

PSYCHOLOGY - BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

The psychology major provides a fundamental understanding of the principles of human cognition, emotion, behavior, social interactions and mind-brain relationships. Our distinguished faculty also teach specialized upper-division courses in behavioral genetics, neuroscience, cognitive psychology, clinical psychology, child development, social psychology, and judgment and decision making.

Requirements

Prerequisites

It is policy to enforce the course prerequisites listed in the course descriptions. If you have not either taken and passed (C- or better) the prerequisites for a course or obtained permission from the instructor to take the course based on equivalent preparatory coursework, you may be administratively dropped from the course.

Degree Requirements

Students must complete the general requirements of the College of Arts and Sciences and the requirements for the major, listed below.

A major in psychology requires a minimum of 36 credit hours in psychology courses. At least 20 of these credit hours must be in upper-division PSYC or NRSC coursework that includes a minimum of 10 credit hours at the 4000 level. Students must complete a minimum of 12 upper-division credit hours of psychology coursework on the Boulder campus with a C- or better. Of those 12 credit hours, one laboratory and methods course must be included.

All required major courses and all required ancillary courses must be passed with a C- or better and cannot be taken pass/fail. Students must have a grade point average of at least 2.000 in the major in order to graduate, and no more than 45 credits in PSYC may be applied to overall graduation requirements.

Required Courses and Credits

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Required Courses		
PSYC 1001	General Psychology	3
PSYC 2012	Biological Psychology	3
PSYC 2145	Introductory Cognitive Psychology	3
PSYC 2606	Social Psychology	3
PSYC 2111	Psychological Science I: Statistics	4
PSYC 3111	Psychological Science 2: Research Methods in Psychology	4
PSYC 3102 or PSYC 3303	Behavioral Genetics Abnormal Psychology	3
Laboratory and Methods Course		
Select at least one upper-division course from the following:		4
PSYC 4136	Judgment and Decision Making	
PSYC 4145	Advanced Cognitive Psychology	
PSYC/NRSC 4155	Cognitive Neuroscience/ Neuropsychology	
PSYC 4165	Psychology of Perception	
PSYC 4175	Computational Cognitive Neuroscience	

PSYC 4376	Research Methods in Social Psychology
PSYC 4443	Research Methods in Clinical Psychology
PSYC 4733	Psychological Testing and Assessment
PSYC 4744	Methods in Developmental Psychology

Upper-Division PSYC or NRSC Electives

Select 9 credits of applicable electives of which at least 6 need to be at the 4000 level. 9

Total Credit Hours 36

Code	Title	Credit Hours
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Ancillary Natural Science sequence (some courses may have required labs):

Select one of the following natural science sequences: ¹ 6-10

CHEM 1011 & CHEM 1031	Environmental Chemistry 1 and Environmental Chemistry 2	
CHEM 1113 & CHEM 1133	General Chemistry 1 and General Chemistry 2	
CHEM 1400 & CHEM 2100	Foundations of Chemistry and Foundations of Chemistry 2	
EBIO 1210 & EBIO 1220	General Biology 1 and General Biology 2	
MATH 1300 & MATH 2300	Calculus 1 and Calculus 2	
MCDB 1150 & MCDB 2150	Introduction to Cellular and Molecular Biology and Principles of Genetics	
MCDB 1150 & EBIO 1220	Introduction to Cellular and Molecular Biology and General Biology 2	
PHYS 1110 & PHYS 1120	General Physics 1 and General Physics 2 (calculus based)	
PHYS 2010 & PHYS 2020	General Physics 1 and General Physics 2 (algebra based)	
Total Credit Hours		6-10

¹ The student is required to pass with a grade of C- or better.

Graduating in Four Years

Consult the Four-Year Guarantee Requirements for information on eligibility. The department recommends taking PSYC 1001, PSYC 2012, PSYC 2145, PSYC 2606 and PSYC 2111 by the end of the sophomore year. It is recommended that the math prerequisite for PSYC 2111 be taken by the end of the freshman year. It is recommended that the two-part sequence, PSYC 2111 and PSYC 3111, be taken in consecutive semesters if possible, although completing the two classes over three semesters is also acceptable. It is recommended that PSYC 3111 be completed by the end of the 5th semester.

Recommended Four-Year Plan of Study

This is a **sample four-year plan**. Consulting with a departmental advisor every semester is recommended to create a four-year plan most applicable to students' individual circumstances and goals.

Note: Wherever "elective" is listed, students may take coursework that applies to a second major, minor, or certificate program instead. Work with an advisor to help plan for additional academic credentials.

Through the required coursework for the major, students will complete at least 7 credits in the Social Sciences area and all 12 credits of the Natural Sciences area of the Gen Ed Distribution Requirement. This may include the lab component (PSYC 2111 meets the Gen Ed Natural Science lab requirement) as well as the Quantitative Reasoning and Mathematical Skills (QRMS) component of the Gen Ed Skills Requirement.

Course	Title	Credit Hours
Year One		
Fall Semester		
PSYC 1001	General Psychology	3
MATH Prerequisite for PSYC 2111: (example: MATH 1011, 1150, 1212 or 1300, also fulfills Gen. Ed. Skills: QRMS)		3-5
EBIO 1210	General Biology 1 ¹	3
Gen. Ed. Skills course (example: Lower-division Written Communication)		3
Elective/Minimum Academic Preparation Standards (MAPS)		3
Credit Hours		15-17
Spring Semester		
PSYC 2606 or PSYC 2145 or PSYC 2012	Social Psychology or Introductory Cognitive Psychology or Biological Psychology	3
PSYC 2145 or PSYC 2606 or PSYC 2012	Introductory Cognitive Psychology or Social Psychology or Biological Psychology	3
EBIO 1220	General Biology 2 ¹	3
Gen. Ed. Distribution/Diversity course (example: Social Sciences/US Perspective)		3
Elective/MAPS		3
Credit Hours		15
Year Two		
Fall Semester		
PSYC 2111	Psychological Science I: Statistics	4
PSYC 2012 or PSYC 2145 or PSYC 2606	Biological Psychology or Introductory Cognitive Psychology or Social Psychology	3
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Arts & Humanities)		3
Elective/MAPS		3
Credit Hours		13
Spring Semester		
PSYC 3111	Psychological Science 2: Research Methods in Psychology ²	4
Gen. Ed. Distribution/Diversity course (example: Arts & Humanities/Global Perspective)		3
Gen Ed. Distribution course (example: Social Sciences)		3
Elective		3
Elective		3
Credit Hours		16
Year Three		
Fall Semester		
PSYC 3303 or PSYC 3102	Abnormal Psychology or Behavioral Genetics	3
PSYC Elective: 3000 level		3

Gen. Ed. Skills course (example: Upper-division Written Communication)	3	
Elective	3	
Elective	3	
Credit Hours		15
Spring Semester		
PSYC Approved Laboratory and Methods course (or PSYC Elective: 4000 level)	4	
PSYC Elective: 4000 level	3	
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Arts & Humanities)	3	
Upper-division Elective	3	
Elective	3	
Credit Hours		16
Year Four		
Fall Semester		
PSYC Elective: 4000 level (or PSYC Approved Laboratory and Methods course if not taken in 6th semester)	3	
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Arts & Humanities)	3	
Upper-division Elective	3	
Upper-division Elective	3	
Upper-division Elective	3	
Credit Hours		15
Spring Semester		
Elective	3	
Upper-division Elective	3	
Upper-division Elective	3	
Upper-division Elective	3	
Upper-division Elective	3	
Credit Hours		15
Total Credit Hours		120-122

¹ PSYC approved Ancillary Natural Science sequence. (Also partially fulfills Gen Ed: Natural Sciences. Other choices can be found on the Requirements page, but EBIO 1210 and EBIO 1220 are the most common.) Recommended to be completed by the end of the sophomore year.

² It is recommended that the two-part sequence, PSYC 2111 and PSYC 3111, be taken in consecutive semesters if possible, although completing the two classes over three semesters is also acceptable. It is recommended that PSYC 3111 be completed by the end of the 5th semester.