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 (http://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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<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 (http://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-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 (http://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.

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>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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 200</td>
<td>Elementary Statistics in Psychology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or STAT 200</td>
<td>Elementary Statistics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 256</td>
<td>Introduction to Cognitive Psychology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 261</td>
<td>Introduction to Psychology of Learning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 268</td>
<td>Animal Minds</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 426</td>
<td>Language and Thought</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 427</td>
<td>L1 Acquisition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 452</td>
<td>Learning and Memory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 456</td>
<td>Advanced Cognitive Psychology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 457</td>
<td>Psychology of Language</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 458</td>
<td>Visual Cognition</td>
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<td>PSYCH 459</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 461</td>
<td>Advanced Conditioning and Learning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 221</td>
<td>Introduction to Social Psychology</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 231</td>
<td>Introduction to the Psychology of Gender</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 232</td>
<td>Cross-Cultural Psychology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 238</td>
<td>Introduction to Personality Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 419</td>
<td>Psychology and a Sustainable World</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 420</td>
<td>Advanced Social Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 421</td>
<td>Self and Social Judgment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 423</td>
<td>Social Psychology of Interpersonal/Intergroup Relationships</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 424</td>
<td>Applied Social Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 432</td>
<td>Multicultural Psychology in America</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 438</td>
<td>Personality Theory</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 479</td>
<td>The Psychology of Gender</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 253</td>
<td>Introduction to Psychology of Perception</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 260</td>
<td>Neurological Bases of Human Behavior</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 269</td>
<td>Evolutionary Psychology</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 441</td>
<td>Health Psychology</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 460</td>
<td>Comparative Psychology</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 462</td>
<td>Physiological Psychology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 464</td>
<td>Behavior Genetics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 475</td>
<td>Psychology of Fear and Stress</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Select 18 credits of the following, with a minimum of 3 credits from each of the following six categories: Learning and Cognition, Social and Personality Psychology, Biological Bases of Behavior.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 478</td>
<td>Clinical Neuropsychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developmental Psychology</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 212</td>
<td>Introduction to Developmental Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 410</td>
<td>Child Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 412</td>
<td>Adolescence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 413</td>
<td>Cognitive Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 414</td>
<td>Social and Personality Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 415</td>
<td>Topics in Developmental Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 416/</td>
<td>Development Throughout Adulthood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDFS 445</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 474</td>
<td>Psychological Intervention in Childhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applied and Clinical Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 243</td>
<td>Introduction to Well-being and Positive Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 244</td>
<td>Introduction to the Psychology of Human Factors Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 270</td>
<td>Introduction to Abnormal Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 281</td>
<td>Introduction to Industrial-Organizational Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 370</td>
<td>Psychology of the Differently-Abled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 404</td>
<td>Principles of Measurement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 408</td>
<td>Program Evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 443</td>
<td>Treatment and Education in Developmental Disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 444</td>
<td>Engineering Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 445</td>
<td>Forensic Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 470</td>
<td>Abnormal Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 471</td>
<td>Psychology of Adjustment and Social Relationships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 473</td>
<td>Behavior Modification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 476</td>
<td>Child Psychopathology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 477</td>
<td>Mental Health Practicum with Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 481</td>
<td>Introduction to Clinical Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 482</td>
<td>Selection and Assessment in Organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 484</td>
<td>Work Attitudes and Motivation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 485</td>
<td>Leadership in Work Settings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capstone Experience</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 439</td>
<td>History and Systems of Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 490</td>
<td>Senior Seminar in Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 493</td>
<td>Senior Thesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 494</td>
<td>Research Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 495</td>
<td>Internship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 496</td>
<td>Independent Studies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select 12 credits of additional Psychology courses from any offered for a total of 30 credits of Psychology courses beyond PSYCH 100 and PSYCH 301W.

1 At least 15 of these 30 Additional Courses credits must be at the 400-level.

### 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 (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/)

### Altoona

**Brad Pinter**  
Associate Professor of Psychology, Department Chair  
Smith Building C128A  
3000 Ivyside Park  
Altoona, PA 16601  
814-949-5507  
tbp1@psu.edu

### Brandywine

**Joshua Marquit**  
Assistant Teaching Professor Psychology  
25 Yearsley Mill Road  
Media, PA 19063  
610-892-1409  
jdm53@psu.edu

### Fayette

**Elaine Barry**  
Associate Professor  
2201 University Drive  
Lemont Furnace, PA 15456  
724-439-4284  
esb12@psu.edu

### Greater Allegheny

**Advising Office**  
Academic Affairs  
101 Frable Building  
4000 University Drive  
McKeesport, PA 15132  
412-675-9140  
GA-Academics@lists.psu.edu

### Hazleton

**Lisa Goguen**  
Associate Professor of Psychology  
Memorial 103  
Hazleton, PA 18202  
570-450-3023  
lms42@psu.edu

### Lehigh Valley

**Kevin Kelley**  
Psychology Program Coordinator  
2809 Saucon Valley Road  
Center Valley, PA 18034  
610-285-5062
Mont Alto
Robin Yaure
Associate HDFS Professor and Program Coordinator of HDFS & Psychology
112 Weistling Hall
Mont Alto, PA 17237
717-749-6210
r2y@psu.edu

New Kensington
Richard Harnish
Associate Professor
3550 Seventh Street Rd.
New Kensington, PA 15068
724-334-6735
rjh27@psu.edu

Schuylkill
Cory Scherer
Interim Assistant Director of Academic Affairs/Psychology Program Coordinator
A201C 200 University Drive
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972
570-385-6066
crs15@psu.edu

Scranton
Renae McNair
Assistant Teaching Professor
Dawson 203
Dunmore, PA 18512
570-963-2715
trw115@psu.edu

York
Mark A. Casteel
Professor of Psychology
210 Grumbacher Building (GISTC)
1031 Edgecomb Ave.
York, PA 17403
717-771-4028
mac13@psu.edu

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
Altoona
DIVISION OF EDUCATION, HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
Elm Building 103
3000 Ivyside Park
Altoona, PA 16601
814-949-5756
alg177@psu.edu

http://altoona.psu.edu/academics/bachelors-degrees/psychology/request-information (http://altoona.psu.edu/academics/bachelors-degrees/psychology/request-information/)

Brandywine
25 Yearsley Mill Road
Media, PA 19063
610-892-1409
jdm53@psu.edu

http://brandYWine.psu.edu/psychology (http://brandYWine.psu.edu/psychology/)

Fayette
2201 University Drive
Lemont Furnace, PA 15456
724-430-4284
esb12@psu.edu

http://fayette.psu.edu/psychology (http://fayette.psu.edu/psychology/)

Greater Allegheny
101 Frable Building
4000 University Drive
McKeesport, PA 15132
412-675-9140
GA-Academics@lists.psu.edu

http://greaterallegheny.psu.edu/psychology-ba-or-bs (http://greaterallegheny.psu.edu/psychology-ba-or-bs/)

Hazleton
Memorial 103
Hazleton, PA 18202
570-450-3023
Lms42@psu.edu

http://hazleton.psu.edu/psychology-degrees (http://hazleton.psu.edu/psychology-degrees/)

Lehigh Valley
2809 Saucon Valley Road
Center Valley, PA 18034
610-285-5062
Mont Alto
112 Wiestling Hall
Mont Alto, PA 17237
717-749-6210
r2y@psu.edu
https://montalto.psu.edu/academics/bachelors/psychology-degree

New Kensington
3550 Seventh Street Rd.
New Kensington, PA 15068
724-334-6735
rjh27@psu.edu
http://newkensington.psu.edu/bs-degree-information

Schuylkill
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
A201C 200 University Drive
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972
570-385-6066
crs15@psu.edu
http://www.schuylkill.psu.edu/psychology

Scranton
113 Dawson Building
Dunmore, PA 18512
570-963-2715
trw115@psu.edu
http://worthingtonscranon.psu.edu/psychology