

Psychology

1121 Biology/Psychology Building

301-405-5866

<http://psyc.umd.edu>

Key Features of a Psychology Major

- Study phenomena such as perception, cognition, emotion, personality, behavior, and interpersonal relationships.
- Discover mind and behavior at all levels of analysis ranging from the micro to the macro; from single cells to complex systems; from individuals to groups and cultures; and from invertebrates to humans. Some of these endeavors connect with the biological sciences and others with the social sciences.
- Learn the role of these functions in individual and social behavior, while also exploring the underlying physiological and neurological processes.
- Psychology includes many sub-fields of study and application concerned with such areas as human development, sports, health, industry, media, and law.

Career Options & Salaries with a Psychology Major

Majoring in psychology qualifies a person to assist psychologists and other professionals in community mental health centers, vocational rehabilitation offices, and correctional programs. With a bachelor's degree, you may also work as a research or administrative assistant for a psychologist. Some graduates work as technicians in related fields, such as marketing research. You might also find employment in other areas, such as sales, service, or business management.

If you also pursue a master's degree in Psychology, you may work as an industrial-organizational psychologist. You could also work as a psychological assistant under the supervision of doctoral-level psychologists and conduct research or psychological evaluations. A master's degree in psychology requires at least 2 years of full-time graduate study. Requirements usually include practical experience in an applied setting and a master's thesis based on an original research project.

A doctoral degree usually is required for independent practice as a psychologist. Psychologists with a Ph.D. or Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) qualify for a wide range of teaching, research, clinical, and counseling positions in universities, health care services, elementary and secondary schools, private industry, and government. Psychologists with a doctoral degree often work in clinical positions or in private practices, but sometimes teach, conduct research, or carry out administrative responsibilities, as well.

(from <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/psychologists.htm#tab-4>)

Median annual earnings of wage and salary clinical, counseling, and school psychologists in May 2015 were \$72,580 (from *Occupational Outlook Handbook* (<http://stats.bls.gov/oco/>)).

Advising

If you are considering a major in Psychology, you can easily meet with an advisor in the Psychology Department to answer any questions you may have.

- They often have walk-in advising hours (schedule available at <http://psyc.umd.edu/undergraduate/psyc-advising>) in the 1121 Biology-Psychology Building
- Phone: 301-405-5866
- Email: psycadvising@umd.edu

Declaring a Psychology Major

Psychology is a *Limited Enrollment Program* (LEP) which means that students must apply for enrollment in the major after completing certain pre-requisite, or “Gateway,” courses; however, if you are in your first semester at the University of Maryland and this is your first semester of college coursework, you can apply to transfer into Psychology through the Office of Undergraduate Admissions on the ground floor of the Mitchell Building. All students beyond their first semester at the University of Maryland must complete the following requirements before applying to the Department of Psychology:

For students who matriculated to the University of Maryland System Fall 2013 and after:

- 1) Completion of PSYC100 with a minimum grade of B- (If you have AP credit for PSYC100, you are instead required to complete PSYC221 with a minimum grade of B-)
- 2) Completion of MATH130, 140 or 220/120 with a minimum grade of C-
- 3) Completion of BSCI170/171 (formerly BSCI105) with a grade of C- or better
- 4) Finally, you must achieve a GPA of at least 2.7 in all college course work, calculated from your work at UMD, as well as from other institutions

For students who matriculated prior to fall 2013:

- 1) Completion of PSYC100 with a minimum grade of B- (If you have AP credit for PSYC100, you are instead required to complete PSYC221 with a minimum grade of B-)

**For the following two gateway requirements one must be a B- or better and the other must be a C- or better.

- 2) Completion of MATH111, 220/120, 140 or STAT100
- 3) Completion of BSCI170/171 (formerly BSCI105) or BSCI160/161 (formerly BSCI106) or PHYS121 or CHEM131/132
- 4) Finally, you must achieve a GPA of at least 2.7 in all college course work, calculated from your work at UMD, as well as from other institutions

Please also note:

- Only one gateway or performance review course may be repeated to earn the required grade and that course may only be repeated once. When more than one course can satisfy a gateway requirement, taking a second course from the list will count as a repeat. **This policy will be in effect for all students who first matriculated at the University of Maryland in Spring 2015 or later.** A “W” or withdrawal counts as one attempt at a course.
- You may apply to an LEP only once.
- You must maintain a GPA of at least 2.0 to continue in the major.
- Information for Limited Enrollment Programs can also be found at www.lep.umd.edu

Declaration Process:

When you've made the decision to declare psychology as your major:

- 1) Visit the Department of Psychology's Office of Undergraduate Studies (BPS 2143) to meet with an academic advisor during walk-in hours (10:00am - 12:00pm daily) or call 301-405-5866 to schedule an appointment
- 2) During your visit with an academic advisor you will schedule an appointment for a New PSYC Majors Workshop and receive an application to complete
- 3) After the New PSYC Majors Workshop you will then be able to complete the BSOS Academic Planning Workshop. For available appointments, or to complete the workshop online, visit www.bsosworkshops.umd.edu
- 4) Submit your application and academic plan to the BSOS Advising Center in Tydings 2148
- 5) BSOS Advising will send you an email notifying you of your status. Please note that this may take a few weeks
- 6) If you are admitted to PSYC but cannot register for PSYC courses, contact psycadvising@psyc.umd.edu

Four-Year Plan (General Education)

First Year:

ENGL 101 (AW)	3
MATH (per math placement)	3
PSYC 100 (HS)	3
HU	3
UNIV 100	1
<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>

Total = 16 credits

OC	3
PSYC 200 (AR)	3
BSCI170/171 formerly 105 (NL)	4
Elective	3
<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>

Total = 16 credits

Second Year:

HS	3
HU	3
PSYC Theme III	3
Elective	4
<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>

Total = 16 credits

NS	3
UP	3
PSYC Theme I	3
BS Advanced Course 1/Elective	3
<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>

Total = 15 credits

Third Year:

PW	3
PSYC 300 SP	3
PSYC Theme I	3
PSYC Theme III	3
<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>

Total = 15 credits

SP (non-major)	3
PSCY Theme II	3
BS Advanced Course 2/Elective	3
Elective	3
<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>

Total = 15 credits

Fourth Year:

PSYC Theme II	3
400-level non-lab PSYC Course	3
BS Advanced Course 3/Elective	3
Elective	3
<u>Elective</u>	<u>2</u>

Total = 14 credits

UP/CC	3
400-level PSYC Lab Course	4
400-level non-lab PSYC Course	3
<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>

Total = 13 credits

Total credits = 120

Important Planning Notes:

- All Students must take two Distributive Studies courses that will also count for the I-Series requirement. (I-Series courses are not listed separately in this plan)
- Understanding Planning Societies courses may also fulfill the Distributive Studies category.

Four Year Plan (CORE)

First Year:

PSYC 100	3	BSCII70/171 formerly 105 (LL)	4
MATH (Per Placement)	3	PSYC200	3
ENGL 101	3	COR HL	3
CORE HA	3	Elective	3
UNIV 100	1	<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>		16 credits
	16 credits		

Second Year:

SB2	3	SH/Diversity	3
CORE HO	3	CORE PS/LS/PL/LL	3
PSYC Theme III	3	PSYC Theme I	3
Elective	3	BS Advanced Course 1/Elective	3
<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits		15 credits

Third Year:

PW	3	CORE Advanced Studies	3
PSYC 300 SP	4	PSYCH Theme II	3
PSYC Theme I	3	BS Advanced Studies 2/ Elective	3
PSYC Theme III	3	Elective	3
<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>
	16 credits		15 credits

Fourth Year:

PSYC Theme II	3	CORE Advanced Studies	3
400 PSYC (non-lab)	3	400 PSYC (Lab Course)	4
BS Advanced Course 3/elective	3	400 PSYC (non-lab II)	3
Elective	3	<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Elective</u>	<u>2</u>		13 credits
	14 credits		

TOTAL = 120 credits

Q & A

If I want to explore Psychology, how can I register for PSYC courses if I am not a PSYC major?

Beyond PSYC100, if you are not a PSYC major then you should first go on the holdfile for a desired PSYC course. The next step is to complete a "Request for Block Removal" form. These are only available in the Undergraduate PSYC office in BPS 2148. Advisors will review the request and get back to you shortly (usually within 48 hours) if a seat is available for you. You may register for only one PSYC class per semester until you become a PSYC major. Please remember that these courses are very popular; and, although there is a specific system for trying to get into them, it's often the case that there just aren't any spaces available for students outside the major.

I see that in order to declare Psychology, I need to visit "BSOS." What is the difference between the department and the college?

Psychology is one of 11 departments within the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSOS).

I heard something about a BS option. What does this mean?

The Undergraduate Psychology major offers 2 different degrees: Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science (BS). The list of requirements for the B.S. degree is available online at the following location: <http://psychology.umd.edu/ugrad/bsdegree.html>. The list of requirements for the B.A. degree is available online also at: <http://psychology.umd.edu/ugrad/requirements.html>.

How do I know if my GPA is good enough to get into Psychology?

BSOS takes into account your grades from all of your previous institutions, not just the University of Maryland. You may calculate your own GPA or you may the [BSOS Advising Office](#) to request a GPA calculation. If you email Ms. Walker, please be sure to include your full name and UID number. In order to calculate your GPA, take follow these steps:

- Add the attempted credits from each school, including UMCP
- Add the quality points from each school, including UMCP
- Divide the quality points by the attempted credits to get your total GPA

Please remember: *All* courses are included in the GPA calculation, even if they did not transfer to UMCP.

Is there a minor in Psychology?

At this time, there is no minor available in Psychology. However, the department does offer a minor in Neuroscience, which is available to all majors, *except* those majoring in Physiology & Neuroscience (within Biological Sciences). The minor consists of 17-22 credits. To apply for the minor in Neuroscience, you must have:

1. Completed at least 30 college credits and at least 15 credits at UMD.
2. Earned at least a C- in BSCI170/171 (formerly 105) and CHEM131&132 or have AP equivalents.
3. Earned at least a C- in PSYC301 or BSCI353.
4. Be in good academic standing with the University.

Applications for the Minor in Neurosciences are considered three times each year: October 1, March 1, and June 1. You must schedule an audit with the neuroscience advisor at least TWO WEEKS prior to each deadline. Audits are by appointment only. You will be notified via email regarding the status of your application within three weeks of the submission deadline so that you will know whether or not you have been accepted prior to early registration for the next semester. Applications are available on the Neurosciences and Cognitive Sciences (NACS) Program website at www.nacs.umd.edu. You must submit the application by email to PSYCforms@umd.edu.