# Psychology, B.S. (Liberal Arts)

**Begin Campus:** Any Penn State Campus  
**End Campus:** World Campus, University Park

## Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology, a minimum of 123 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>10-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>74-77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 3 credits of GWS courses and 6 credits of GQ 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. For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

## 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).

### Common Requirements for the Major (All Options)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 202A</td>
<td>Effective Writing: Writing in the Social Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 100</td>
<td>Introductory Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 105</td>
<td>Psychology as a Science and Profession</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 301W</td>
<td>Basic Research Methods in Psychology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 490</td>
<td>Senior Seminar in Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Prescribed Courses

*Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 212</td>
<td>Introduction to Developmental Psychology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 221</td>
<td>Introduction to Social Psychology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 231</td>
<td>Introduction to the Psychology of Gender</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 238</td>
<td>Introduction to Personality Psychology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Group C

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 243</td>
<td>Introduction to Well-being and Positive Psychology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 269</td>
<td>Evolutionary Psychology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 270</td>
<td>Introduction to Abnormal Psychology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 281</td>
<td>Introduction to Industrial-Organizational Psychology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select 12 credits of PSYCH courses at the 400 level (not including PSYCH 490, and including no more than 3 credits of PSYCH 493, PSYCH 494, PSYCH 495, or PSYCH 496)

### Requirements for the Option

**Requirements for the Option: Require a grade of C or better**

Select an option

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 253</td>
<td>Introduction to Psychology of Perception</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 256</td>
<td>Introduction to Cognitive Psychology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 260</td>
<td>Neurological Bases of Human Behavior</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 261</td>
<td>Introduction to Psychology of Learning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Group A**

**Group B**

### Additional Courses

*Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better*

Select 15 credits from groups A, B, C, and D, including at least 3 credits from each of three different groups:

#### A. Genetics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 218</td>
<td>Human Genetics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 133</td>
<td>Genetics and Evolution of the Human Species</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 222</td>
<td>Genetics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### B. Biological Anthropology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 21</td>
<td>Introductory Biological Anthropology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 22</td>
<td>Humans as Primates</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 40</td>
<td>Biocultural Evolution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 401</td>
<td>Human Evolution: The Material Evidence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BBH 410</td>
<td>Developmental and Health Genetics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPA 310</td>
<td>Health Care and Medical Needs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUTR 251</td>
<td>Introductory Principles of Nutrition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**C. Biological Implications**

Any BBH course (except BBH 310)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HDFFS 417</td>
<td>Biocultural Studies of Family Organization</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHS 100</td>
<td>Introduction to Disability Culture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHS 300</td>
<td>Introduction to Rehabilitation and Human Services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHS 403</td>
<td>Medical Aspects of Disability</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### D. Biology and Chemistry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 110</td>
<td>Biology: Basic Concepts and Biodiversity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 141</td>
<td>Introduction to Human Physiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 155</td>
<td>Introduction to the Biology of Aging</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 161</td>
<td>Human Anatomy and Physiology I - Lecture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 177</td>
<td>Biology of Sex</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 110</td>
<td>Chemical Principles I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 111</td>
<td>Experimental Chemistry I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 112</td>
<td>Chemical Principles II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 113</td>
<td>Experimental Chemistry II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 210</td>
<td>Organic Chemistry I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 212</td>
<td>Organic Chemistry II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 213</td>
<td>Laboratory in Organic Chemistry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Supporting Courses and Related Areas

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

Select 3 credits in natural sciences from department list: 3

Select 6 credits in social and behavioral sciences from department list: 6

## Business Option (24 credits)

**Available at the following campuses: University Park, World Campus**

### Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better

Select 15 credits from at least three different groups of the following (3 credits in any category can be replaced by LA 495, but internship credits alone cannot be used to complete a category):

#### Group 1, Section A
- ECON 14 Principles of Economics
- ECON 102 Introductory Microeconomic Analysis and Policy
- ECON 104 Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy
- ECON 302 Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis (or higher-numbered ECON course)
- PLSC 412 International Political Economy
- PLSC 444 Government and the Economy
- PLSC 481 Global Political Economy
- PLSC 490 Policy Making and Evaluation

#### Group 1, Section B
- BA 301 Finance
- FIN 301 Corporation Finance (or any higher-numbered FIN course)

#### Group 1, Section C
- MKTG 301 Principles of Marketing (or any higher-numbered MKTG course)

#### Group 1, Section D
- ACCTG 211 Financial and Managerial Accounting for Decision Making

#### Group 2, Section A (Management)
- BA 304 Management and Organization
- HPA 57 Consumer Choices in Health Care
- HPA 101 Introduction to Health Services Organization
- HPA 210 Health Care Payment
- HPA 211 Financial Decisions in Health Care Organizations
- HPA 301W Health Services Policy Issues (or any higher-numbered HPA course)
- LER 305
- MGMT 301 Basic Management Concepts (or any higher-numbered MGMT course)

#### Group 2, Section B (Law and Ethics)
- BA 302 Supply Chains
- BLAW 243 Legal Environment of Business
- LER 460

#### Group 3, Section A (Global View)
- ENGR 451 Social Entrepreneurship
- GEOG 424 Geography of the Global Economy
- GEOG 439 Property and the Global Environment
- GLIS 102N Global Pathways
- HPA 401 Comparative Health Systems
- IB 303 International Business Operations
- LA 202 Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the Liberal Arts

#### Group 3, Section B (Communication)
- CAS 352 Organizational Communication
- CAS 450W Group Communication Theory and Research
- CAS 452 Organizational Communication Theory and Research
- ENGL 419 Advanced Business Writing
- ENGL 460 Business and Literature
- LER 464

#### Group 3, Section C (History)
- HIST 151
- HIST 155 American Business History
- HIST/LER 458Y History of Work in America

#### Group 3, Section D (Technology)
- IST 110 Information, People and Technology

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

- PHIL 119 Ethical Leadership
- PHIL 406
- PHIL/STS 407 Seminar in Philosophy of Technology
- PHIL 418 Seminar in Ethical Theory
- PHIL/STS 432 Medical and Health Care Ethics
- SCM 301 Supply Chain Management
- LER 100
- LER 304
- Any LER 400-level course

#### Group 2, Section D (Communication)
- CAS 352 Organizational Communication
- CAS 450W Group Communication Theory and Research
- CAS 452 Organizational Communication Theory and Research
- ENGL 419 Advanced Business Writing
- ENGL 460 Business and Literature
- LER 464

#### Group 3, Section A (Global View)
- ENGR 451 Social Entrepreneurship
- GEOG 424 Geography of the Global Economy
- GEOG 439 Property and the Global Environment
- GLIS 102N Global Pathways
- HPA 401 Comparative Health Systems
- IB 303 International Business Operations
- LA 202 Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the Liberal Arts

#### Group 3, Section B (Communication)
- CAS 352 Organizational Communication
- CAS 450W Group Communication Theory and Research
- CAS 452 Organizational Communication Theory and Research
- ENGL 419 Advanced Business Writing
- ENGL 460 Business and Literature
- LER 464

#### Group 3, Section C (History)
- HIST 151
- HIST 155 American Business History
- HIST/LER 458Y History of Work in America

#### Group 3, Section D (Technology)
- IST 110 Information, People and Technology
Students planning to apply to medical school should select this option and choose courses to meet the following minimal requirements for most medical schools:

• BIOL 110 and BIOL 230W or BIOL 240W
• CHEM 110, CHEM 111, CHEM 112, CHEM 113, CHEM 210, CHEM 212, and CHEM 213
• PHYS 211 and PHYS 212, or PHYS 250 and PHYS 251.

Code Title Credits
Additional Courses
Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better
PSYCH 260 Neurological Bases of Human Behavior (also counts in category a of COMMON REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR) 3

Select 15 credits from groups A, B, C, D, and E, including at least 3 credits from each of four different groups:

A. Genetics
BIOL 110 Biology: Basic Concepts and Biodiversity
BIOL 133 Genetics and Evolution of the Human Species
BIOL 222 Genetics

B. Physiology
BIOL 141 Introduction to Human Physiology
BIOL 161 Human Anatomy and Physiology I - Lecture
BIOL 472 Human Physiology

C. Organic Chemistry
CHEM 202 Fundamentals of Organic Chemistry I
CHEM 210 Organic Chemistry I
CHEM 212 Organic Chemistry II

D. Cell Biology
BIOL 230W Biology: Molecules and Cells
BIOL 469 Neurobiology
MICRB 106 Elementary Microbiology
MICRB 201 Introductory Microbiology
MICRB 251 Molecular and Cell Biology I

E. Other Topics
BIOL 177 Biology of Sex
BIOL 240W Biology: Function and Development of Organisms
BIOL 409 Biology of Aging
BBH 470 Functional and Integrative Neuroscience

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

Quantitative Skills Option (24 credits)
Available at the following campuses: University Park

Students may fulfill the requirements of the Quantitative Skills option by completing a minor in either Statistics or Computer Science and Engineering in lieu of the course requirements listed above. Students choosing this option are encouraged to consult with an adviser designated by the Department of Psychology to determine the suitability of particular courses given their quantitative backgrounds. Other courses with advanced quantitative content may be substituted in Group D with adviser’s approval.

Code Title Credits
Additional Courses
Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better
Select a total of 15 credits from groups A, B, C, and D: 15

Group A
Select at least 3 credits of the following:
MATH 38 Elementary Linear Algebra
MATH 110 Techniques of Calculus I
MATH 111 Techniques of Calculus II
MATH 140 Calculus With Analytic Geometry I
MATH 141 Calculus With Analytic Geometry II

Group B (optional) - Students may take only one of the courses in Group B for credit
Select 3 credits of the following:
CMPSC 101 Introduction to Programming
CMPSC 121 Introduction to Programming Techniques
CMPSC 201 Programming for Engineers with C++
CMPSC 203 Introduction to Spreadsheets and Databases

Group C, Section 1 - Students may take only one of the courses in Group C, Section 1 for credit
Select 3 credits of the following:
STAT 318 Elementary Probability
STAT 414 Introduction to Probability Theory
STAT 418 Introduction to Probability and Stochastic Processes for Engineering

Group C, Section 2
Select at least 3 credits of the following:
STAT 319 Elementary Mathematical Statistics
STAT 415 Introduction to Mathematical Statistics
STAT 416 Stochastic Modeling
STAT 460 Intermediate Applied Statistics
STAT 462 Applied Regression Analysis
STAT 464 Applied Nonparametric Statistics

Group D
CAS 483 Communication and Information Technology II
CMPSC 122 Intermediate Programming
PSYCH 404 Principles of Measurement

Supporting Courses and Related Areas
Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better
Select 3 credits in arts/humanities from department list 3
Select 6 credits in natural sciences from department list 6

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 (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.