

PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, B.S.

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: Abington

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Science degree in Psychological and Social Sciences, a minimum of 121 credits is required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	22-23
Requirements for the Major	56-57

3 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 3 credits of GN courses.

Requirements for the Major

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>).

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
ANTH 45N	Cultural Diversity: A Global Perspective	3
PSYCH 100	Introductory Psychology	3
PSYCH 200	Elementary Statistics in Psychology	4
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
BBH 301W	Values and Ethics in Biobehavioral Health Research and Practice	3
or HDFS 301	Values and Ethics in Health and Human Development Professions	
HDFS 129	Introduction to Human Development and Family Studies	3
or PSYCH 212	Introduction to Developmental Psychology	
PSYCH 301W	Basic Research Methods in Psychology	3-4
or HDFS 312W	Empirical Inquiry in Human Development	
SOC 1	Introductory Sociology	3
or SOC 5	Society's Problems: Causes, Consequences, and Solutions	
Select 3 credits from the following:		3
ANTH 495	Internship	
HDFS 495C	Professional Practicum in Human Services	
PSYCH 495	Internship	
SOC 495	Internship	
Select 3 credits from the following:		3

ANTH 494	Research Project	
HDFS 494	Research Project	
PSYCH 494	Research Projects	
SOC 494	Research Project	
Select 4 credits from the following:		4
ANTH 494	Research Project	
HDFS 494	Research Project	
PSYCH 494	Research Projects	
SOC 494	Research Project	
Select 3 credits from the following:		3
BISC 4	Human Body: Form and Function	
BIOL 133	Genetics and Evolution of the Human Species	
BIOL 155	Introduction to the Biology of Aging	
BIOL 161	Human Anatomy and Physiology I - Lecture	
BIOL/PSYCH 169N	What it means to be human	

Supporting Courses and Related Areas ¹

Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better

Select 6 credits from PSYCH/HDFS (any level)	6
Select 6 credits of SOC/ANTH (any level)	6
Select 9 credits from PSYCH/HDFS/SOC/ANTH	9

¹ 15 credits of PSYCH/SOC/HDFS/ANTH must be at the 400 level. Of these 15 credits, 6 credits must come from this list: ANTH 408, ANTH 428, ANTH 458, HDFS 401, HDFS 415, PSYCH 404/EDPSY 450, PSYCH 406W, PSYCH 407, PSYCH 408, PSYCH 439, PSYCH 492, SOC 405, SOC 413/CRIMJ 413, SOC 423, SOC 470, SOC 471.

General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/>) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Quantification (GQ):** 6 credits
- **Writing and Speaking (GWS):** 9 credits

Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Arts (GA):** 3 credits
- **Health and Wellness (GHW):** 3 credits
- **Humanities (GH):** 3 credits
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS):** 3 credits
- **Natural Sciences (GN):** 3 credits

Integrative Studies

- **Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain):** 6 credits

Exploration

- **GN**, may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
- **GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses.** This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the requirements for the student's degree program, whichever is higher: 6 credits

University Degree Requirements

First Year Engagement

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.