

PSYCHOLOGY, B.A. (BEHREND)

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: Erie

Program Description

The Psychology program at Penn State Behrend provides students a strong foundation in the application of psychological knowledge, skills and techniques for the solution and prevention of individual and social problems. A spectrum of courses (bio-behavioral, clinical, cognitive-experimental, developmental, educational, human factors, industrial/organizational, personality, and social) is united by a strong focus on the scientific method. All students are afforded the opportunity to participate in internships and research assistantships throughout their training. Bachelor-level graduates in psychology are equipped for various positions in human service agencies, businesses, industries, and laboratories. Those not joining the workforce following graduation most often continue their training, working towards a master's or doctoral degree in psychology; others go on to other disciplines, e.g., medical or law school. Courses within this degree can also be used to develop a specialty areas such as criminal justice, sociology or international studies.

The Bachelor of Arts degree requires nine additional credits and proficiency in a second language. The Bachelor of Arts degree helps to prepare students for careers in education-related settings, human services, clinical settings, and other related fields.

What is Psychology?

Psychology is the scientific study of thought, behavior, and experience. Many people associate psychology with psychological therapy and the practice of clinical psychology. There are also many other important areas of scientific psychology, such as cognitive, developmental, industrial/organizational, and social psychology. What these subfields of psychology have in common is the use of the scientific method to understand human behavior and apply that understanding to the development of theory and practice. Psychologists are increasingly making use of neuroscience methods and theories to understand psychological phenomena. As a profession, psychology is related to fields such as health, education, marketing, human resources, social work, and more. The principles of psychology are relevant to almost all areas of human endeavor, and the career paths of psychology students reflect this wealth of possibilities.

You Might Like This Program If...

- Human behavior fascinates you.
- You wonder how personality influences behavior, how brain function relates to behaviors, how memory works, or how people make decisions.
- You're interested in the criminal justice system and forensics.
- You want to know more about child development, parenting, and learning.
- You're interested in human diversity in all its forms, i.e., personality, gender, and culture.
- You'd like to help people who have psychological disorders.

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 at least third-semester classification (<https://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 Arts degree in Psychology, a minimum of 120 credits is required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	12
Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements	24
Requirements for the Major	43

0-4 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes 0-4 credits of General Education GQ courses.

3 of the 24 credits for Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements are included in the Requirements for the Major, General Education, or Electives and 0-12 credits are included in Electives if foreign language proficiency is demonstrated by examination.

Per Senate Policy 83.80.5, the college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of coursework in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned.

Requirements for the Major

Each student must earn a grade of C or better for prescribed and additional courses in the major and for each 300- and 400-level course in the major field.

To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn a grade of C or better in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (<https://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>		
PSYCH 100	Introductory Psychology	3
PSYCH 301W	Basic Research Methods in Psychology	4
PSYCH 406W	Advanced Research Projects in Psychology	4
PSYCH 489	Professional Development in Psychology	1
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
PSYCH 200 or STAT 200	Elementary Statistics in Psychology Elementary Statistics	4

Select 3 credits in each of the following five content categories: 15

1. Biological Bases of Behavior

PSYCH 253	Introduction to Psychology of Perception
PSYCH 260	Neurological Bases of Human Behavior
PSYCH 261	Introduction to Psychology of Learning
PSYCH 269	Evolutionary Psychology
PSYCH 425	Psychology of Human Emotion
PSYCH 439	History and Systems of Psychology
PSYCH 441	Health Psychology
PSYCH 460	Comparative Psychology
PSYCH 461	Advanced Conditioning and Learning
PSYCH 462	Physiological Psychology
PSYCH 464	Behavior Genetics
PSYCH 475	Psychology of Fear and Stress
PSYCH 478	Clinical Neuropsychology

2. Social/Developmental

PSYCH 212	Introduction to Developmental Psychology
PSYCH 221	Introduction to Social Psychology
PSYCH 412	Adolescence
PSYCH 413	Cognitive Development
PSYCH 414	Social and Personality Development (may be counted in either Social/Developmental or Clinical/Personality, but not both)
PSYCH 415	Topics in Developmental Psychology
PSYCH 416	Development Throughout Adulthood
PSYCH 420	Advanced Social Psychology
PSYCH 421	Self and Social Judgment
PSYCH 423	Social Psychology of Interpersonal/Intergroup Relationships
PSYCH 424	Applied Social Psychology

3. Cognitive/Learning

PSYCH 253	Introduction to Psychology of Perception
PSYCH 256	Introduction to Cognitive Psychology
PSYCH 261	Introduction to Psychology of Learning
PSYCH 268	Animal Minds
PSYCH 413	Cognitive Development
PSYCH 426	Language and Thought
PSYCH 427	Language Acquisition
PSYCH 439	History and Systems of Psychology
PSYCH 452	Learning and Memory
PSYCH 456	Advanced Cognitive Psychology
PSYCH 461	Advanced Conditioning and Learning

4. Clinical/Applied

EDPSY 14	Learning and Instruction
HDFS 311	Human Development and Family Studies Interventions
HDFS 315	Family Development
PSYCH 238	Introduction to Personality Psychology
PSYCH 243	Introduction to Well-being and Positive Psychology
PSYCH 244	Introduction to the Psychology of Human Factors Engineering
PSYCH 270	Introduction to Abnormal Psychology

PSYCH 281	Introduction to Industrial-Organizational Psychology
PSYCH 370	Psychology of the Differently-Abled
PSYCH 404	Principles of Measurement
PSYCH 408	Program Evaluation
PSYCH 414	Social and Personality Development (may be counted in either Social/Developmental or Clinical/Personality, but not both)
PSYCH 419	Psychology and a Sustainable World
PSYCH 438	Personality Theory
PSYCH 443	Treatment and Education in Developmental Disabilities
PSYCH 444	Engineering Psychology
PSYCH 445	Forensic Psychology
PSYCH 452	Learning and Memory
PSYCH 456	Advanced Cognitive Psychology
PSYCH 470	Abnormal Psychology
PSYCH 471	Psychology of Adjustment and Social Relationships
PSYCH 473	Behavior Modification
PSYCH 474	Psychological Intervention in Childhood
PSYCH 476	Child Psychopathology
PSYCH 477	Mental Health Practicum with Children
PSYCH 481	Introduction to Clinical Psychology
PSYCH 482	Selection and Assessment in Organizations
PSYCH 484	Work Attitudes and Motivation
PSYCH 485	Leadership in Work Settings

5. Diversity

PSYCH 230	Introduction to Psychologies of Religion
PSYCH 231	Introduction to the Psychology of Gender
PSYCH 232	Cross-Cultural Psychology
PSYCH 422	Human Sexuality
PSYCH 432	Multicultural Psychology in America
PSYCH 479/ WMNST 471	The Psychology of Gender

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

Select 3 credits of a structured practicum, internship or an approved research experience (PSYCH 294, PSYCH 296, PSYCH 494, PSYCH 495, or PSYCH 496 may be applied to this requirement) 3

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

Select 9 credits of 400-level psychology courses from any combination of categories in consultation with adviser (except PSYCH 494, PSYCH 495, PSYCH 496) 9

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 and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

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

Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

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

Integrative Studies

- **Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain):** 6 credits

Exploration

- **GN**, may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
- **GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses.** This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the requirements for the student's degree program, whichever is higher: 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 (<https://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.

B.A. Degree Requirements

Foreign Language (0-12 credits): Student must attain 12th credit level of proficiency in one foreign language. See the Placement Policy for Penn State Foreign Language Courses (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/advising-planning-degree-program/course-placements/placement-policy-world-language-courses/>).

B.A. Fields (9 credits): Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arts, Foreign Languages, Natural Sciences, Quantification (may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major; foreign language credits in this category must be in a second foreign language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the first language)

Other Cultures (0-3 credits): Select 3 credits from approved list. Students may count courses in this category in order to meet other major, minor, elective, or General Education requirements, except for the General Education US/IL requirement.

Program Learning Objectives

• **Career-Related Skills:**

- Demonstrate knowledge of professional options and required training for careers in the major subfields of psychology.
- Demonstrate the ability to identify personally-relevant career options to implement their psychological knowledge, skills, and values in occupational pursuits in a variety of settings.

• **Communication Skills:**

- Communicate effectively (in writing and/or orally) the results of a project or internship.
- Demonstrate the ability to effectively extract central points and summarize psychological research literature and to write in the format of psychological research.

• **Content Knowledge:**

- Demonstrate knowledge of major psychological concepts, theories, and empirical findings.
- Demonstrate the ability to apply psychological concepts and theories to research and real life situations.

• **Diversity and Ethical Considerations:**

- Show evidence of knowledge and appreciation for cultural diversity and relativity in human experience and for the complexity of human behavior and interactions.
- Demonstrate knowledge, and the application of, basic principles of scientific and professional ethics.

- Demonstrate sensitivity to ethical concerns and professionalism (including cultural considerations) in settings where applications of psychology and/or psychological research occur.
- **Research Skills:**
 - Differentiate among the research methods used in psychology and apply the designs in evaluation or development of a research study.
 - Demonstrate the ability to analyze and interpret quantitative psychological data using statistics, graphs, and data tables.
 - Use technology for studying concepts and conducting research.
- **Thinking Skills:**
 - Use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.
 - Demonstrate critical thinking in the analysis, evaluation, and interpretation of information in the scientific literature to distinguish the scientific literature from other sources.

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/>)

Erie

Melanie Hetzel-Riggin, Ph.D.

Professor of Psychology
108 Turnbull
Erie, PA 16563
814-898-6949
mdh33@psu.edu

Suggested Academic Plan

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2023-24 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*).

Psychology, B.A. at Erie 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
First Year Seminar	1 General Education	3
ENGL 15 or 30H ^{††}	3 Psychology Area Selection	3
PSYCH 100 [*]	3 General Education	3
General Education	3 General Education	3
General Education	1.5 World Language (Level Two)	4
World Language (Level One)	4	
15.5		16

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Psychology Area Selection	3 Psychology Area Selection	3
Psychology Area Selection	3 PSYCH 200	4
CAS 100 [‡]	3 General Education	3
General Education	3 General Education	3
World Language (Level Three)	4 ENGL 202A [‡]	3
16		16

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
PSYCH 301W [*]	4 PSYCH 406W [*]	4
Psychology Area Selection	3 400-level Psychology selection	3
Other Cultures	3 BA Knowledge Domain	3
General Education	3 General Education	3
400-level Psychology selection	3 PSYCH 489 [*]	1
16		14

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
400-level Psychology selection	3 PSYCH 494 or 495	3
General Education	3 Electives	3
BA Knowledge Domain	3 Electives	1
Electives	3 BA Knowledge Domain	3
General Education	1.5 General Education	3
13.5		13

Total Credits 120

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major

‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education

Course is an Entrance to Major requirement

† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy Cultural Diversity 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.

General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ), Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS) and Integrative Studies (Inter-domain) requirements. N or Q (Honors) is the suffix at the end of a course number used to help identify an Inter-domain course, but the inter-domain attribute is used to fill audit requirements. Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of 'C' or better.

Bachelor of Arts Requirements:

Bachelor of Arts students must take 9 credits in Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Fields (Humanities; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Arts; World Languages [2nd language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the 1st]; Natural Sciences; Quantification). The B.A. Fields courses may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major. See your adviser and the Degree Requirements section (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/>) of this Bulletin.

Bachelor of Arts students must take 3 credits in Other Cultures. See your adviser and the full list of courses approved as Other Cultures courses (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/course-lists/ba-other-cultures/>).

Additional Notes

*Choose from the following categories of courses:

Biological Bases of Behavior (chooses from PSYCH 253, 260, 261, 269, 425, 439, 441, 461, 462, 464, 475, 478)

Social/Developmental (choose from PSYCH 212,221,412,413,414,415,416,420,421,423,424)

Cognitive/Learning (choose from PSYCH 253, 256,261,268,413,426, 427,439,452,453,456,461)

Clinical/Applied (choose from EDPSY 014, HDFS 311, 315, PSYCH 238, 244, 270, 281, 370, 404, 408, 414, 419, 438, 443, 470, 471, 476, 477, 481, 481, 484, 485)

Diversity (choose from PSYCH 230,231, 232, 422, 432, 479)

Academic advising notes: The course series listed above is only one of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The number of electives required varies per student. Please be sure to consult with an adviser about your intended plan.

Career Paths

The B.A. in Psychology is structured within a liberal arts framework that requires study of a foreign language and offers coursework options. If you are interested in criminology and law, you can select courses in political sciences and sociology. Students interested in working with children and adolescents take courses in human development, family studies, counseling, trauma studies, and education. All psychology students design and conduct a capstone research project and may participate in outreach and mentoring through Penn State Behrend's Susan Hirt Hagen Center for Community Outreach, Research, and Evaluation, its Prevention of Aggression Resource Center, and its Early Learning Center.

Careers

Penn State Behrend's B.A. in Psychology degree provides you with a strong skill set that is particularly valued in the mental health and social services fields, education, social work, medicine, business, law, and basic and applied research. Recent graduates are working as elementary and special education teachers, school counselors, clinical psychologists, lawyers, research associates, developmental psychologists, industrial organizational psychologists, human resource managers, data analysts, counselors, caseworkers, and therapeutic support staff.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POTENTIAL CAREER OPTIONS FOR GRADUATES OF THE PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM (<https://behrend.psu.edu/school-of-humanities-social-sciences/academic-programs/psychology/>)

Opportunities for Graduate Studies

Psychology graduates have earned master's and doctoral degrees in fields such as psychology, business, human factors, law, education, medicine, physical therapy, and occupational therapy. Some of the schools they have attended include Penn State, Washington University, Columbia University, Johns Hopkins University, University of California, Los Angeles, University of Pittsburgh, and Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine. Additionally, Penn State Behrend offers a Master of Arts degree in Applied Clinical Psychology that includes optional preparation for the Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) credential.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES (<https://behrend.psu.edu/school-of-humanities-social-sciences/academic-programs/master-of-applied-clinical-psychology/>)

Professional Resources

- American Psychological Association (<https://www.apa.org/>)
- Society for Personality and Social Psychology (<https://spsp.org>)
- National Association of School Psychologists (<https://www.nasponline.org/>)

Contact

Erie

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
170 Irvin Kochel Center
4951 College Drive
Erie, PA 16563
814-898-6108
HSSOffice@psu.edu

<https://behrend.psu.edu/school-of-humanities-social-sciences> (<https://behrend.psu.edu/school-of-humanities-social-sciences/>)