PSYCHOLOGY, B.S. (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.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 (https://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 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 Science degree in Psychology, a minimum of 124 credits is required:

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<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>14-18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>65</td>
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</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.

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 (https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44).

Common Requirements for the Major (All Options)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<td>PSYCH 200</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 221</td>
<td>Introduction to Social Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 231</td>
<td>Introduction to the Psychology of Gender</td>
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<td>PSYCH 232</td>
<td>Cross-Cultural Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 234</td>
<td>Language and Thought</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 235</td>
<td>Language Acquisition</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 236</td>
<td>Learning and Memory</td>
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<td>PSYCH 237</td>
<td>Advanced Cognitive Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 238</td>
<td>Psychology of Language</td>
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<td>PSYCH 239</td>
<td>Visual Cognition</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 240</td>
<td>Advanced Conditioning and Learning</td>
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<td>PSYCH 241</td>
<td>Language and Thought</td>
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<td>Psychology of Language</td>
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<td>PSYCH 246</td>
<td>Visual Cognition</td>
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<td>PSYCH 247</td>
<td>Advanced Conditioning and Learning</td>
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<td>PSYCH 250</td>
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<td>PSYCH 256</td>
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Select 18 credits of the following, with a minimum of 3 credits from each of the following six categories:

Learning and Cognition
- PSYCH 256 Introduction to Cognitive Psychology
- PSYCH 261 Introduction to Psychology of Learning
- PSYCH 268 Animal Minds
- PSYCH 426 Language and Thought
- PSYCH 427 Language Acquisition
- PSYCH 452 Learning and Memory
- PSYCH 456 Advanced Cognitive Psychology
- PSYCH 457 Psychology of Language
- PSYCH 458 Visual Cognition
- PSYCH 459
- PSYCH 461 Advanced Conditioning and Learning
- Social and Personality Psychology
- PSYCH 221 Introduction to Social Psychology
- PSYCH 231 Introduction to the Psychology of Gender
- PSYCH 232 Cross-Cultural Psychology
PSYCH 238  Introduction to Personality Psychology
PSYCH 419  Psychology and a Sustainable World
PSYCH 420  Advanced Social Psychology
PSYCH 421  Self and Social Judgment
PSYCH 423  Social Psychology of Interpersonal/Intergroup Relationships
PSYCH 424  Applied Social Psychology
PSYCH 432  Multicultural Psychology in America
PSYCH 438  Personality Theory
PSYCH 479  The Psychology of Gender

Biological Bases of Behavior
PSYCH 253  Introduction to Psychology of Perception
PSYCH 260  Neurological Bases of Human Behavior
PSYCH 269  Evolutionary Psychology
PSYCH 441  Health Psychology
PSYCH 460  Comparative Psychology
PSYCH 462  Physiological Psychology
PSYCH 464  Behavior Genetics
PSYCH 475  Psychology of Fear and Stress
PSYCH 478  Clinical Neuropsychology

Developmental Psychology
PSYCH 212  Introduction to Developmental Psychology
PSYCH 410  Child Development
PSYCH 412  Adolescence
PSYCH 413  Cognitive Development
PSYCH 414  Social and Personality Development
PSYCH 415  Topics in Developmental Psychology
PSYCH 416/ HDFS 445  Development Throughout Adulthood
PSYCH 474  Psychological Intervention in Childhood

Applied and Clinical 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 443  Treatment and Education in Developmental Disabilities
PSYCH 444  Engineering Psychology
PSYCH 445  Forensic Psychology
PSYCH 470  Abnormal Psychology
PSYCH 471  Psychology of Adjustment and Social Relationships
PSYCH 473  Behavior Modification
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

Capstone Experience
PSYCH 439  History and Systems of Psychology
PSYCH 490  Senior Seminar in Psychology
PSYCH 493  Senior Thesis
PSYCH 494  Research Projects
PSYCH 495  Internship
PSYCH 496  Independent Studies

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

Requirements for the Option
Requirements for the Option: Require a grade of C or better
Select an option

1 Must select at least 15 credits at the 400-level.

Requirements for the Option
Science Option (24 credits)
Available at the following campuses: Altoona, Beaver, Berks, Brandywine, Fayette, Greater Allegheny, Hazleton, Lehigh Valley, Mont Alto, New Kensington, Schuylkill, Scranton, York

Code  Title  Credits
Additional Courses
Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better
Select 15 credits of the following: 15
- ANTH 21  Introductory Biological Anthropology
- ANTH 22  Humans as Primates
- BBH 101  Introduction to Biobehavioral Health
- Any BIOL course
- Any CHEM course
- Any MICRB course
- Any PHYS course

Supporting Courses
Supporting Courses: Require a grade of C or better
Select 6 credits in natural sciences/quantification from department list
Select 3 credits in social and behavioral sciences from department list

Business Option (24 credits)
Available at the following campuses: Altoona, Beaver, Berks, Brandywine, Fayette, Greater Allegheny, Hazleton, Lehigh Valley, Mont Alto, New Kensington, Schuylkill, Scranton, York

Code  Title  Credits
Additional Courses
Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better
Select 15 credits of the following: 15
- Any ACCTG course
- BA 100  Introduction to Business
- BA 241  Legal Environment of Business
- & BA 242  and Social and Ethical Environment of Business or BA 243  Social, Legal, and Ethical Environment of Business
- Any ECON course
Any FIN course
Any HPA course
Any IB course
Any MGMT course
Any MKTG course
Any SCM course except SCM 200

Supporting Courses
Supporting Courses: Require a grade of C or better
Select 6 credits in natural sciences/quantification from department list 1
Select 3 credits in social and behavioral sciences from department list

1 MATH 22 or MATH 110 recommended.

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.

Program Learning Objectives
- Ethical and Social Responsibility in a Diverse World: The skills in this domain involve the development of ethically and socially responsible behaviors for professional and personal settings in a landscape that involves increasing diversity. Students completing Foundation courses should become familiar with the formal regulations that govern professional ethics in psychology and begin to embrace the values that will contribute to positive outcomes in work settings and in building a society responsive to multicultural and global concerns. Students completing a baccalaureate degree should have more direct opportunities to demonstrate adherence to professional values that will help them optimize their contributions and work effectively, even with those who don't share their heritage and traditions. This domain also promotes the adoption of personal and professional values that can strengthen community relationships and contributions.
  - Apply ethical standards to evaluate psychological science and practice.
  - Build and enhance interpersonal relationships.
  - Adopt values that build community at local, national, and global levels.
- Knowledge Base in Psychology: Students should demonstrate fundamental knowledge and comprehension of the major concepts,
theoretical perspectives, historical trends, and empirical findings to discuss how psychological principles apply to behavioral problems. Students completing Foundation courses should demonstrate breadth of their knowledge and application of psychological ideas to simple problems; students completing a baccalaureate degree should show depth in their knowledge and application of psychological concepts and frameworks to problems of greater complexity.

- Describe key concepts, principles, and overarching themes in psychology.
- Develop a working knowledge of psychology’s content domains.
- Describe applications of psychology.

**Professional Development:** The emphasis in this goal is on application of psychology-specific content and skills, effective self-reflection, project-management skills, teamwork skills, and career preparation. Foundation outcomes concentrate on the development of work habits and ethics to succeed in academic settings. The skills in this goal at the Baccalaureate level refer to abilities that sharpen student readiness for post-baccalaureate employment, graduate school, or professional school. These skills can be developed and refined both in traditional academic settings and extracurricular involvement. In addition, career professionals can be enlisted to support occupational planning and pursuit. This emerging emphasis should not be construed as obligating psychology programs to obtain employment for their graduates, but instead encourages programs to optimize the competitiveness of their graduates for securing places in the workforce.

- Apply psychological content and skills to career goals.
- Exhibit self-efficacy and self-regulation.
- Refine project-management skills.
- Enhance teamwork capacity.
- Develop meaningful professional direction for life after graduation.

**Scientific Inquiry and Critical Thinking:** The skills in this domain involve the development of scientific reasoning and problem solving, including effective research methods. Students completing Foundation courses should learn basic skills and concepts in interpreting behavior, studying research, and applying research design principles to drawing conclusions about psychological phenomena; students completing a baccalaureate degree should focus on theory use as well as designing and executing research plans.

- Use scientific reasoning to interpret psychological phenomena.
- Demonstrate psychology information literacy.
- Engage in innovative and integrative thinking and problem solving.
- Interpret, design, and conduct basic psychological research.
- Incorporate sociocultural factors in scientific inquiry.

### 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 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).

Business Option: Psychology, B.S. 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tr>
<td>First Year</td>
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<td>ENGL 15 or 30H (GWS)‡</td>
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<td>General Education Course (GQ)‡</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 100*</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Second Year</td>
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<td>Option Requirement - Business Selection*</td>
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Psychology, B.S. (Berks) 5
### 400 Level PSYCH Selection

<table>
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<th>400 Level PSYCH Selection</th>
<th>Supporting Course Selection</th>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting Course Selection</td>
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</tbody>
</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 General Education Course notations, please be sure to include three (3) credits of United States (US) Cultures and three (3) credits of International (IL) Cultures. Consult adviser for details.
2. The following courses are offered Fall Semester only: PSYCH 301W.
3. The following courses are offered Spring Semester only: ENGL 202A.
4. 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.
5. For Option Requirement - Business Selection, consult adviser for list.
6. For Supporting Course Selection - Natural Sciences or Quantification, consult adviser for list.
7. For Supporting Course Selection - Social & Behavioral Sciences, consult adviser for list.

**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.
### Science Option: Psychology, B.S. 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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Fall</th>
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#### Second Year

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<tr>
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<td>ENGL 202A (GWS)</td>
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<td>Option Requirement - Science Selection</td>
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<td>PSYCH 200 or STAT 200 (GQ)</td>
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<td>General Education Course (Integrative Studies)</td>
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#### Third Year

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#### Fourth Year

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<td>400 Level PSYCH Selection (Capstone Experience)</td>
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<td>400 Level PSYCH Selection</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Supporting Course Selection - Natural Sciences or Quantification</td>
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**Supporting Course Selection**
- Natural Sciences or Quantification
- Social & Behavioral Sciences

**Elective**
- 3 Elective

**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

For General Education Course notations, please be sure to include three (3) credits of United States (US) Cultures and three (3) credits of International (IL) Cultures. Consult adviser for details.

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

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

For 200 Level PSYCH Selection and 400 Level PSYCH Selection, students must take at least 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.

For Option Requirement - Science Selection, consult adviser for list.

For Supporting Course Selection - Natural Sciences or Quantification, consult adviser for list.

For Supporting Course Selection - Social & Behavioral Sciences, consult adviser for list.

**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**

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 ([https://altoona.psu.edu/academics/bachelors-degrees/psychology/handbook/](https://altoona.psu.edu/academics/bachelors-degrees/psychology/handbook/))

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES ([https://altoona.psu.edu/academics/bachelors-degrees/psychology/handbook/](https://altoona.psu.edu/academics/bachelors-degrees/psychology/handbook/))
Professional Resources

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

Contact

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Franco Building
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101 Frable Building
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https://greaterallegheny.psu.edu/academics/degree-programs/psychology

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rjh27@psu.edu
https://newkensington.psu.edu/academics/4-year-psychology/4-year-psychologydegree

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York
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https://www.york.psu.edu/academics/baccalaureate/psychology