

Psychology

Department Website: <http://psychology.uchicago.edu>

Program of Study

Psychology is the study of the mental states and processes that give rise to behavior. It seeks to understand the basic mechanisms and functions of perception, cognition, emotion, and attitudes in guiding behavior. Although it focuses on the level of the individual, individual behavior depends on the social relationships and structures in which people are embedded and the biological systems of which we are comprised. Thus, psychological study encompasses a broad set of topics that overlap with a number of disciplines across the social and biological sciences. The requirements of the major are designed to acquaint students with the research methods psychologists use and to provide a foundation of core knowledge covering the major areas of psychology. This broad foundation allows students to pursue a more advanced understanding of subfields related to their own particular interests and goals for the major. The program may serve as preparation for graduate work in psychology or related fields (e.g., neuroscience, education), as well as for students interested in careers in social work, public policy, business, or medicine. Students are encouraged to become actively engaged in research in the department and should consult with the director of undergraduate research about their interests as early as possible.

Program Requirements

Although no special application is required for admission to the major, majors are required to:

1. Inform the Department of Psychology by completing an enrollment form available from the department student affairs administrator in Beecher 109 and inform their College adviser.
2. Subscribe to the Psychology Majors Listhost at <https://lists.uchicago.edu/web/info/psychology-majors>. The listhost is the primary means of communication between the program and its majors or students interested in being majors. We use it to notify students of events relevant to psychology majors, such as research opportunities, job postings, fellowship announcements, and any changes in the course schedule, or curriculum updates.

NOTE: The following revised requirements are in effect for students who matriculated September 2014 and after. Students who matriculated prior to September 2014 should consult the College Catalog archives for the requirements that pertain to them.

NOTE: When planning your course schedule, please consult Class Search at registrar.uchicago.edu/classes and the Courses section (<http://psychology.uchicago.edu/content/courses-2017-18>) of the Psychology Department Undergraduate Program website for any changes in the course offerings.

Statistics/Methodology Sequence

Psychology majors are required to complete PSYC 20100 Psychological Statistics and PSYC 20200 Psychological Research Methods by the end of their third year. **However, it is strongly recommended that these courses be taken as early as possible as they provide foundational concepts that facilitate understanding of subject area courses.** These two courses cover the conceptual and methodological issues (Psy Rech Meth) and the statistical methods (Psych Stats) used in psychological science and are typically taught in Autumn and Winter Quarters. These two courses may be taken in any order.

Beginning with the Class of 2019, students with AP examination credit for STAT 22000 Statistical Methods and Applications may not count that credit toward the major and should instead replace that requirement with a higher-level statistics course or an additional psychology elective. Students interested in graduate programs in Psychology or other empirical sciences are strongly encouraged to take a higher level statistics course.

Breadth Requirement

Students are required to take four of the following five courses, each of which will be offered every year:

PSYC 20300	Biological Psychology	100
PSYC 20400	Cognitive Psychology	100
PSYC 20500	Developmental Psychology	100
PSYC 20600	Social Psychology	100
PSYC 20700	Sensation and Perception	100

Additional Courses

At least six additional courses (for a total of twelve in the major) must be chosen from among the courses offered by the Department of Psychology. Courses without a psychology number must be approved by the Curriculum Committee; petitions must be submitted to the undergraduate program chair. Only one independent study course can count toward the twelve courses required of students who are majoring in psychology (PSYC 29200 Undergraduate Reading in Psychology or PSYC 29700 Undergraduate Research in Psychology). In addition to the six electives, students pursuing honors in psychology must also take the PSYC 29800 Honors Seminar. Independent study courses can be taken for P/F grading, but all other courses must be taken for a quality grade. NOTE: Before registering for an elective, students should confirm that they have met any prerequisites for the course.

Research

Students are required to take PSYC 20200 Psychological Research Methods. Students are encouraged to gain additional experience by working on a research project under the guidance of a faculty member.

Calculus

Students are required to take two quarters of calculus as part of the College general education requirements.

NOTE: For psychology students, a maximum of three courses can be transferred into the major from outside the University of Chicago.

Summary of Requirements

GENERAL EDUCATION

MATH 13100-13200	Elementary Functions and Calculus I-II (or higher) [†]	200
Total Units		200

MAJOR

One of the following:		200
PSYC 20100 & PSYC 20200	Psychological Statistics and Psychological Research Methods *	
STAT 22000 & PSYC 20200	Statistical Methods and Applications and Psychological Research Methods *	
Four of the following:		400
PSYC 20300	Biological Psychology	
PSYC 20400	Cognitive Psychology	
PSYC 20500	Developmental Psychology	
PSYC 20600	Social Psychology	
PSYC 20700	Sensation and Perception	
Six electives ⁺		600
Total Units		1200

[†] Credit may be granted by examination.

* Examination Credit for PSYC 20100 Psychological Statistics or STAT 22000 Statistical Methods and Applications will not count toward the requirements for the major. Students with credit for PSYC 20100 or STAT 22000 should replace that requirement with a higher level Statistics course or an additional psychology elective.

+ Courses without a psychology number must be approved by the Curriculum Committee; petitions must be submitted to the undergraduate program chair.

Grading

All courses in the major must be taken for quality grades except for the independent study course, which is available for either a quality grade or for P/F grading.

Honors

To qualify for honors, students must meet the following requirements:

1. Students must have a GPA of at least 3.0 overall, and a GPA of at least 3.5 in the major by the beginning of the quarter in which they intend to graduate.
2. Students should arrange to write an honors paper with a faculty advisor from the Department of Psychology. Papers must represent a more substantial research project than the average term paper. After the paper has been approved by the faculty sponsor, the paper must then be read and approved by a second faculty member.
3. Students are required to take an PSYC 29800 Honors Seminar in Winter Quarter of their third or fourth year. This is in addition to the twelve required courses for the major. It is expected that students will be actively working on the thesis project during the quarter they are taking the honors research seminar.
4. Students are required to present their findings in Spring Quarter of their fourth year at an honors day celebration. For details, visit psychology.uchicago.edu.

Specialized Courses of Study

Faculty members (or the undergraduate program chair) are available to help individual students design a specialized course of study within psychology. For example, particular course sequences within and outside of psychology may be designed for students who wish to pursue specializations in particular areas. These areas include, but are not limited to, cognitive neuroscience, language and communication, computational psychology, behavioral neuroscience and endocrinology, sensation and perception, and cultural psychology.

Double Majors

Students pursuing honors in more than one major should note that:

1. The student's thesis adviser for psychology cannot be the same person as his or her thesis adviser for the second major.
2. The student must meet all the requirements listed in the preceding Honors section, including taking the Honors Seminar and presenting at an honors day celebration.

Earl R. Franklin Research Fellowship

The Earl R. Franklin Research Fellowship is awarded to a third-year student who is majoring in psychology. It provides financial support during the summer before his or her fourth year to carry out psychological research that will be continued as a senior honors project. Applications, which are submitted at the beginning of Spring Quarter, include a research proposal, personal statement, transcript, and letter of recommendation.



Font Notice

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

Times was used instead of Trajan.

Times was used instead of Palatino.

The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.