

PSYCHOLOGY, B.S. (BEHREND)

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: Erie

Program Description

Not all options are available at every campus. Contact the campus you are interested in attending to determine which options are offered.

The Psychology program at Penn State Behrend provides students with a solid 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 in areas such as criminal justice, sociology, or international studies.

The Bachelor of Science degree offers four multidisciplinary options. The Science option is intended for students with a strong interest in science and requires more coursework in the biological, physical, social, and mathematical sciences than does the Bachelor of Arts program. The Psychology in the Workplace option is designed for students who wish to combine their interests in business and psychology. The Human Factors and Design option combines perspectives within the fields of psychology and engineering in order to design products that maximize human functioning. The Data Analytics option emphasizes the applied aspects of quantification. Students will take a closer look at several aspects of analysis and extracting meaning from data sets. The Bachelor of Science degree helps to prepare students for future careers in clinical, developmental, educational, human factors, industrial organization, program evaluation and health-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 fascinated by how people interact with machines and technology, workplace dynamics, leadership, and motivation.
- You want to know more about child/adolescent development, parenting, and learning.
- You are interested in human diversity in all its forms, including 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/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/37-00-entrance-to-a-college-or-major/>)

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology, a minimum of 120 credits is required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	15
Requirements for the Major	73

13 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes 4 credits of GQ courses; 9 credits of GWS courses.

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/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>).

Common Requirements for the Major (All Options)

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

Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better

ENGL 15	Rhetoric and Composition	3
or ENGL 30H	Honors Rhetoric and Composition	
PSYCH 200	Elementary Statistics in Psychology	4
or STAT 200	Elementary Statistics	

Select 3 credits from the following: 3

CAS 100A	Effective Speech	
CAS 100B	Effective Speech	
CAS 100C	Effective Speech	

Select 3 credits from the following: 3

ENGL 202A	Effective Writing: Writing in the Social Sciences	
ENGL 202B	Effective Writing: Writing in the Humanities	
ENGL 202C	Effective Writing: Technical Writing	
ENGL 202D	Effective Writing: Business Writing	

Select 3 credits in four of the following five content categories: 12

1. *Biological Bases of Behavior*

PSYCH 253	Introduction to Psychology of Perception	
PSYCH 260	Neurological Bases of Human Behavior	
PSYCH 269	Evolutionary Psychology	

2. *Social/Developmental*

HDFS 129	Introduction to Human Development and Family Studies	
HDFS 229	Infant and Child Development	
PSYCH 212	Introduction to Developmental Psychology	
PSYCH 221	Introduction to Social Psychology	

3. *Cognitive/Learning*

PSYCH 256	Introduction to Cognitive Psychology	
PSYCH 261	Introduction to Psychology of Learning	
PSYCH 263N	Science of Learning	
PSYCH 268	Animal Minds	

4. *Clinical/Applied*

EDPSY 14	Learning and Instruction	
PSYCH 217N	The Science of Human Resilience	
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	

5. *Diversity*

PSYCH 230	Introduction to Psychologies of Religion	
PSYCH 231	Introduction to the Psychology of Gender	
PSYCH 232	Cross-Cultural Psychology	

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

Select 3 credits of quantification courses from the departmental list - Quantification 3

Select 3 credits of a structured practicum, internship or an approved research experience (PSYCH 294, PSYCH 296, PSYCH 477, PSYCH 494, PSYCH 495, or PSYCH 496 may be applied to this requirement) 3

Select 3 additional credits of psychology courses at the 200, 300, or 400-level in consultation with your adviser 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) ¹ 9

Requirements for the Option

Select an option 18

¹ [PSYCH 477 can only count in one place.](#)

Requirements for the Option

Option courses may not double count with major requirements.

Data Analytics Option (18 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
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Prescribed Courses

Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better

DA 101	Introduction to Data Analytics	3
DA 201W	Descriptive Analytics	4
STAT 184	Introduction to R	2

Additional Courses

Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better

CMPSC 121	Introduction to Programming Techniques	3
or CMPSC 131	Programming and Computation I: Fundamentals	

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

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

Select 6 credits in data-analytic related courses from the departmental list – Data Analytics Option and in consultation with adviser. ¹ 6

¹ Six credits of PSYCH courses listed in the Additional Courses category for the Data Analytics Option that the student does not apply under Additional Courses for the Data Analytics Option may be taken as Supporting Courses counting toward the Data Analytics Option. However, these credits may not count in both the Data Analytics Option and towards the Additional Courses or Supporting Courses and Related Areas in the Common Requirements for the Major.

Human Factors and Design Option (18 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
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Prescribed Courses

Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better

PSYCH 244	Introduction to the Psychology of Human Factors Engineering	3
PSYCH 444	Engineering Psychology	3

Additional Courses

Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better

Select 3 credits from the following: 3

PSYCH 253	Introduction to Psychology of Perception	
PSYCH 256	Introduction to Cognitive Psychology	
PSYCH 260A	Neurological Bases of Human Behavior	

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

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

Select 9 credits in psychology, engineering and business-related courses from the departmental list - Human Factors and Design Option and in consultation with adviser ¹ 9

¹ The 3 PSYCH credits for Additional Courses in the Human Factors and Design Option may not count in both the Human Factors and Design Option and towards the Supporting Courses and Related Areas in the Common Requirements for the Major.

Psychology in the Workplace Option (18 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
PSYCH 281	Introduction to Industrial-Organizational Psychology	3
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better:</i>		
Select 3 credits from the following:		3
PSYCH 482	Selection and Assessment in Organizations	
PSYCH 484	Work Attitudes and Motivation	
PSYCH 485	Leadership in Work Settings	
Supporting Courses and Related Areas		
<i>Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 12 credits in business-related courses from the departmental list - Psychology in the Workplace Option and in consultation with adviser. A maximum of 3 credits may be selected from the PSYCH courses listed. ¹		12

Prescribed Courses

Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better

PSYCH 281	Introduction to Industrial-Organizational Psychology	3
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Additional Courses

Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better:

Select 3 credits from the following: 3

PSYCH 482 Selection and Assessment in Organizations

PSYCH 484 Work Attitudes and Motivation

PSYCH 485 Leadership in Work Settings

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

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

Select 12 credits in business-related courses from the departmental list - Psychology in the Workplace Option and in consultation with adviser. A maximum of 3 credits may be selected from the PSYCH courses listed. ¹ 12

¹ [Six credits of PSYCH courses listed in the Supporting Courses can count toward the Psychology in the Workplace Option. However, these credits may not count in both the Psychology in the Workplace Option and towards the Related Areas Common Requirements for the Major.](#)

Science Option (18 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 3 credits from the following: ¹		3
PSYCH 253	Introduction to Psychology of Perception	
PSYCH 256	Introduction to Cognitive Psychology	
PSYCH 260A	Neurological Bases of Human Behavior	
PSYCH 261	Introduction to Psychology of Learning	
Supporting Courses and Related Areas		
<i>Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 15 credits in science-related courses from the departmental list - Science Option and in consultation with adviser ¹		15

Additional Courses

Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better

Select 3 credits from the following: ¹ 3

PSYCH 253 Introduction to Psychology of Perception

PSYCH 256 Introduction to Cognitive Psychology

PSYCH 260A Neurological Bases of Human Behavior

PSYCH 261 Introduction to Psychology of Learning

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

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

Select 15 credits in science-related courses from the departmental list - Science Option and in consultation with adviser ¹ 15

¹ Six credits of PSYCH courses listed in the Additional Courses category for the Science Option that the student does not apply under Additional Courses for the Science Option may be taken as Supporting Courses counting toward the Science Option. However, these credits may *not* count in both the Science Option *and* towards the Additional Courses or

Supporting Courses and Related Areas in the Common Requirements for the Major.

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/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

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/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/>)

Erie

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Suggested Academic Plan

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2025-26 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.

Psychology, B.S. 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 Psychology Area Selection*	3
ENGL 15 or 30H [†]		3 General Education	3
PSYCH 100		3 General Education	3
General Education		3 General Education	3

General Education	3 General Education	3
General Education	1.5	
	14.5	15

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Psychology Area Selection*	3 Psychology Area Selection*	3
Psychology Area Selection*	3 PSYCH 200 or STAT 200	4
General Education	3 Psychology in the Workplace or Human Factors and Design or Science or Data Analytics Selection*	3
CAS 100 ^{†‡}	3 General Education	1.5
General Education	3 ENGL 202A or 202C ^{†‡}	3
	15	14.5

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
PSYCH 301W*	4 PSYCH 406W*	4
400-Level Psychology Selection	3 General Education	3
Psychology in the Workplace or Human Factors and Design or Science or Data Analytics Selection*	3 Psychology Area Selection*	3
General Education	3 Elective	3
400-Level Psychology Selection	3 Elective	3
	PSYCH 489*	1
	16	17

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
400-Level Psychology Selection	3 PSYCH 494*	3
Psychology in the Workplace or Human Factors and Design or Science or Data Analytics Selection*	3 Psychology in the Workplace or Human Factors and Design or Science or Data Analytics Selection*	3
Psychology in the Workplace or Human Factors and Design or Science or Data Analytics Selection*	3 Psychology in the Workplace or Human Factors and Design or Science or Data Analytics Selection*	3
Elective	3 General Education	3
General Education	3 Elective	3
	15	15

Total Credits 122

- * 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.

Career Paths

The B.S. in Psychology takes a quantitative approach and offers three options for specialization: General Science for students interested in health-related careers or neuroscience, Psychology in the Workplace for human resources, administration, management, sales, and marketing careers, and Human Factors and Design, which applies psychological concepts to the design and safety of products and services. 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.S. 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 research associates, industrial organizational psychologists, human resource managers, data analysts, counselors, caseworkers, therapeutic support staff, developmental psychologists, elementary and special education teachers, school counselors, and clinical psychologists.

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-clinical-psychology/>)

Professional Resources

- American Psychological Association (<https://www.apa.org>)
- Association for Psychological Science (<https://www.psychologicalscience.org/>)
- Psi Chi National Honor Society (<https://www.psichi.org>)

Contact

Erie

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