

PSYCHOLOGY, B.S. (LIBERAL ARTS)

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: University Park, World Campus

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology, a minimum of 123 credits is required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	10-13
Requirements for the Major	74-77

9 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 3 credits of GWS courses and 6 credits of GQ 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. For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

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/>).

Common Requirements for the Major (All Options)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
ENGL 202A	Effective Writing: Writing in the Social Sciences	3
PSYCH 100	Introductory Psychology	3
PSYCH 105	Psychology as a Science and Profession	3
PSYCH 301W	Basic Research Methods in Psychology	4
PSYCH 490	Senior Seminar in Psychology	3
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 6 credits of GQ courses		6
PSYCH 200	Elementary Statistics in Psychology	4
or STAT 200	Elementary Statistics	
Select 12 credits of 200-level PSY courses (not to include PSYCH 294, PSYCH 296, or PSYCH 297). At least 3 credits must be from each group A, B, and C:		12
Group A		
PSYCH 253	Introduction to Sensation and Perception	
PSYCH 256	Introduction to Cognitive Psychology	

PSYCH 260	Neurological Bases of Human Behavior
PSYCH 261	Introduction to Psychology of Learning
Group B	
PSYCH 212	Introduction to Developmental Psychology
PSYCH 221	Introduction to Social Psychology
PSYCH 231	Introduction to the Psychology of Gender
PSYCH 238	Introduction to Personality Psychology
Group C	
PSYCH 243	Introduction to Well-being and Positive Psychology
PSYCH 269	Evolutionary Psychology
PSYCH 270	Introduction to Abnormal Psychology
PSYCH 281	Introduction to Industrial-Organizational Psychology

Select 12 credits of PSYCH courses at the 400 level (not including PSYCH 490, and including no more than 3 credits of PSYCH 493, PSYCH 494, PSYCH 495, or PSYCH 496) 12

Requirements for the Option

Requirements for the Option: Require a grade of C or better

Select an option 24-27

Requirements for the Option

Life Sciences Option (24 credits)

Available at the following campuses: University Park, World Campus

Code	Title	Credits
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 15 credits from groups A, B, C, and D, including at least 3 credits from each of three different groups:		15
A. Genetics		
ANTH 218		
ANTH 460	Human Genetics	
BIOL 133	Genetics and Evolution of the Human Species	
or BIOL 222	Genetics	
B. Biological Anthropology		
ANTH 21	Introductory Biological Anthropology	
ANTH 22	Humans as Primates	
ANTH 40	Biocultural Evolution	
ANTH 401	Human Evolution: The Material Evidence	
BBH 410	Developmental and Health Genetics	
HPA 310	Health Care and Medical Needs	
NUTR 251	Introductory Principles of Nutrition	
C. Biological Implications		
Any BBH course (except BBH 310)		
HDFS 417	Biocultural Studies of Family Organization	
RHS 100	Introduction to Disability Culture	
RHS 300	Foundations of Rehabilitation and Human Services	
RHS 403	Medical Aspects of Disability	
D. Biology and Chemistry		
BIOL 110	Biology: Basic Concepts and Biodiversity	
BIOL 141	Introduction to Human Physiology	
BIOL 155	Introduction to the Biology of Aging	
BIOL 161	Human Anatomy and Physiology I - Lecture	
BIOL 177	Biology of Sex	

CHEM 110	Chemical Principles I
CHEM 111	Experimental Chemistry I
CHEM 112	Chemical Principles II
CHEM 113	Experimental Chemistry II
CHEM 210	Organic Chemistry I
CHEM 212	Organic Chemistry II
CHEM 213	Laboratory in Organic Chemistry

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

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

Select 3 credits in natural sciences from department list 3

Select 6 credits in social and behavioral sciences from department list 6

Business Option (24 credits)

Available at the following campuses: University Park, World Campus

Code	Title	Credits
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Additional Courses

Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better

Select 15 credits from at least three different groups of the following 15
(3 credits in any category can be replaced by LA 495, but internship credits alone cannot be used to complete a category):

Group 1, Section A

ECON 14	Principles of Economics
ECON 102	Introductory Microeconomic Analysis and Policy
ECON 104	Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy
ECON 302	Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis (or higher-numbered ECON course)
PLSC 412	International Political Economy
PLSC 444	Government and the Economy
PLSC 481	Global Political Economy
PLSC 490	Policy Making and Evaluation

Group 1, Section B

BA 301	Finance
FIN 301	Corporation Finance (or any higher-numbered FIN course)

Group 1, Section C

BA 303	Marketing
MKTG 301	Principles of Marketing (or any higher-numbered MKTG course)

Group 1, Section D

ACCTG 211	Financial and Managerial Accounting for Decision Making
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Group 2, Section A (Management)

BA 304	Management and Organization
HPA 57	Consumer Choices in Health Care
HPA 101	Introduction to Health Services Organization
HPA 210	Health Care Payment
HPA 211	Financial Decisions in Health Care Organizations
HPA 301W	Health Services Policy Issues (or any higher-numbered HPA course)
LER 305	
MGMT 301	Basic Management Concepts (or any higher-numbered MGMT course)

Group 2, Section B (Law and Ethics)

BA 302	Supply Chains
BLAW 243	Legal Environment of Business
LER 460	
PHIL 119	Ethical Leadership
PHIL 406	
PHIL/STS 407	Seminar in Philosophy of Technology
PHIL 418	Seminar in Ethical Theory
PHIL/STS 432	Medical and Health Care Ethics
SCM 301	Supply Chain Management

Group 2, Section C (Labor Relations)

LER 100	
LER 304	
Any LER 400-level course	

Group 2, Section D (Communication)

CAS 352	Organizational Communication
CAS 450W	Group Communication Theory and Research
CAS 452	Organizational Communication Theory and Research
ENGL 419	Advanced Business Writing
ENGL 460	Business and Literature
LER 464	

Group 3, Section A (Global View)

ENGR 451	Social Entrepreneurship
GEOG 424	
GEOG 439	
GLIS 102N	Global Pathways
HPA 401	Comparative Health Systems
IB 303	International Business Operations
LA 202	Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the Liberal Arts

Group 3, Section B (Diversity)

AFAM/HIST 210	Freedom's First Generation: African American Life and Work, from the Civil War to World War II
AFAM/LER/PLSC 445Y	
AFAM/SOC 409	Racial and Ethnic Inequality in America
AFR/IB/PLSC 440	Globalization and Its Implications
CED/WMNST 420W	Gender and International Development
LER/WMNST 136	
LER 201	
LER/RHS 410	
LER/WMNST 472	
LER 475	
RHS 300	Foundations of Rehabilitation and Human Services

Group 3, Section C (History)

HIST 151	
HIST 155	American Business History
HIST/LER 458Y	History of Work in America

Group 3, Section D (Technology)

IST 110	Information, People and Technology	
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Supporting Courses and Related Areas

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

Select 3 credits in arts/humanities from department list 3

Select 3 credits in natural sciences from department list 3

Select 3 credits in social and behavioral sciences from department list 3

Neuroscience Option (24-27 credits)

Available at the following campuses: University Park

Students planning to apply to medical school should select this option and choose courses to meet the following minimal requirements for most medical schools:

- BIOL 110 and BIOL 230W or BIOL 240W
- CHEM 110, CHEM 111, CHEM 112, CHEM 113, CHEM 210, CHEM 212, and CHEM 213
- PHYS 211 and PHYS 212, or PHYS 250 and PHYS 251.

Code	Title	Credits
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Additional Courses

Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better

PSYCH 260	Neurological Bases of Human Behavior (also counts in category a of COMMON REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR)	3
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Select 15 credits from groups A, B, C, D, and E, including at least 3 credits from each of four different groups:	15
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A. Genetics

BIOL 110	Biology: Basic Concepts and Biodiversity	
BIOL 133	Genetics and Evolution of the Human Species	
BIOL 222	Genetics	

B. Physiology

BIOL 141	Introduction to Human Physiology	
BIOL 161	Human Anatomy and Physiology I - Lecture	
BIOL 472	Human Physiology	

C. Organic Chemistry

CHEM 202	Fundamentals of Organic Chemistry I	
CHEM 210	Organic Chemistry I	
CHEM 212	Organic Chemistry II	

D. Cell Biology

BIOL 230W	Biology: Molecules and Cells	
BIOL 469	Neurobiology	
MICRB 106	Elementary Microbiology	
MICRB 201	Introductory Microbiology	
MICRB 251	Molecular and Cell Biology I	

E. Other Topics

BIOL 177	Biology of Sex	
BIOL 240W	Biology: Function and Development of Organisms	
BIOL 409	Biology of Aging	
BBH 470	Functional and Integrative Neuroscience	

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

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

Select 6 credits in natural sciences from department list	6
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Select 3 credits in social and behavioral sciences from department list	3
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Quantitative Skills Option (24 credits)

Available at the following campuses: University Park

Students may fulfill the requirements of the Quantitative Skills option by completing a minor in either Statistics or Computer Science and Engineering in lieu of the course requirements listed above. Students choosing this option are encouraged to consult with an adviser designated by the Department of Psychology to determine the suitability of particular courses given their quantitative backgrounds. Other courses with advanced quantitative content may be substituted in Group D with adviser's approval.

Code	Title	Credits
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Additional Courses

Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better

Select a total of 15 credits from groups A, B, C, and D:	15
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Group A

Select at least 3 credits of the following:

MATH 38	Elementary Linear Algebra	
MATH 110	Techniques of Calculus I	
MATH 111	Techniques of Calculus II	
MATH 140	Calculus With Analytic Geometry I	
MATH 141	Calculus with Analytic Geometry II	

Group B (optional) - Students may take only one of the courses in Group B for credit

Select 3 credits of the following:	3
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CMPSC 101	Introduction to Programming	
CMPSC 121	Introduction to Programming Techniques	
CMPSC 201	Programming for Engineers with C++	
CMPSC 203	Introduction to Spreadsheets and Databases	

Group C, Section 1 - Students may take only one of the courses in Group C, Section 1 for credit

Select 3 credits of the following:

STAT 318	Elementary Probability	
STAT 414	Introduction to Probability Theory	
STAT 418	Introduction to Probability and Stochastic Processes for Engineering	

Group C, Section 2

Select at least 3 credits of the following:

STAT 319	Elementary Mathematical Statistics	
STAT 415	Introduction to Mathematical Statistics	
STAT 416	Stochastic Modeling	
STAT 460	Intermediate Applied Statistics	
STAT 462	Applied Regression Analysis	
STAT 464	Applied Nonparametric Statistics	

Group D

CAS 483	Communication and Information Technology II	
CMPSC 122	Intermediate Programming	
PSYCH 404	Principles of Measurement	

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

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

Select 3 credits in arts/humanities from department list	3
Select 6 credits in natural sciences from department list	6

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.