychological theory and research design to the development of an original research study. Each student completes a literature review, develops study aims and hypotheses, plans a research method, and writes a study proposal. Considerations for ethical conduct of research and research dissemination are discussed as well. Options are available for collecting and analyzing data during this course or in future research independent studies. Prerequisite(s): PSY 310, PSY 311, and PSY 330

PSY 340 Psychological Assessment

This course examines the selection, administration, and interpretation of psychological tests used in the measurement of aptitudes, achievement, interest, and personality. Prerequisite(s): PSY 155 and PSY 310

PSY 342 Speech and Language Development

This course explores the specific nature, sequence, and patterns of language development from birth through adolescence and its relation to other aspects of child development. Conditions that place infants and children at risk for speech and language disorders are explored. Patterns of normal language development are discussed as guide for the evaluation and treatment of children with developmental language disorders. Prerequisite(s): COSD 100 or PSY 242, or permission of instructor. This course is cross-listed with COSD 203.

PSY 350 Counseling Theories and Principles

This course addresses the theories and principles of the counseling process. The dynamics of human change. The objectives, work, and continuing problems of counseling. Prerequisite(s): PSY 155

PSY 360 Health Psychology

This course is an overview of key topics, theories, and issues in Health Psychology. Topics include stress, eating, exercise, coping, and the effect of individual traits and psychological/social processes on health. Previously, this special topics course focused exclusively on stress. It has been extended to reflect trends in the fields of psychology and managed care. The intent is to help students become more prepared for entry into graduate school, medical school, or a professional setting. Prerequisite(s): PSY 155

PSY 370 Special Topics

This course examines contemporary issues in psychology (e.g., psychology of women, drug abuse, forensic psychology, sports psychology, or prejudice). Prerequisite: varies with topics.

PSY 371 Special Topics

This course examines contemporary issues in psychology (e.g., psychology of women, drug abuse, forensic psychology, sports psychology, or prejudice). Prerequisite: varies with topics.

PSY 372 Special Topics**PSY 375 Special Topics****PSY 379 Special Topics****PSY 405 Emotions**

This course about emotion will cover basic theoretical perspectives, including biological foundations, and essential emotion processes such as emotion regulation. Individual emotions such as happy, sad, angry, etc. will be discussed. The course will culminate with brief discussion of emotion-related constructs such as empathy and positive psychology. Restriction(s): Sophomore standing or above. Prerequisite(s): PSY 155

PSY 410 Theories of Learning

This course is an analysis of the principal theories of learning in light of recent experiments in animal and human learning. Restriction(s): Sophomore standing or above. Prerequisite(s): PSY 155

PSY 415 Cognitive Psychology

How do we acquire, store, retrieve, and use knowledge? This course investigates how we make sense of our experience by examining classic and contemporary theory and research in human information processing, the representation and organization of knowledge, and the use of higher cognitive skills. Topics may include attention, perception, memory, imagery, language, problem solving, creativity, reasoning, and decision making. Restriction(s): Sophomore standing or above. Prerequisite(s): PSY 155

PSY 420 Biological Psychology

This course is an introduction to the neurological and endocrinological bases of behavior. Consideration is given to sensory and motor processes, motivation and emotion, and learning and memory. Restriction(s): Sophomore standing or above. Prerequisite(s): PSY 155

PSY 425 Theories of Personality

This course is a systematic study of the principal theories of personality with particular emphasis on recent trends, research methodology, and personality measurement. Restriction(s): Sophomore standing or above. Prerequisite(s): PSY 155

PSY 430 History and Systems of Psychology

This course examines the beginnings and development of psychology as a science and profession; psychology's historical roots in philosophy, biology, and national culture. Restriction(s): Sophomore standing or above. Prerequisite(s): PSY 155

PSY 444 Research in PSY I

This course provides the student with an opportunity to do research with a faculty member. The student and the faculty member agree on the research project before the student registers for the course.

PSY 445 Research in PSY II

This course is a continuation of the 444 research course. It provides the student with an opportunity to continue to conduct research with a faculty member.

PSY 470 Special Topics

This course examines contemporary issues in psychology (e.g., psychology of women, drug abuse, forensic psychology, sports psychology, or prejudice). Prerequisite: varies with topics.

PSY 471 Special Topics

This course examines contemporary issues in psychology (e.g., psychology of women, drug abuse, forensic psychology, sports psychology, or prejudice). Prerequisite: varies with topics.

PSY 480 Seminar

This course provides readings, discussion, and analysis of contemporary psychological theories and research; individual student research and presentation of paper. Restriction(s): Junior or senior standing as psychology major or minor.

PSY 481 Seminar

This course provides readings, discussion, and analysis of contemporary psychological theories and research; individual student research and presentation of paper. Restriction(s): Junior or senior standing as psychology major or minor.

PSY 490 Psychological Research

This course provides the student with an opportunity to do research with a faculty member. The student and the faculty member must agree on the research project before the student signs up for the course. Restriction(s): Junior or Senior standing as a psychology major or minor. May be taken either or both terms. Prerequisite(s): PSY 155, PSY 310

PSY 491 Psychological Research

This course provides the student with an opportunity to do research with a faculty member. The student and the faculty member must agree on the research project before the student signs up for the course. Restriction(s): Junior or Senior standing as a psychology major or minor. May be taken either or both terms. Prerequisite(s): PSY 155, PSY 310

PSY 495 Internship

This course provides students with off-campus opportunities to work in clinics, schools, businesses, or the criminal justice system. It may be taken either or both semesters. Restriction(s): Junior or senior standing as a psychology major, 60 credits completed, 3.0 overall GPA

PSY 496 Internship

This course provides students with off-campus opportunities to work in clinics, schools, businesses, or the criminal justice system. It may be taken either or both semesters. Restriction(s): Junior or senior standing as a psychology major, 60 credits completed, 3.0 overall GPA

Program Contact Information

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