
Psychology (BA)

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THE PROGRAM

The online Bachelor's Degree in Psychology (B.A.) investigates why people behave the way they do. Throughout the program, students gain insight into motivation, learning, social behavior, and development across the lifespan. Students learn how to conduct research, design surveys, interpret behavioral situations, and communicate effectively.

The online Bachelor's Degree in Psychology provides a strong foundation in the four areas that underlie most work in Psychology: Developmental Psychology, Socio-Cultural Approaches, Learning and Cognition, and Biological Bases of Behavior, as well as hands-on experience in commonly used behavioral methods of psychologists. Students will select one of three tracks for their advanced coursework: Organizational Psychology, Psychological Development, or Psychopathology. All students complete a Senior Project, an in-depth exploration of a topic of particular interest and career relevance. Career planning is integrated and emphasized throughout the program.

Consistent with the American Psychological Association's educational goals, the online Bachelor's Degree in Psychology is designed to enable students to:

- Develop a strong knowledge base in psychology;
- Understand and apply research methods in psychology;
- Use critical and creative thinking skills in psychology;
- Understand and apply psychological principles; and
- Reflect the values in psychology.

Students will also develop competencies in information and technological literacy, communication skills, sociocultural and international awareness, personal development, and career planning and development.

General education courses complement this specialized study and emphasize critical thinking, quantitative reasoning, effective communication and the exploration of the foundations of knowledge and culture.

Career and Advanced Study Prospects

The online Bachelor's Degree in Psychology program is an excellent foundation for a wide variety of careers, including social service, management and business, marketing and market research, health care, and government.

For students who aspire to advanced study, this program offers the essential knowledge and training typically required for admission to graduate programs in clinical psychology and research. Students interested in graduate professional programs in the law, international development, and administration will benefit from the program's strong emphasis on critical thinking, ethics and multiculturalism.

Program Requirements

120 credits are required for the online Bachelor's Degree in Psychology.

- General Education - 39 credits required
- Psychology Courses - 36 credits
 - Required Courses – 27 credits
 - Concentration Courses – 9 credits
- General Electives - 48 credits. General electives may be chosen from the Psychology courses or courses in other degree programs.

Note: A minimum grade of a C is required in all courses in the Psychology major and minor, as well as prerequisite courses. A student may not progress to the next course in the sequence without having a C in the prerequisite course.

Required Courses

- PSY 101 - General Psychology
- PSY 210 - Biological Bases of Behavior
- PSY 220 - Developmental Psychology
- PSY 230 - Learning and Cognition
- PSY 240 - Socio-Cultural Approaches
- PSY 301 - Statistical Methods
- PSY 302 - Advanced Research Methods: Testing Hypotheses
- PSY 499 - Senior Project
- RM 201 – Introduction to Research Methods

Elective Courses

- PSY 313 - Investigative Psychology and Offender Profiling
- PSY 370 - Special Topics in Psychology
- PSY 380 - Independent Study in Psychology

Tracks

Students select one of the following three tracks:

Organizational Psychology

Students who select the Organizational Psychology track must complete six credits in the following:

- PSY 315 - The Psychology of Work
- ORGD 341 – Organizational Change and Leadership

Students must also complete one of the following courses:

- NURS 314 - Case Management in Health and Human Services
- PSY 320 - Interviewing
- PSY 340 - Contemporary Issues in Adulthood and Aging
- PSY 348 - Small Group Processes
- PSY 360 - Abnormal Psychology
- PSY 390 - Psychological Tests and Measurement

Psychological Development

Students who select the Psychological Development track must complete six credits in the following:

- PSY 308 - Social and Emotional Development in Childhood
- PSY 340 - Contemporary Issues in Adulthood and Aging

Students must also complete one of the following courses:

- NURS 314 - Case Management in Health and Human Services
- PSY 317 - Family Psychology
- PSY 320 - Interviewing
- PSY 327 - Clinical Methods: Theories and Process
- PSY 337 - Risk and Resilience in Development
- PSY 360 - Abnormal Psychology
- PSY 390 - Psychological Tests and Measurement

Psychopathology

Students who select the Psychopathology track must complete six credits in the following:

- PSY 327 - Clinical Methods: Theories and Process
- PSY 360 - Abnormal Psychology

Students must also complete one of the following courses:

- NURS 314 - Case Management in Health and Human Services
- PSY 317 - Family Psychology
- PSY 320 - Interviewing
- PSY 337 - Risk and Resilience in Development
- PSY 340 - Contemporary Issues in Adulthood and Aging

- PSY 348 - Small Group Processes
- PSY 390 - Psychological Tests and Measurement

MINORS IN PSYCHOLOGY

The minors in Psychology offer students from other fields of study the chance to learn about characteristics of behavior and intervention strategies that are applicable across a wide range of work settings. As knowledge of human behavior is an important foundation for success in many professional roles, including those involving management and leadership responsibilities, a minor in Psychology will complement any area of study.

Minor Requirements

Psychological Development - 12 credits as follows:

Required	Take Two
PSY 101 - General Psychology	PSY 308 - Social and Emotional Development in Childhood
PSY 230 - Learning and Cognition	PSY 360 - Abnormal Psychology
	PSY 337 - Risk and Resilience in Development
	PSY 390 - Psychological Tests and Measurement

Psychology of Management and Organizations - 12 credits as follows:

Required	Take Two
PSY 315 - The Psychology of Work	PSY 390 - Psychological Tests and Measurement
ORGD 341 – Organizational Change and Leadership	PSY 320 - Interviewing
	PSY 348 - Small Group Processes
	RM 201 – Introduction to Research Methods

Psychopathology - 12 credits as follows:

Required	Take Two
PSY 360 - Abnormal Psychology	PSY 390 - Psychological Tests and Measurement
PSY 327 - Clinical Methods: Theories and Process	PSY 337 - Risk and Resilience in Development
	PSY 317 - Family Psychology

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

NURS 314 Case Management in Health and Human Services 3 Credits

Prerequisite: None

Case management is a collaborative process that assesses, plans, implements, coordinates, monitors, and evaluates the options and services required to meet the client's health and human service needs. It is characterized by advocacy, communication, and resource management and promotes quality and cost-effective interventions and outcomes. In this course students will learn the essentials of case management and develop skills necessary to become an effective case manager.

ORGD 341 Organizational Change and Leadership 3 Credits

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to provide students with a conceptual framework and fundamental practical skills needed to plan, design, implement, and manage effective change within organizations. Specific attention is given to processes for assessing organizational functioning from a systems perspective, evaluating drivers of change and change strategies, and taking or leading action. Discover how to initiate and implement change, create solutions, and empower and motivate others to take action.

PSY 101 General Psychology 3 Credits

Prerequisite: None

This course examines behavior and mental processes. Topics include research methods, biological bases of brain and mind, sensation-perception, sleep and states of consciousness, learning and memory, development, cognition-intelligence, motivation-emotion, personality, abnormal psychology, and social psychology. The focus is on findings and principles related to everyday life.

- PSY 210** **Biological Bases of Behavior** **3 Credits**
Prerequisite: PSY 101
 This course will introduce the biological structures and processes that provide the foundation for human behavior including: brain cell processes, neurotransmitters and chemical circuits, embryogenesis, sensory-motor processes, gender differentiation, and neurocognition. Behavioral effects of psychoactive drugs will also be included, along with issues of drug abuse and dependency.
- PSY 220** **Developmental Psychology** **3 Credits**
Prerequisite: PSY 101
 This course examines the physical, perceptual, motor, cognitive, emotional, and social developments that interact across the lifespan to determine psychological functioning. Prominent theories relevant to lifespan development will be examined. Case studies will be used to illustrate individual and cultural differences and similarities in psychological development.
- PSY 230** **Learning and Cognition** **3 Credits**
Prerequisite: PSY 101
 This course explores the psychology of thought, including reception of information, short- and long-term storage, perception, memory, concept formation, language acquisition, problem solving, imagination, and creativity. Influences of language and culture on these processes will be analyzed.
- PSY 240** **Socio-Cultural Approaches** **3 Credits**
Prerequisite: PSY 101
 This course involves the analysis of the ways in which social and cultural factors affect interpersonal behavior, attitudes and attitude change, attraction, leadership and power relationships, aggression, and conflict resolution. Applications across the continuum from close personal relationships to international issues will be considered through case studies.
- PSY 301** **Statistical Methods** **3 Credits**
Prerequisites: PSY 101. Completion of general education math requirements.
 Statistical approaches to analyzing psychological research data will be presented, with practice in conducting statistical analyses, designing graphic displays of data, and drawing conclusions related to specific research questions. Topics will include: frequency distributions, graphing, measures of central tendency and variability, correlation, probability, sampling distributions, estimation, tests of significance, and hypothesis testing.
- PSY 302** **Advanced Research Methods: Testing Hypotheses** **3 Credits**
Prerequisites: RM 201
 This course offers guided practice with experimental and quasi-experimental approaches used to design psychological research studies. Topics will include: analysis and control of variables, correlations and cause-and-effect relationships, specific design options, and single-subject research. Statistical methods for managing experimental data will be presented. Ethical considerations in experiments will be reviewed and guided practice provided in institutional Review Board procedures, preparation of research reports, and presentation of research findings.
- PSY 308** **Social and Emotional Development in Childhood** **3 Credits**
Prerequisite: PSY 101
 Inquiry will focus on social and emotional development from birth to age twelve, with theories and research findings as tools for analysis. Topics include: temperament, attachment, identity, achievement, gender roles, moral development, and conformity, along with the roles of family relationships, peers, play and schools.
- PSY 313** **Investigative Psychology and Offender Profiling** **3 Credits**
Prerequisite: PSY 101
 This course deals with Investigative Psychology, which aims to highlight how we may apply general areas of psychology to the specific applied focus of criminal investigations. A key focus will be on offender profiling, and the main psychological principles upon which offender profiling is based will be outlined, with a specific focus on the three key areas of Investigative Psychology: information gathering, behavioral analysis, and analysis, and decision making applied to the real world context. The course will further build on this by focusing on methodological questions relating to classifying crime scene behaviors, linking behavioral types to offender characteristics, and linking serial offences, and look at profiling in the practical context of the investigative and legal system.

- PSY 315** **The Psychology of Work** **3 Credits**
Prerequisite: PSY 101
 This course will focus on the application of psychological concepts to the workplace, including recruitment, selection and retention of employees, job design, work motivation, job engagement and satisfaction, testing and performance review, management and leadership strategies, mediation and conflict resolution, and communication. Impact of the physical and social features of the work environment will be examined.
- PSY 317** **Family Psychology** **3 Credits**
Prerequisite: PSY 101
 This course will explore variations in family structure and functioning from a systems perspective. Specific relationships within families, including cross-generational ties, will be analyzed from a cross-cultural viewpoint. Strategies for optimizing family functioning and for intervening with families will be included, with case studies as key resources.
- PSY 320** **Interviewing** **3 Credits**
Prerequisite: PSY 101
 This course will consider uses of interviewing in research, clinical assessment, and work settings, with attention to factors such as: preparing for an interview, constructing interview questions, communication styles, setting objectives, establishing rapport, active listening, managing difficult behaviors, analyses of verbal cues and non-verbal behavior, and using interview information in decision-making. Video and audio samples of interviews will be presented for analysis.
- PSY 327** **Clinical Methods: Theories and Process** **3 Credits**
Prerequisite: PSY 101
 This course will survey the theoretical and practical issues involved in helping people with behavioral and emotional problems, and will study of interventions used in response to specific diagnostic psychological disorders. Psychodynamic, cognitive, person-centered and behavioral approaches, including theoretical foundations as well as diagnostic and therapeutic strategies will be compared. The importance of culture, ethnicity, and gender in the psychotherapeutic process will be studied, both from the perspectives of client and therapist.
- PSY 337** **Risk and Resilience in Development** **3 Credits**
Prerequisite: PSY 101
 This course will analyze patterns of human development that contribute to psychological difficulties and, in contrast, to optimal psychological functioning. Research studies of the biological, emotional, cognitive, social, and institutional factors that influence developmental progress across the lifespan are analyzed. Case studies illustrate factors that serve protective or preventative functions, effective coping mechanisms and successful intervention strategies.
- PSY 340** **Contemporary Issues in Adulthood and Aging** **3 Credits**
Prerequisite: PSY 101
 Study of current theories and research on physical, intellectual and social-emotional growth and change across the adult years will be the central focus of this course. Key roles of family and friendship, work and retirement, as well as broader social, economic and legal factors are examined, along with race, culture, class, and gender differences. Implications of research findings for optimizing adaptation to normal development change and crises are considered.
- PSY 348** **Small Group Processes** **3 Credits**
Prerequisite: PSY 101
 This course will examine the key role of small groups in the workplace and in a variety of social contexts, both from the perspective of psychological theory and research and experientially. Students will participate in, chronicle, reflect upon, and analyze their experiences as part of a small group. In addition, they will critique case studies from different theoretical and research-based perspectives. Topics will include: leader-member relations, group development, communication, conflict, decision-making, and self-managed teams.
- PSY 360** **Abnormal Psychology** **3 Credits**
Prerequisite: PSY 101
 Analysis of the characteristics of various psychological disorders, along with their origins and diagnoses, including anxiety disorders, dissociative and personal disorders, mood disorders and schizophrenia will be the focus of this course. Different theoretical perspectives on psychological disorders and their implications for treatment will be compared.

- PSY 370** **Special Topics in Psychology** **3 Credits**
Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.
A course offering qualified students the opportunity to study special topics within fields that may vary from semester to semester.
- PSY 380** **Independent Study in Psychology** **3 Credits**
Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.
Independent research or project conducted under faculty guidance. Written contract and report required.
- PSY 390** **Psychological Tests and Measurement** **3 Credits**
Prerequisite: PSY 101
This course will introduce theoretical and practical approaches to the assessment of individuals, including intelligence testing and other assessments of cognitive functioning, achievement and aptitude testing, and personality testing. Factors that influence test-taking, the interpretation of test scores, and other variables will be examined, with special attention to the influence of cultural and gender differences and ethical issues associated with psychological tests and measurement.
- PSY 499** **Senior Project** **3 Credits**
Prerequisite: Completion of all required courses at Level 3 and permission of Senior Project mentor.
All students will complete a senior research project under the direction of a faculty mentor, with a topic within the track in which the student has completed at least three courses. This capstone project will build upon work done in previous courses, allowing students to apply methods of scholarly and/or action research to specific psychological issues. Projects may be completed in small research groups or individually.
- RM 201** **Introduction to Research Methods** **3 Credits**
Prerequisite: None
This course provides an introduction to research approaches characteristic of the social and behavioral sciences. These involve observations of behavior and other strategies that result in descriptive accounts, including field studies, content analysis, and surveys. Statistical methods for analyzing descriptive data, including measures of central tendency and variability and graphing will be included, along with questions about validity and research ethics. The course engages students in the planning, conducting, reporting and evaluation of research.