

Psychology

College of Letters and Science (<http://ls.berkeley.edu>)

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Overview

Psychology as a scientific discipline aims to describe, understand, and predict the behavior of living organisms. In doing so, psychology embraces the many factors that influence behavior - from sensory experience to complex cognition, from the role of genetics to that of social and cultural environments, from the processes that explain behavior in early childhood to those that operate in older ages, and from normal development to pathological conditions. The Psychology Department at UC Berkeley reflects the diversity of our discipline's mission covering five key areas of research: Behavioral Neuroscience; Change, Plasticity & Development; Clinical Science; Cognition, Brain, & Behavior; and Social-Personality Psychology. Despite the existence of these specialization areas, our program learning goals focus on fostering methodological, statistical and critical thinking skills that are not tied to any one particular content area in psychology but are relevant for all of them.

Most of our program level goals are introduced in Psych 1 (General Psychology), which is the only lower division psychology course that is a prerequisite for the major. These goals are extended and reinforced in a majority of the upper division "core" courses. Our program is designed to ensure that all students gain broad exposure to the field of psychology. In addition, students are encouraged to develop a deeper understanding of at least one major content area in psychology.

1. The Major Program defines basic concepts that characterize psychology as a field of scientific inquiry; and appreciate the various subfields that form the discipline as well as things that differentiate it from other related disciplines. Develop an understanding of the central questions, issues in contemporary psychology.
2. Be familiar with the range of methods used to investigate psychological questions.
3. Develop skills to critically evaluate the presentation of scientific ideas and research in the popular media.
4. Develop competence in reading and evaluating original scientific papers.
5. Become familiar with the basic concepts of statistics and develop skills in evaluating information from a statistical perspective.
6. Develop and articulate, both orally and in written form, a testable hypothesis, or an argument drawing from an existing body of literature.
7. Develop competence in interpreting graphical data to understand what is being compared/manipulated (independent variables) and what is being measured (dependent variables).
8. Be familiar with the history of psychology as a field and different theoretical and empirical frameworks that have defined and shaped the field.

9. Apply a psychological principle to an everyday problem; or take an everyday problem and identify the relevant psychological mechanisms/issues.
10. Develop a deeper understanding of one of the major content areas of psychology (i.e., Social/personality, Developmental, Clinical, Cognitive, Biological).
11. Develop an understanding and an appreciation of how social (e.g., environmental/cultural), and biological (genes, hormones) factors jointly shape human behavior.
12. Develop an awareness of the importance of science to humanity while recognizing its limits (i.e., some scientific knowledge is culture specific and may not be applicable to the human condition universally).

The Major Program

The major serves three purposes:

1. For the liberal arts student, the study of psychology provides an avenue for increased self-understanding and insight into the behavior of others. The objective study of behavior is one of the major themes of intellectual history of the last hundred-plus years.
2. For students preparing for training in such professions as medicine, law, education, and business, psychology provides important basic knowledge and principles.
3. For students who plan on pursuing graduate work in psychology, the undergraduate major seeks to establish a sound foundation of research principles and knowledge of a variety of content areas.

Lower Division Requirements

Admission to the Major

All students who apply to the major and meet the following criteria are guaranteed admission:

1. Complete all seven prerequisite courses.
2. Have a 3.2 grade point average (GPA) in prerequisite courses.
3. Students who entered Berkeley as freshmen are eligible to declare the major at the beginning of their third semester. They must declare the major by the fifth semester or by the accumulation of 80 semester units, whichever comes later. Students who entered Berkeley as a junior transfer must declare the major during their first semester at Berkeley.
4. Submit the application to the department by the posted deadline.
Note: Please check department website for major application deadline; applications submitted after the deadline but before the end of the semester are considered late and are not guaranteed acceptance.

If any of the above criteria are not met, students may still be admitted to the major; however, admission to the major is not guaranteed. For applicants who are enrolled in prerequisite courses, applications will be processed after final grades are posted.

Prerequisite Courses (seven total courses)

1. Psychology: Psychology 1 (AP Psychology with a score of four or five will satisfy this prerequisite.)
2. Evolution: One course from Molecular and Cell Biology 41 or 41X; Anthropology 1; Integrative Biology 35AC.
3. Biological Science: Two courses from Molecular and Cell Biology 31, 32, 50, 61, 63, 64; Biology 1A, 1B, 11; Integrative Biology 31;

Psychology C19 (AP Biology with a score of 4 or 5 will satisfy one of the biological science prerequisites.)

4. Social Science: Two courses from Anthropology 3 or 3AC; Sociology 3 or 3AC; Linguistics 5; Philosophy 3, 4, 5, 12A, or 25B; Political Science 1, 2, or 4. *Note:* Each of the two courses must be from different departments. (AP US Government or AP Comparative Government with a score of four or five will satisfy one of these requirements; the other social science course may not be in Political Science.)
5. Quantitative: One course from Statistics 2, 20, or 21; Math 10A, 10B, 1A, 1B, 54 or 55 (AP Statistics with a score of 4 or 5 will satisfy this prerequisite.)

Note: The Math 10A-B series is highly recommended.

Upper Division Requirements (eight total courses)

Research Design and Methods: Psychology 101. (We strongly recommend that this course be taken as soon as possible once a student is admitted to the major.)

Tier II: a minimum of five courses and at least one in each area

Biological: at least one course from Psychology 110, 114, 125, C127

Cognitive & Development: at least one course from Psychology C120, 140

Social/Personality: at least one course from Psychology 150, 156, 160, C162, 166AC

Clinical: at least one course from Psychology 130, 131

Course Options	Biological	Cognitive & Development	Social/ Personality	Clinical
Tier II: Survey Courses	Psych 110 Psych 114 Psych 125 Psych C127	Psych C120 Psych 140	Psych 150 Psych 156 Psych 160 Psych C162 Psych 166AC	Psych 130 Psych 131

Tier III: Additional upper-division Psychology electives

Select any three upper-division psychology courses numbered 104-182, except Psych 139. *Note:* Any excess survey courses can apply toward Tier III electives. Only one seminar (course number ending in "8") can apply toward elective requirements. Psychology 98, 99, 102, H194A-B, H195A-B, 197, 198, and 199 do not count toward the coursework requirement.

Note: All courses (both prerequisites and upper division) must be taken for a letter grade.

Honors Program

Admission to the honors program is limited to Senior Psychology majors who have a 3.5 GPA in the Psychology major and a cumulative GPA of 3.3 by the time of graduation. Students complete Psychology H195A and H195B (Honors Thesis) under the supervision of a Psychology faculty member. Honors students must recruit a sponsor and are encouraged to begin this process well before their senior year. Honors students are encouraged to take Psychology H194A and H194B (Honors Seminar). Evaluation of the thesis is the responsibility of the faculty adviser and the second faculty reader as assigned by the chair of the department. Additional information can be found on the department website. (<http://psychology.berkeley.edu>)

Research Experience

All majors are encouraged to gain hands-on research experience. Research opportunities are listed outside the Student Services Office in Tolman Hall and may also be found through campus organizations such as the Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program (URAP). Psychology 99 and 199 provide an opportunity to earn credit for research experience or supervised independent study on Psychology topics under the direction of a Psychology faculty member. The course is not required and must be taken on a passed/no passed basis.

Graduate Study

Preparation

The Department of Psychology regards completion of an undergraduate major in psychology or a cognate field as the best preparation for graduate study. In addition to coursework, it is essential that students considering graduate work in psychology become involved in research during their undergraduate studies, and/or following the undergraduate degree. The number of qualified applicants always greatly exceeds the number admitted. Prospective applicants who have little or no background in psychology or research will have to seek such training prior to applying for graduate work.

Admissions

Our graduate program is a full-time day program and has no provision for accepting part-time or terminal MA degree students. Given the competition for admission, we suggest that potential applicants review their background and interests carefully before applying.

The Department invites applications from students who are primarily interested in research. Undergraduate research experience is helpful to have; this includes formal statistics/methods courses and special class projects, independent study projects, and part-time or volunteer work in research. All of our graduate program areas, including Clinical Science, have a strong research emphasis. We believe that competence in research and scholarship are prerequisites for leadership in teaching and public service in psychology.

Financial support is available to all enrolled students, and is guaranteed for the first five years of the program.

Graduate Training Programs

Psychology as a scientific discipline aims to describe, understand, and predict the behavior of living organisms. In doing so, psychology embraces the many factors that influence behavior - from sensory experience to complex cognition, from the role of genetics to that of social and cultural environments, from the processes that explain behavior in early childhood to those that operate in older ages, and from typical development to pathological conditions. The Department of Psychology at Berkeley reflects the diversity of our discipline's mission covering five key areas of research: Behavioral Neuroscience; Change, Plasticity & Development; Clinical Science; Cognition, Brain, & Behavior; and Social-Personality Psychology. Our program learning goals focus on honing methodological, statistical and critical thinking skills relevant to all areas of Psychology research; enabling students with sufficient breadth to retain perspective in the field of psychology and sufficient depth to permit successful independent and significant research.

The major academic objectives of the PhD program are for students to:

- Develop an understanding of the different theoretical and empirical frameworks that have defined and shaped the field

- Develop an understanding of the central questions and issues in contemporary psychology
- Develop expertise in one or more relevant research methodologies
- Build expertise in formulating testable hypotheses and designing appropriate studies
- Hone ability to critically evaluate scientific research
- Develop expertise in statistics and advanced data analytic approaches
- Develop an awareness of the importance of science to humanity while recognizing its limits (i.e., some scientific knowledge is culture specific and may not be applicable to the human condition universally)
- Develop competence as a teacher of undergraduates and mentor to graduate students

PSYCH 1 General Psychology 3 Units

Department: Psychology

Course level: Undergraduate

Terms course may be offered: Fall, spring and summer

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 2 hours of Lecture and 1 hour of Discussion per week for 15 weeks. 4 hours of Lecture and 2 hours of Discussion per week for 8 weeks. 5 hours of Lecture and 2.5 hours of Discussion per week for 6 weeks.

Introduction to the principal areas, problems, and concepts of psychology. This course is required for the major; students not considering a psychology major are directed to 2.

Students will not receive credit for 1 after taking 2.

PSYCH N1 General Psychology 3 Units

Department: Psychology

Course level: Undergraduate

Term course may be offered: Summer

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 7 hours of lecture per week for 6 weeks.

Introduction to the principal areas, problems, and concepts of psychology. This course is required for the major; students not considering a psychology major are directed to 2.

Students will not receive credit for Psychology N1 after taking Psychology 1 or 2.

PSYCH W1 General Psychology 3 Units

Department: Psychology

Course level: Undergraduate

Terms course may be offered: Fall, spring and summer

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 7.5 hours of lecture/discussion per week for 6 weeks. 3 hours of lecture/discussion per week. This is an online course. Introduction to the principal areas, problems, and concepts of psychology. Students will not receive credit for Psychology W1 after taking Psychology 1, Psychology N1, or Psychology 2. Formerly known as N1. Instructor: Kihlstrom

PSYCH 2 Principles of Psychology 3 Units

Department: Psychology

Course level: Undergraduate

Terms course may be offered: Fall and spring

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 3 hours of Lecture per week for 15 weeks.

An overview of psychology for students who will not major in the field. This course satisfies the prerequisite for upper division decade courses. Students will not receive credit for 2 after taking 1.

PSYCH 3 Introduction to How the Brain Works 1 Unit

Department: Psychology

Course level: Undergraduate

Terms course may be offered: Fall, spring and summer

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 1 hour of Lecture per week for 15 weeks. 3 hours of Lecture per week for 6 weeks.

Prerequisites: A year of college-level general biology for majors.

This course will give a rigorous yet accessible overview of our current understanding of how the brain works and how it is altered by experience. Specifically, the class provides: an introduction to the structure and function of the sensory and motor systems; discussions of disorders and phenomena such as blindsight, synaesthesia, color blindness, and phantom limbs; and a lecture with presentation of classical experiments on the capacity of the young and adult brain for plasticity and learning.

PSYCH 6 Stress and Coping 2 Units

Department: Psychology

Course level: Undergraduate