PSYCHOLOGY, B.A.  
(UNIVERSITY COLLEGE)

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus
End Campus: Beaver, Brandywine, Fayette, Greater Allegheny, Hazleton, Lehigh Valley, Mont Alto, New Kensington, Schuylkill, Scranton, York

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 (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 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.

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).

<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>
</tbody>
</table>

Select 18 credits of the following, with a minimum of 3 credits from each of the following six categories:

Learning and Cognition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 426</td>
<td>Language and Thought</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 427</td>
<td>Language 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>Course Code</td>
<td>Course Title</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 457</td>
<td>Psychology of Language</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 458</td>
<td>Visual Cognition</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 459</td>
<td>Advanced Conditioning and Learning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 461</td>
<td>Social and Personality Psychology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 471</td>
<td>Psychology of Adjustment and Social Relationships</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 472</td>
<td>Behavior Modification</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 473</td>
<td>Child Psychopathology</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 474</td>
<td>Mental Health Practicum with Children</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 475</td>
<td>Introduction to Clinical Psychology</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 476</td>
<td>Selection and Assessment in Organizations</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 477</td>
<td>Work Attitudes and Motivation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 478</td>
<td>Leadership in Work Settings</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 479</td>
<td>Capstone Experience</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 480</td>
<td>History and Systems of Psychology</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 481</td>
<td>Senior Seminar in Psychology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 482</td>
<td>Senior Thesis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 483</td>
<td>Research Projects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 484</td>
<td>Internship</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 485</td>
<td>Independent Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 486</td>
<td>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</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**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). 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.

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.

Program Learning Objectives

Beaver and Scranton Campuses
- Foundational Knowledge: Students will demonstrate knowledge of major psychological concepts, theories, and empirical findings.
- Application: Students will demonstrate the ability to apply psychological concepts and theories to research and real-life situations.
- Critical and Creative Thinking: Students will use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.
- Scientific Literature: Students will demonstrate critical thinking in the analysis, evaluation, and interpretation of information in the scientific literature to distinguish the scientific literature from other sources.
- Communication: Students will communicate effectively (in writing and/or orally) the results of a project or internship.
- Research Writing: Students will demonstrate the ability to effectively extract central points and summarize psychological research literature and to write in the format of psychological research.
- Research Methods: Students will differentiate among the research methods used in psychology and apply the designs in evaluation or development of a research study.
- Analysis: Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze and interpret quantitative psychological data using statistics, graphs, and data tables.
- Culture Diversity: Students will show evidence of knowledge and appreciation for cultural diversity and relativity in human experience and for the complexity of human behavior and interactions.
- Ethics: Students will demonstrate knowledge, and the application of, basic principles of scientific and professional ethics.
- Professionalism: Students will demonstrate sensitivity to ethical concerns and professionalism (including cultural considerations) in settings where applications of psychology and/or psychological research occur.
- Professional Options: Students will demonstrate knowledge of professional options and required training for careers in the major subfields of psychology.
- Career Options: Students will 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.

Brandywine, Greater Allegheny, and Hazleton Campuses
- Career-Related Skills:
  - Students will demonstrate knowledge of professional options and required training for careers in the major subfields of psychology
  - Students will 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:
• Students will communicate effectively (in writing and/or orally) the results of a project or internship.
• Students will demonstrate the ability to effectively extract central points and summarize psychological research literature and to write in the format of psychological research.

• Content Knowledge:
  • Students will demonstrate knowledge of major psychological concepts, theories, and empirical findings.
  • Students will demonstrate the ability to apply psychological concepts and theories to research and real life situations.

• Diversity and Ethical Considerations:
  • Students will show evidence of knowledge and appreciation for cultural diversity and relativity in human experience and for the complexity of human behavior and interactions.
  • Students will demonstrate knowledge, and the application of, basic principles of scientific and professional ethics.
  • Students will demonstrate sensitivity to ethical concerns and professionalism (including cultural considerations) in settings where applications of psychology and/or psychological research occur.

• Research Skills:
  • Students will differentiate among the research methods used in psychology and apply the designs in evaluation or development of a research study.
  • Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze and interpret quantitative psychological data using statistics, graphs, and data tables.

• Thinking Skills:
  • Students will use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.
  • Students will demonstrate critical thinking in the analysis, evaluation, and interpretation of information in the scientific literature to distinguish the scientific literature from other sources.

Lehigh Valley Campus

• Communication: Communicate effectively in writing using APA style correctly.
• Critical Thinking: All students will demonstrate critical thinking in the analysis, evaluation, and interpretation of information in the scientific literature and to distinguish the scientific literature from other sources.
• Cultural Diversity: All students will show evidence of knowledge and appreciation for cultural diversity and relativity in human experience and for the complexity of human behavior and interactions.
• Data Analysis: All students will demonstrate an ability to analyze and interpret quantitative psychological data using statistics, graphs, and data tables in Psych 301W.
• Knowledge: All students will demonstrate knowledge of major psychological concepts, theories, and empirical findings.

Mont Alto Campus

• Students will demonstrate knowledge and competence in helping, leadership, and administrative human service skills.
• Students will demonstrate professional written communication skills through their mastery of APA format.

New Kensington Campus

• Career-Related Skills: Understanding what careers graduates of the program may engage upon graduation. Preparing students for careers upon graduation.
• Experience Other Cultures: Students immerse themselves into another culture by attending an event (e.g., religious service) outside their own ethnic/religious/sexual orientation/SES group.
• Thinking Skills: Applying knowledge learned through writing assignments in PSYCH 221, 238, 256, 301, 404, 424, and 484.

Schuylkill Campus

• Ability to prepare presentations in APA style:
  • Ability to prepare papers that review past research on behavioral topics
  • Ability to prepare research reports in APA style
  • Ability to prepare conference presentations
• Understanding ethics and application in psychology:
  • Understanding of ethical guidelines for research and applied psychologists
  • Ability to apply psychological theories in community organizations

York Campus

• Critical Thinking: Use critical thinking to solve problems & distinguish scientific from non-scientific.
• Data Analysis and Problem Solving: Demonstrate the ability to analyze and interpret quantitative and qualitative data.
• Effective Communication: Demonstrate competence in comprehending, reading, writing, and orally communicating research.
• Ethical Awareness: Demonstrate knowledge and the application of professional ethics.
• Knowledge/Application: Demonstrate knowledge and application of major concepts and theories.
• Research Competence: Differentiate among the research methods.

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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Career Paths
Graduates of our program enter the workforce or pursue additional education in a variety of programs, including both Master's and Ph.D. 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/)

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES (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
Beaver
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https://beaver.psu.edu/academics/majors/psychology (https://beaver.psu.edu/academics/majors/psychology/)

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https://greaterallegheny.psu.edu/academics/degree-programs/psychology (https://greaterallegheny.psu.edu/academics/degree-programs/psychology/)

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https://newkensington.psu.edu/academics/4-year-psychology/ba-degree-information (https://newkensington.psu.edu/academics/4-year-psychology/ba-degree-information/)

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