

PSYCHOLOGY, B.S. (BEHREND)

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: Erie

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology, a minimum of 120 credits is required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	15
Requirements for the Major	73

13 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes 4 credits of GQ courses; 9 credits of GWS courses.

Per Senate Policy 83.80.5, the college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of coursework in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned.

Requirements for the Major

Each student must earn a grade of C or better for prescribed and additional courses in the major and for each 300- and 400-level course in the major field.

To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn a grade of C or better 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/>).

Common Requirements for the Major (All Options)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
PSYCH 100	Introductory Psychology	3
PSYCH 301W	Basic Research Methods in Psychology	4
PSYCH 406W	Advanced Research Projects in Psychology	4
PSYCH 489	Professional Development in Psychology	1
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
ENGL 15	Rhetoric and Composition	3
or ENGL 30H	Honors Rhetoric and Composition	
PSYCH 200	Elementary Statistics in Psychology	4
or STAT 200	Elementary Statistics	
Select 3 credits from the following:		3
CAS 100A	Effective Speech	
CAS 100B	Effective Speech	

CAS 100C	Effective Speech	
Select 3 credits from the following:		3
ENGL 202A	Effective Writing: Writing in the Social Sciences	
ENGL 202B	Effective Writing: Writing in the Humanities	
ENGL 202C	Effective Writing: Technical Writing	
ENGL 202D	Effective Writing: Business Writing	
Select 3 credits in four of the following five content categories:		12
1. Biological Bases of Behavior		
PSYCH 253	Introduction to Psychology of Perception	
PSYCH 260	Neurological Bases of Human Behavior	
PSYCH 269	Evolutionary Psychology	
2. Social/Developmental		
HDFS 129	Introduction to Human Development and Family Studies	
HDFS 229	Infant and Child Development	
PSYCH 212	Introduction to Developmental Psychology	
PSYCH 221	Introduction to Social Psychology	
3. Cognitive/Learning		
PSYCH 256	Introduction to Cognitive Psychology	
PSYCH 261	Introduction to Psychology of Learning	
PSYCH 263N	Science of Learning	
PSYCH 268	Animal Minds	
4. Clinical/Applied		
EDPSY 14	Learning and Instruction	
PSYCH 217N	The Science of Human Resilience	
PSYCH 238	Introduction to Personality Psychology	
PSYCH 243	Introduction to Well-being and Positive Psychology	
PSYCH 244	Introduction to the Psychology of Human Factors Engineering	
PSYCH 270	Introduction to Abnormal Psychology	
PSYCH 281	Introduction to Industrial-Organizational Psychology	
5. Diversity		
PSYCH 230	Introduction to Psychologies of Religion	
PSYCH 231	Introduction to the Psychology of Gender	
PSYCH 232	Cross-Cultural Psychology	

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

Select 3 credits of quantification courses from the departmental list - Quantification	3
Select 3 credits of a structured practicum, internship or an approved research experience (PSYCH 294, PSYCH 296, PSYCH 477, PSYCH 494, PSYCH 495, or PSYCH 496 may be applied to this requirement)	3
Select 3 additional credits of psychology courses at the 200, 300, or 400-level in consultation with your adviser	3
<i>Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better</i>	
Select 9 credits of 400-level psychology courses from any combination of categories in consultation with adviser (except PSYCH 494, PSYCH 495, PSYCH 496) ¹	9

Requirements for the Option

Select an option	18
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¹ [PSYCH 477 can only count in one place.](#)

Requirements for the Option

Option courses may not double count with major requirements.

Data Analytics Option (18 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
DA 101	Introduction to Data Analytics	3
DA 201W	Descriptive Analytics	4
STAT 184	Introduction to R	2
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
CMPSC 121	Introduction to Programming Techniques	3
or CMPSC 131	Programming and Computation I: Fundamentals	
Supporting Courses and Related Areas		
<i>Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better:</i>		
Select 6 credits in data-analytic related courses from the departmental list – Data Analytics Option and in consultation with adviser.		6 ¹

¹ Six credits of PSYCH courses listed in the Additional Courses category for the Data Analytics Option that the student does not apply under Additional Courses for the Data Analytics Option may be taken as Supporting Courses counting toward the Data Analytics Option. However, these credits may not count in both the Data Analytics Option and towards the Additional Courses or Supporting Courses and Related Areas in the Common Requirements for the Major.

Human Factors and Design Option (18 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
PSYCH 244	Introduction to the Psychology of Human Factors Engineering	3
PSYCH 444	Engineering Psychology	3
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 3 credits from the following:		3
PSYCH 253	Introduction to Psychology of Perception	
PSYCH 256	Introduction to Cognitive Psychology	
PSYCH 260A	Neurological Bases of Human Behavior	
Supporting Courses and Related Areas		
<i>Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better:</i>		
Select 9 credits in psychology, engineering and business-related courses from the departmental list - Human Factors and Design Option and in consultation with adviser		9 ¹

¹ The 3 PSYCH credits for Additional Courses in the Human Factors and Design Option may not count in both the Human Factors and Design Option and towards the Supporting Courses and Related Areas in the Common Requirements for the Major.

Psychology in the Workplace Option (18 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		

PSYCH 281	Introduction to Industrial-Organizational Psychology	3
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Additional Courses

Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better:

Select 3 credits from the following:		3
PSYCH 482	Selection and Assessment in Organizations	
PSYCH 484	Work Attitudes and Motivation	
PSYCH 485	Leadership in Work Settings	

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

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

Select 12 credits in business-related courses from the departmental list - Psychology in the Workplace Option and in consultation with adviser. A maximum of 3 credits may be selected from the PSYCH courses listed.		12 ¹
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¹ Six credits of PSYCH courses listed in the Supporting Courses can count toward the Psychology in the Workplace Option. However, these credits may not count in both the Psychology in the Workplace Option and towards the Related Areas Common Requirements for the Major.

Science Option (18 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 3 credits from the following:		3 ¹
PSYCH 253	Introduction to Psychology of Perception	
PSYCH 256	Introduction to Cognitive Psychology	
PSYCH 260A	Neurological Bases of Human Behavior	
PSYCH 261	Introduction to Psychology of Learning	
Supporting Courses and Related Areas		
<i>Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 15 credits in science-related courses from the departmental list - Science Option and in consultation with adviser		15 ¹

¹ Six credits of PSYCH courses listed in the Additional Courses category for the Science Option that the student does not apply under Additional Courses for the Science Option may be taken as Supporting Courses counting toward the Science Option. However, these credits may not count in both the Science Option and towards the Additional Courses or Supporting Courses and Related Areas in the Common Requirements for the Major.

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.