

## **THE BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY (PSYC)**

Psychology is a relevant field of study for many professions and careers in psychology as well as other professions such as social work, counseling, education, medicine and health, business and industry, and law and criminal justice. The curriculum is flexible and can be tailored to meet each student's needs and interests to prepare them for careers and/or advanced study in psychology or other areas.

### **Requirements for a Major in Psychology**

Students pursuing a major in psychology must complete at least 36 credit hours.

1. 27 required hours consisting of the following:
  - PSCI 2313 or SOCI 2313 Statistics I
  - PSYC 1301 Introduction to Psychology
  - PSYC 2302 Human Growth and Development
  - PSYC 3314 Theories in Psychology
  - PSYC 4308 Counseling Theory and Applications
  - PSYC 4316 Abnormal Psychology
  - PSYC 4319 Field Placement
  - PSYC 4327 Senior Seminar
  - PSYC 3329 or SOCI 3329 Methods in Social Research or
  - PSYC 3319 Program Evaluation
2. 9 hours of psychology electives are to be taken from the psychology offerings. One course may be substituted for another with the major advisor's approval.
3. A student, who chooses not to select a minor, must also take SOCI 1301 Introduction to Sociology and ENGL 3353 Advanced Composition.
4. Psychology majors must complete a total of 124 hours.
5. Grades of "D" are not accepted as part of the major.

### **Requirements for a Minor in Psychology**

Students pursuing a minor in psychology must complete at least 18 credit hours.

1. The following courses are required for a minor in Psychology:
  - PSYC 1301 Introduction to Psychology
  - PSYC 2302 Human Growth and Development
  - PSYC 3314 Theories in Psychology
  - Nine additional credit hours excluding PSYC 4319 Field Placement
  - Only one of the following courses may be included – PSYC 4300 Independent Research or PSYC 2308 Special Topics in Psychology
  - Grades of "D" are not accepted as part of the minor.

**A SUGGESTED COURSE SEQUENCE FOR THE PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR**

FALL		YEAR 1		SPRING	
ENGL 1301	Intro. to College Comp.	3	ENGL 1302	College Rhetoric and Comp.	3
MATH 1314	College Algebra	3	COMM 1315	Public Speaking	3
PSYC 1301	Intro to Psychology	3	KINE 1304	Health and Wellness	3
KINE	Personal Fitness/Sports	1	Fine Arts Core		3
Language I		3	Language II		3
COSC 1300	Introduction to Computers	3			
Total Hours		16	Total Hours		15

FALL		YEAR 2		SPRING	
Science I		4	Science II		4
PSCI 2305	Social Science Statistics I	3	PSYC 2302	Human Growth and Develop	3
HIST 1301/1302	U.S. History I or II	3	PSCI 1301/1302	U.S. or Texas Government	3
RELI 2302	Comparative Religion	3	Diversity Core I		3
PHIL 2301	Philosophy and Ethics		World Literature I, II, or American Lit.		3
Elective		3			
Total Hours		16	Total Hours		16

FALL		YEAR 3		SPRING	
PSYC 3314	Theories in Psychology	3	PSYC 4308	Counseling Theory/Application	3
Psychology Elective		3	PSYC/SOCI 3329	Methods in Social Research	3
Psychology Elective		3	Psychology Elective		3
Diversity Core II		3	Psychology Elective		3
Elective		3	Elective		3
Total Hours		15	Total Hours		15

FALL		YEAR 4		SPRING	
PSYC 4319	Field Placement	3	PSYC 4327	Senior Seminar	3
Psychology Elective		3	Elective		3
Elective	3		Elective		3
Elective	3		Elective		3
Elective	3		Elective		3
Elective	1		Elective		1
Total Hours		16	Total Hours		16

**COURSES IN PSYCHOLOGY (PSYC)****PSYC 1301 Introduction to Psychology 3 Credit Hours**

This is a general survey of the field of psychology with specific coverage of the use of the scientific method in increasing knowledge about psychology, biological explanations of human behavior, and the different basic theoretical perspectives on the description and explanation of human behavior, such as behaviorism, psychoanalysis, cognitive, and humanistic psychology. It is an eclectic and multicultural approach that attempts to understand people through a dynamic interaction of biological, psychological, socio-cultural, and historical factors and balances principles and contemporary applications of psychology. This is a fundamental course to prepare students for more advanced study in the social sciences

**Prerequisite: None****Offered: Fall/Yearly**

**PSYC 2300 Biopsychosocial Aspects of Racial Disparities 3 Credit Hours  
in Health/Mental Health: Unequal Treatment**

This course surveys the psychological, biological, and social factors associated with racial disparities in health and mental health. The Institute of Medicine's (IOM) historic report *Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care* will serve as a launching point. This course will be presented from the perspective of the reciprocal interactionism model that focuses on how consumer and health system dynamics reciprocally influence each other through a myriad of influencing variables, including culture, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, income, lifestyle, racism, discrimination, and sexism.

**Prerequisite:** PSYC 1301, PSYC 2313 **Offered:** Every two years

**PSYC 2302 Human Growth and Development 3 Credit Hours**

This course examines: physical, cognitive, emotional, language, social, and moral development throughout the entire lifespan of humans, including conception, prenatal, infancy, childhood, adolescence, and adulthood within a socio-cultural environmental perspective; and psychodynamic, behavioral, humanistic, and cognitive theories of development. Same as EDUC 2303.

**Prerequisite:** None **Offered:** Spring/Every two years

**PSYC 2308 Special Topics in Psychology 3 Credit Hours**

This course covers specific topics in the area of Psychology. Topics vary from one semester to the next. Examples of possible topics are: health psychology; survey of the application of psychology to contemporary issues in African America; the psychology of violence; experimental Psychology, physiological psychology, history and systems of psychology; etc. It is open to upper-level majors and minors and requires the instructor's approval. Two of these courses can count towards major degree requirement in psychology and only one of these courses can count towards minor degree requirements in psychology.

**Prerequisite:** PSYC 1301 **Offered:** Yearly

**PSYC 2310 Addictions 3 Credit Hours**

The course examines drug, alcohol, eating, cigarette, sexual and gambling addictions, and the addictive process. Treatment and recovery for addictive individuals will be covered. This Course is cross-referenced to Sociology (SOCI 2319) and is a support course for the Criminal Justice Program. This is a writing intensive course

**Prerequisite:** None **Offered:** Fall/ Every two years

**PSYC 2313 Social Science Statistics I 3 Credit Hours**

This course introduces concepts and methods used in social science statistics and helps students learn how to use statistical tools wisely. Same as PSCI 2313/SOC 2313

**Prerequisite:** MATH 1314 **Offered:** Fall/Yearly

**PSYC 2320 Conflict Resolution****3 Credit Hours**

Conflicts often occur when there is a perceived divergence of interest or when there is a belief that individual or group aspirations cannot be met simultaneously. Consequently, interpersonal and inter-group relationships frequently are unsatisfactory, unproductive, and abusive. This course will focus on types of conflicts, forces that escalate conflicts, and models of conflict resolution. This course is crossed referenced to Sociology (SOC 2320) and is a support course for the Criminal Justice Program.

**Prerequisite: None****Offered: Spring/ Every two years****This is a writing intensive course****PSYC 3300 Learning and Memory****3 Credit Hours**

After covering in detail classical and operant conditioning, this course will go on to address other models of learning (e.g., cognitive learning, social learning). Modern models of memory will be addressed, including short-term and long-term memory, and depth of processing models.

**Prerequisite: PSYC 1301****Offered: Every Year****PSYC 3308 Psychology of the African American Experience 3 Credit Hours**

This course covers the unique experiences of African Americans from a perspective that focuses on psychology, including affective, cognitive, and social aspects, but is interdisciplinary in its scope. Topics include: the importance of culture in understanding psychological development; theoretical and methodological considerations necessary in doing research in African American psychology; coping with racism and oppression and other mental health issues; workplace social pathology; cultural competence training; correlates of achievement; and the use of African-centered principles to re-socialize and re-educate African American youth in the new millennium.

**Prerequisite: None****Offered: Every Year****PSYC 3309 Personality****3 Credit Hours**

The course explores the major current and historical theoretical approaches (psychodynamic, trait, behaviorism, and humanism) to the study of the different characteristic patterns of behaving, thinking, and feeling that exist across individuals; the variety of tests and inventories used to assess personality; and their contemporary application.

**Prerequisite: PSYC 1301****Offered: Every two years****PSYC 3310 Social Psychology****3 Credit Hours**

This course surveys theories about the factors that shape individuals' feelings, behaviors, and thoughts in social situations and the use of the scientific method in understanding these factors. A wide range of social, cognitive, environmental, cultural, and biological conditions that shape the social behavior and thought of individuals will be covered.

**Prerequisite: PSYC 1301 or SOC 1301****Offered: Fall/Every two years**

**PSYC 3314 Theories in Psychology**

**3 Credit Hours**

This course is a systematic analysis of the major theoretical perspectives in psychology on behavior, e.g., behavioral, humanistic, cognitive, motivational, and psychodynamic perspectives.

**Prerequisite: PSYC 1301**

**Offered: Fall/Yearly**

**PSYC 3317 Perception and Cognition**

**3 Credit Hours**

The focus of this course will be on how humans take in and process information about the world around them. It will address cognitive styles, patterns of thinking, neural bases of thought, and current models of cognitive processing.

**Prerequisite: PSYC 1301**

**Offered: Fall/Every two years**

**PSYC 3319 Program Evaluation**

**3 Credit Hours**

In this course students will learn to apply quantitative and qualitative social science research methods to evaluate the effectiveness of programs and how to use that information for program improvement and strategic planning. It will focus on connecting theory and practice by teaching students how to conduct research based evaluation through the hands on application of theory, research, and statistics to demonstrate effectiveness. Learning how to evaluate the programs and organizations is a highly marketable skill, which will help prepare students for leadership roles in the workplace and it is an invaluable tool for grant writing and the non-profit sector (may be taken instead of PSYC 3329 research methods)

**Prerequisite: PSYC 1301, PSYC 2313,  
and PSYC 3314**

**Offered: Every two years**

**PSYC 3320 Educational Psychology and Measurements**

**3 Credit Hours**

This course is a study of the application of scientific knowledge about individual differences, personality development, and the process of learning to the problems of teaching and learning. This course includes the examination of measurement and evaluation of student achievement using standardized tests and informal assessment procedures.

**Prerequisite: PSYC 1301**

**Offered: Spring/Every two years**

**PSYC 3328 Adolescent Psychology**

**3 Credit Hours**

This course is a detailed study of the physical, emotional, and intellectual development of adolescents.

**Prerequisite: PSYC 1301**

**Offered: Spring/Every two years**

**PSYC 3329 Methods in Social Research**

**3 Credit Hours**

This course presents the application of scientific methods of investigation in the social and behavioral sciences. Same as CRIJ 3329 and SOCI 3329.

**Prerequisites: PSYC 1301 or SOCI 1301  
and PSCI 2305**

**Offered: Spring/Yearly**

**PSYC 4300 Independent Research****3 Credit Hours**

The purpose of this course is to encourage Psychology majors and the Psychology faculty to collaborate in hands-on research. Students will receive three hours credit for undertaking research with a faculty member. The question being addressed by the research need not be original with the student, but the student must play a significant role in the conduct of the research. It will be up to the student and faculty member to agree on what that role will be. \*A student can take only one of these courses and the professor's approval is required. Instructor approval required.

**Prerequisite: PSYC 1301, PSCI 2305, PSYC 3323 or SOCI 3329, and two other PSYC courses.**      **Offered: As Needed**

**PSYC 4308 Counseling Theory and Application****3 Credit Hours**

This course covers counseling theory and how it is applied, including the different models of psychotherapy.

**Prerequisite: PSYC 1301 or SOCI 1301**      **Offered: Every Year**

**PSYC 4316 Abnormal Psychology****3 Credit Hours**

This course covers historical and current various approaches to mental abnormality and how psychologists use these approaches to diagnose and treat patients. The schizophrenias, mood, anxiety, somatoform, dissociative, personality, and sexual and gender disorders and the different models of psychotherapy are examined.

**Prerequisite: PSYC 1301**      **Offered: Fall/Every two years**

**PSYC 4319 Field Placement****3 Credit Hours**

This course will provide pre-graduation exposure to the real-world setting in which psychologists are employed. Students will work 12-15 hours per week toward a minimum of 156 hours in the field. Students must have at least second semester junior or senior standing and the approval of the professor.

**Prerequisite: PSYC 1301, PSCI 2305, SOCI 3329, and four other PSYC courses.**      **Offered: Fall/Every Year**

**PSYC 4327 Senior Seminar****3 Credit Hours**

This is a capstone course that provides students with a comprehensive review of the discipline of psychology including the development of a senior thesis project that demonstrates their accomplishments. Each of the following must be passed at 70% or better to pass this course and graduate in psychology (the comprehensive exam over the field of psychology, the thesis project, and the average of other class content). Students must have completed at least 33 hours in psychology and have last semester senior standing or permission from the professor.

**Prerequisite: 24 hours in Psychology**      **Offered: Spring/Every Year**