PSYCHOLOGY, B.A. (BERKS)

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: Berks

Program Description
The Psychology major will combine the knowledge, skills, and values of psychology with a liberal arts foundation. Students should:

• develop a knowledge base consisting of concepts, theory, empirical findings, and trends within psychology;
• understand and apply basic research methods in psychology;
• use critical thinking and the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes;
• apply psychological principles to personal and social issues;
• and be able to understand the gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, culture, and class issues in psychological theory, research, and practice.

Students should also develop information and computer competence, communication skills, and develop realistic ideas about how to implement their psychology education in occupational pursuits in a variety of settings. The major may lead to either a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science degree. The B.A. degree incorporates a broad exposure to the many facets of the field of psychology, in addition to the B.A. requirements. The B.S. degree provides the same exposure to the field of psychology and adds options in Science and Business to prepare students for more specific career directions. Students in both degree programs may also prepare for graduate school; research experience with faculty members is encouraged for such students.

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...
You are interested in people and in learning to use science to better understand them. As a major, you’ll have opportunities to do research with faculty and to work in career-relevant settings.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PSYCHOLOGY (http://altoona.psu.edu/academics/bachelors-degrees/psychology/)

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 Arts degree in Psychology, a minimum of 124 credits is required:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>14-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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 (GWH): 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 are 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-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-languages/).

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.

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).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 100</td>
<td>Introductory Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 301W</td>
<td>Basic Research Methods in Psychology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 200W</td>
<td>Elementary Research Methods in Psychology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 221</td>
<td>Introduction to Social Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 231</td>
<td>Introduction to the Psychology of Gender</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 232</td>
<td>Cross-Cultural Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 238</td>
<td>Introduction to Personality Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 419</td>
<td>Psychology and a Sustainable World</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 420</td>
<td>Advanced Social Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 421</td>
<td>Self and Social Judgment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 423</td>
<td>Social Psychology of Interpersonal/Intergroup</td>
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<td>PSYCH 424</td>
<td>Applied Social Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 432</td>
<td>Multicultural Psychology in America</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 438</td>
<td>Personality Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>PSYCH 479</td>
<td>The Psychology of Gender</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 253</td>
<td>Introduction to Psychology of Perception</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 260</td>
<td>Neurological Bases of Human Behavior</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 269</td>
<td>Evolutionary Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 441</td>
<td>Health Psychology</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 460</td>
<td>Comparative Psychology</td>
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<td>PSYCH 462</td>
<td>Physiological Psychology</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 464</td>
<td>Behavior Genetics</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 475</td>
<td>Psychology of Fear and Stress</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>
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/)

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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 2021-22 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 contain suggested academic plans beginning with the 2018-19 edition of the Undergraduate Bulletin).

Psychology, B.A. at Berks 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

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<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
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<td>CAS 100A or 100B (GWS)‡</td>
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<td>General Education Course (GQ)‡</td>
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<td>200 Level PSYCH Selection*1</td>
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<td>PSYCH 100*</td>
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<td>3 World Language Level 2</td>
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<td>General Education Course (GN or GA or GH or GS)</td>
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<td>First-Year Seminar</td>
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### Second Year

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<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>200 Level PSYCH Selection*1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>ENGL 202A (GWS)‡</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Language Level 3</td>
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<td>4 PSYCH 200 or STAT 200 (GQ)†</td>
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<td>200 Level PSYCH Selection*1</td>
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### Third Year

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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 301W*3</td>
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<td>200 Level PSYCH Selection*1</td>
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<td>200 Level PSYCH Selection*1</td>
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<td>400 Level PSYCH Selection*1</td>
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<td>400 Level PSYCH Selection*1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirement: Other Cultures</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Education Course (GN or GA or GH or GS)</td>
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<td>Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirement: Knowledge Domain</td>
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<td>Elective</td>
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<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>400 Level PSYCH Selection (Capstone Experience)¹</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>400 Level PSYCH Selection¹</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirement: Knowledge Domain</td>
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<td>Elective</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>12</td>
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</table>

**Total Credits 126**

* *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*

¹ For 200 Level PSYCH Selection and 400 Level PSYCH Selection, students must take 30 credits in PSYCH. Among these, students must take at least 15 credits at the 400 level and at least 3 credits in each of the following six (6) categories: Applied and Clinical Psychology, Biological Bases of Behavior, Developmental Psychology, Learning and Cognition, Social and Personality Psychology, Capstone Experience. Consult adviser for list.

² The following courses are offered Spring Semester only: ENGL 202A

³ The following courses are offered Fall Semester only: PSYCH 301W

### 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.

### 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/other-cultures/).

### Career Paths

Graduates of our program enter the workforce or pursue additional education in a variety of programs, including both Master’s and PhD programs in experimental, counseling, school, and clinical psychology.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POTENTIAL CAREER OPTIONS FOR GRADUATES OF THE PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM (http://altoona.psu.edu/academics/bachelors-degrees/psychology/handbook/)

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES (http://altoona.psu.edu/academics/bachelors-degrees/psychology/handbook/)

### Professional Resources

- American Psychology Association (http://www.apa.org/)
- Association for Psychological Science (https://www.psychologicalscience.org/)
- Psi Chi (https://www.psichi.org/)

### Contact

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