

PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, B.S.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: Abington

Program Description

Building on the interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary strengths of Penn State Abington, the Psychological and Social Sciences B.S. is designed to respond to the demand for a program emphasizing the social and behavioral sciences leading to an understanding of human behavior and its influence upon society as well as the influence of social forces on individuals. The program is distinguished by its interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary coursework and required field experience. The degree program offers students a choice of course clusters focused on specialized areas such as social psychology, developmental studies, organizational behavior and leadership, bio-behavior and diversity, and counseling. The B.S. provides a broad theoretical foundation in social and psychological theory as well as the opportunity to engage in supervised field experience. In addition, the B.S. degree emphasizes quantitative research skills and requires the completion of a senior thesis. The major is designed to prepare students for a variety of career fields including human resources, business administration, mental health, and social work as well as for continued study in graduate or professional school.

What is Psychological and Social Sciences?

Psychological and Social Sciences fosters an understanding of human behavior and its influence on society as well as the impact of social forces on individuals. It includes the disciplines of psychology, sociology, anthropology, and human development and family studies.

You Might Like This Program If...

- You are curious about people's behavior.
- You are interested in knowing why people behave the way they do.
- You possess a keen interest in how culture and society impact individuals.
- You are a critical thinker and want to develop strong research and communication skills.
- You are interested in a career in mental health or counseling, market research, consulting, occupational therapy, or research oriented careers.
- You want to go to graduate school (Masters or Ph.D. level).

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (<http://abington.psu.edu/psychological-and-social-sciences/>)

Entrance to Major

In order to be eligible for entrance to this major, a student must:

1. attain at least a C (2.00) cumulative grade-point average for all courses taken at the University; and
2. have third-semester classification (<http://www.registrar.psu.edu/enrollment/semester-classification.cfm>).

READ SENATE POLICY 37-30: ENTRANCE TO AND CHANGES IN MAJOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/37-00-entrance-to-a-college-or-major/>)

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Science degree in Psychological and Social Sciences, a minimum of 121 credits is required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	8
Requirements for the Major	71

3 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 3 credits of GN courses.

Requirements for the Major

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (<http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44>).

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
ANTH 45N	Cultural Diversity: A Global Perspective	3
PSYCH 100	Introductory Psychology	3
PSYCH 200	Elementary Statistics in Psychology	4
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
BBH 301W	Values and Ethics in Biobehavioral Health Research and Practice	3
or HDFS 301	Values and Ethics in Health and Human Development Professions	
HDFS 129	Introduction to Human Development and Family Studies	3
or PSYCH 212	Introduction to Developmental Psychology	
PSYCH 301W	Basic Research Methods in Psychology	3
or HDFS 312W	Empirical Inquiry in Human Development	
SOC 1	Introductory Sociology	3
or SOC 5	Social Problems	
Select 3 credits from the following:		3
ANTH 495	Internship	
HDFS 495C	Professional Practicum in Human Services	
PSYCH 495	Internship	
SOC 495	Internship	
Select 7 credits from the following:		7
ANTH 494	Research Project	
HDFS 494	Research Project	
PSYCH 494	Research Projects	
SOC 494	Research Project	
Select 6 credits from the following:		6
BIOL 133	Genetics and Evolution of the Human Species	
& BIOL 155	and Introduction to the Biology of Aging	

BIOL 161 & BIOL 169N	Human Anatomy and Physiology I - Lecture and	
BIOL 161 & PSYCH 169N	Human Anatomy and Physiology I - Lecture and	
Select 6 credits from the following:		6
ANTH 408	Anthropological Demography	
ANTH 421		
ANTH 428	Archaeological Methods and Theory	
ANTH 458	Ethnographic Field Methods	
HDFS 401	Project Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation in the Human Services	
HDFS 415	Program Development in Family Relationships	
PSYCH 404/EDPSY 450	Principles of Measurement	
PSYCH 406W	Advanced Research Projects in Psychology	
PSYCH 407	Advanced Research Methods in Psychology	
PSYCH 408	Program Evaluation	
PSYCH 439	History and Systems of Psychology	
PSYCH 492	Current Topics in Psychology	
SOC 405	Sociological Theory	
SOC/CRIM/CRIMJ 413	Advanced Criminological Theory	
SOC 423	Social Demography	
SOC 470	Intermediate Social Statistics	
SOC 471	Qualitative Research Methods in Sociology	

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better

Select 15 credits from the following:		15
ANTH 408	Anthropological Demography	
ANTH 446	Mating and Marriage	
ANTH/AMST 448	Ethnography of the United States	
ANTH/WMNST 476W	Anthropology of Gender	
ANTH 497	Special Topics	
ANTH 499	Foreign Studies	
HDFS 415	Program Development in Family Relationships	
HDFS 429	Advanced Child Development	
HDFS 433	Developmental Transition to Adulthood	
HDFS 445/PSYCH 416	Development Throughout Adulthood	
HDFS 497	Special Topics	
HDFS 499	Foreign Studies	
PSYCH 406W	Advanced Research Projects in Psychology	
PSYCH 407	Advanced Research Methods in Psychology	
PSYCH 408	Program Evaluation	
PSYCH 420	Advanced Social Psychology	
PSYCH 422	Human Sexuality	
PSYCH 423	Social Psychology of Interpersonal/Intergroup Relationships	
PSYCH 424	Applied Social Psychology	
PSYCH/GAME 434	Psychology of Gaming	
PSYCH 438	Personality Theory	

PSYCH 466	The Psychology of Evil	
PSYCH 470	Abnormal Psychology	
PSYCH 473	Behavior Modification	
PSYCH 474	Psychological Intervention in Childhood	
PSYCH 476	Child Psychopathology	
PSYCH 479/WMNST 471	The Psychology of Gender	
PSYCH 481	Introduction to Clinical Psychology	
PSYCH 484	Work Attitudes and Motivation	
PSYCH 492	Current Topics in Psychology	
PSYCH 497	Special Topics	
PSYCH 499	Foreign Studies	
SOC 405	Sociological Theory	
SOC 408	Urban Ecology	
SOC/AFAM 409	Racial and Ethnic Inequality in America	
SOC/CRIMJ/CRIM 413	Advanced Criminological Theory	
SOC/EDTHP 416	Sociology of Education	
SOC 432	Social Movements	
SOC 445	U.S. Immigration	
SOC 446	Political Sociology	
SOC 447	Ethnic Minorities and Schools in the United States	
SOC 451	Health, Disease & Society	
SOC 454	The City in Postindustrial Society	
SOC/WMNST 456	Gender, Occupations, and Professions	
SOC/CRIM 459	Communities and Crime	
SOC 467	Law and Society	
SOC 470	Intermediate Social Statistics	
SOC 471	Qualitative Research Methods in Sociology	
SOC/LHR/WMNST 472	Work-Life Practices and Policies	
SOC/WMNST 477	Sociology of Sexuality	
SOC 478	Men and Masculinities	
SOC 497	Special Topics	
SOC 499	Foreign Study--Sociology	

Select 6 credits from any of the PSYCH and HDFS courses on the department approved list 6

Select 6 credits from any of the SOC and ANTH courses on the department approved list 6

General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general->

education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required.)

- **Quantification (GQ):** 6 credits
- **Writing and Speaking (GWS):** 9 credits

Knowledge Domains

- **Arts (GA):** 6 credits
- **Health and Wellness (GHW):** 3 credits
- **Humanities (GH):** 6 credits
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS):** 6 credits
- **Natural Sciences (GN):** 9 credits

Integrative Studies (may also complete a Knowledge Domain requirement)

- **Inter-Domain or Approved Linked Courses:** 6 credits

University Degree Requirements

First Year Engagement

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 ([http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-](http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#83-80)

[requirements/#83-80](http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#83-80))). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

Program Learning Objectives

- **Critical Thinking and Scientific Reasoning:**
 - Understand and utilize the scientific method and basic research methods.
 - Demonstrate critical thinking in the analysis and evaluation of information to distinguish the scientific from the nonscientific.
- **Effective Communication (Writing and Speaking):**
 - Communicate social scientific knowledge orally in a clear and accurate manner.
 - Communicate social scientific knowledge in writing in a clear and accurate manner.
- **Ethics and Diversity:**
 - Evidence knowledge of and appreciation for cultural diversity and relativity in human experience, and for the complexity of human behavior and interactions.
 - Acquire an ethical lens that applies to concrete professional situations and broader issues in society and culture.
- **Knowledge and Application:**
 - Describe key psychological and sociological concepts and theories.
 - Apply concepts and theories to empirical and real life situations.

Academic Advising

The objectives of the university's academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee's unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/>)

Abington

Michael Bernstein

Associate Professor of Psychology
1600 Woodland Road
Abington, PA 19001
215-881-7479
mjb70@psu.edu

Suggested Academic Plan

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2022-23 academic year. To access previous years' suggested academic plans, please visit the archive (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive/>) to view the appropriate Undergraduate Bulletin edition (*Note: the archive only contains suggested academic plans beginning with the 2018-19 edition of the Undergraduate Bulletin*).

Psychological and Social Sciences, B.S. at Abington Campus

The course series listed below provides **only one** of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an **Academic Requirements** or **What If** report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
ENGL 15 or 30H*	3 PSYCH 212 or HDFS 129*	3
PSYCH 100*	3 BIOL 110 or 141 <i>and</i> 142*†	4
MATH 110	4 General Education Course	3
General Education Course	3 General Education Course	3
General Education Course	3 General Education Course	3
16		16

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
PSYCH 200*	4 PSYCH 301W*	4
ANTH 45N*	3 ENGL 202A	3
SOC 1 or 5*	3 General Education Course	3
Humanities (GH) (US;IL)	3 General Education Course	3
CAS 100A or 100B	3 General Education Course	3
16		16

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Elective	3 HDFS 301*	3
SOC 471*	3 Elective	3
General Education	3 Elective	3
Major Selection any level* ¹	3 Major Selection any level* ¹	3
Elective	3 Major Selection 400 level* ¹	3
15		15

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
XXX 494 Senior Thesis 1*	3 XXX 495 Internship*	3
Major Selection 400 level* ¹	3 Major Selection 400 level* ¹	3
Major Selection 400 level* ¹	3 XXX 494 Senior Thesis 2*	3
Major Selection any level* ¹	3 Elective	3
Elective (US/IL)	3	
15		12

Total Credits 121

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy University Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

GWS, GQ, GHW, GN, GA, GH, and GS are abbreviations used to identify General Education program courses. General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH,

GS, and Integrative Studies). Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of 'C' or better.

Integrative Studies courses are required for the General Education program. N is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate an Inter-Domain course and Z is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate a Linked course.

¹ At least 12 of 21 required major selection credits must be at the 400 level.

6-15 credits of major courses are required in courses designated PSYCH and/or HDFS.

6-15 credits of major courses are required in courses designated SOC and/or ANTH.

0-9 credits of major courses are required in courses designated other Social Sciences from the approved PSS program list.

Advising Notes

PSYCH and/or HD FS courses for Major Requirements:

PSYCH 221, 281, 407, 412, 415, 416, 420, 422, 423, 424, 426, 438, 441, 470, 478, 479, 481, 484, 485, 496B, 497, HD FS 220, 239, 249, 250, 315, 432, 433, 445, 468

SOC and/or ANTH courses for Major Requirements:

SOC 003, 030, 035, 103, 109, 110, 309, 403, 405, 406, 409, 416, 429, 430, 455, 456, 462, 497, ANTH 002, 011, 022, 040, 146, 197, 199, 216, 321W, 380, 395, 448, 464

Other Social Sciences courses for Major Requirements:

BBH 302, 315, CAS 352, 415, 455, CN ED 404, 407, ED PSY 014, COMM 100, 120, 411, WMNST 471

Courses cross-listed with the above may be petitioned to meet the 400-level requirement.

Career Paths

A bachelor of science degree in Psychological and Social Sciences is designed to prepare students for a variety of career fields including human resources, business administration, mental health, and social work, or continued study in graduate and professional schools. The Penn State Abington Center for Career & Professional Development supports and serves students in all areas related to career development and preparation including career counseling and coaching, internships, resume creation, interview training, and job search strategies.

Careers

With a bachelor of science degree in Psychological & Social Sciences, you will be prepared for careers in child and geriatric care; counseling, clinical, and social work; education; human resources; marketing/marketing research; occupational therapy; and research.

Opportunities for Graduate Studies

A baccalaureate degree in Psychological & Social Sciences prepares students to earn graduate degrees in a variety of fields or obtain admission to MBA programs and law schools, among other post-graduate opportunities.

Contact

Abington

DIVISION OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

1600 Woodland Road

Abington, PA 19001

215-881-7479

mjb70@psu.edu

<http://abington.psu.edu/psychological-and-social-sciences> (<http://abington.psu.edu/psychological-and-social-sciences/>)