

Psychology

Faculty and Fields of Interest

Psychology Major BA degree

The focus of psychology is the scientific study of behavior. Psychology is studied as a science with the implication that there is a commitment to rational thinking and empirical analysis of the problems encountered in describing and explaining human behavior.

A three-course core sequence introduces students to the way in which psychology as a field advances through scientific research. A wide range of subfields of psychology are offered through courses that emphasize our biological heritage (e.g., physiological psychology, perception) to those that examine basic human functioning (e.g., cognition, learning, personality, social) and those that have a distinct applied orientation (e.g., counseling, behavior modification, organizational, and community psychology).

There are also opportunities for students to engage in independent research and honors research projects and to participate in internships in various clinical settings. The curriculum can be structured to prepare students for graduate education or to include applied clinical coursework and experiences that would allow graduates to seek employment in a variety of human services agencies.

Students who major in psychology find primary employment opportunities in personnel management, elementary and secondary high school education, social work, software and other product development. Higher level psychological activities, such as counseling psychotherapy, university instruction, psychological research (in industry, universities, and research centers) and various administrative mental health positions generally require a master's degree or preferably a doctorate in psychology.

The department also offers a graduate program in psychology leading to a master of arts degree, with distinct clinical and research options.

Victor P. Caliri counseling and organizational psychology, humanistic and health psychology, psychology of religion

Lynn Tondat Ruggeri physiological psychology, recovery following neural damage, and psychopharmacology

John Caruso general psychology, human learning and cognition, sport psychology

John K. Conboy child and family psychotherapy, psychological assessment, sports psychology, child neuropsychology counseling

Donald Corriveau (chairperson) clinical research, counseling, behavioral medicine

Scott Dickman clinical and personality psychology

Paul A. Donnelly counseling psychology, treatment of adolescent and criminal offenders

Susan Egan developmental psychology, gender development

Morton H. Eifenbein social psychology, group and organizational behavior, evaluation research, epistemology

Barry R. Haimson psychophysiology and perception

Mahzad Hojjat social psychology, multicultural psychology

William R. Holt general psychology, behavioral and quantitative psychology, developmental psychology

Theodore A. Powers clinical training, personality disorders, online counseling

James B. Riley behavior modification and community psychology

Amy M. Shapiro human learning and memory, educational technology, and psycholinguistics

Judith E. Sims-Knight cognitive and developmental psychology, human-computer interaction

GPA Requirements

The Psychology Department has a GPA requirement that varies with the number of credit hours completed (see below). Failure to maintain the minimum grade point average will mean Departmental Probation. Following two consecutive semesters with a GPA below what is required, the student will no longer be allowed to register for courses designated for psychology majors only.

Number of credit hours/GPA

15 / 1.900	60 / 2.350
30 / 2.050	75 / 2.425
45 / 2.200	90 / 2.500

Major Requirements

Psychology majors must fulfill requirements listed below. Students must have a C- or better in any psychology course taken to meet the requirements listed in the Required Courses and the Area Requirements, including Area 5 PSY electives.

All psychology majors are required to complete successfully General Psychology (PSY 101), Statistics (PSY 205), and Experimental Methods (PSY 210). In addition twenty-one credits must be taken among the five areas listed in the requirements section. This system is designed for the student who wishes to obtain a broad liberal education in the field. Students should plan to complete General, Statistics, Experimental Methods, and their choice from Area 1 (Child or Adolescent Psychology) by the end of sophomore year. Available as electives is a three-course counseling sequence, PSY 406, 407 and 480, which introduces students to some of the applied aspects of psychology. In addition, students who have interests in research and are considering eventual graduate education in psychology may apply to pursue Honors Research. Both of the above options are available for students interested in pursuing clinical research. Students may also participate in the Cognitive Science Program, the interdisciplinary study of issues of the human mind and its applications to effective design (of educational curriculum and experiences, computer software, books, and other products.)

Psychology Courses

Required Courses

	Credits		
PSY 101 General Psychology	3	General Education Departmental Requirements	PSY 101 three credits General Psychology A broad survey of principles underlying the systematic study of behavior. Using examples from basic research and applied settings, a variety of perspectives are explored, including findings associated with the physiological, behavioral, cognitive, developmental and social approaches.
PSY 205 Statistics for Psychology	4		
PSY 210 Experimental Methods	4		
Area Requirements			
Area 1: Choose one of the following:			
PSY 201 Child Psychology	3	Area E: Satisfied by three of the following: PSY 101, 202, 204, 210, 302, 406, 490	PSY 201 three credits Child Psychology Prerequisite: PSY 101 A study of the child from both the developmental and experimental approaches. Topics that may be included are methodology in child research, heredity and environment controversy, intelligence, language and communication, learning in infancy and childhood, and motor, cognitive, perceptual, personality, and social development. This course meets the Massachusetts Office for Children requirement for day care center certification, OFC Category A, Child Growth and Development.
PSY 215 Adolescent Psychology		Area I, Tier 2: Satisfied by PSY 205	
		Area W, Tier 2: Satisfied by PSY 210	
Area 2: Choose two of the following:			
PSY 202 Abnormal Psychology	6	Area O: Satisfied by PSY 210, 490 (both must be taken)	PSY 202 three credits Abnormal Psychology Prerequisite: PSY 101 Study of development and characteristics of behavior disorders. Topics to be considered include: cause of abnormal behavior, transient personality reaction to acute or special stress, psychoneurotic disorders, and therapeutic measures.
PSY 204 Social Psychology			
PSY 302 Psychological Testing			
Area 3: Choose one of the following:			
PSY 305 Physiological Psychology	3		PSY 204 three credits Social Psychology Prerequisite: PSY 101 The study of experimental findings, theoretical and methodological issues in understanding the individual in a social context.
PSY 320 Psychology of Perception			
Area 4: Choose one of the following:			
PSY 303 Psychology of Learning	3		PSY 205 four credits Statistics for Psychology Prerequisite: PSY 101 An introduction to analysis of quantitative data in psychology, including probability, descriptive statistics, correlation and regression, analysis of variance and data analysis by computer.
PSY 308 Cognitive Processes			
Area 5: Choose at least two upper-level electives, excluding contract learning:			
Psychology electives 300-level and above	6		PSY 210 four credits Research Methods Prerequisites: PSY 101, 205 An introduction to the design, administration and analysis of psychology experiments, and other types of research including computer applications. Emphasis also on evaluation of research and scientific report writing.
Total	32		

Psychology Honors Program

The Psychology Department participates in the university honors program by offering honors sections of general psychology, and it also has a departmental honors program.

The psychology honors program is designed to provide psychology students with the opportunity to engage in independent research. It is recommended for all students who wish to pursue a PhD degree, whether in an experimental or applied area. Honors students typically have GPAs over 3.0, but admission to the honors program is based on overall potential and motivation rather than on grade point average alone.

The sequence begins in the junior year with the identification of a research topic and a faculty advisor. Beginning in their junior year or in the first semester of their senior year honors students carry out an original research project by enrolling in an eight credit honors research seminar.

Gen Ed Key

G	Global Awareness
W	Writing-Intensive Course
O	Oral Skills

PSY 215 three credits

Adolescent Psychology

Prerequisite: PSY 101

A survey of theories of adolescent personality development, psychopathology and current issues in the field.

PSY 298 one to six credits

Experiential Learning

Prerequisites: At least sophomore standing; permission of the instructor, department chairperson, and college dean

Work experience at an elective level supervised for academic credit by a faculty member in an appropriate academic field. Conditions and hours to be arranged. Graded CR/NC. For specific procedures and regulations, see section of catalogue on Other Learning Experiences. (Formerly listed as Contract Learning.)

PSY 301 three credits

Psychology of Adulthood and Aging

Prerequisites: PSY 101, 201 or 215

A study of normative adult life transformations and crises within the context of cultural diversity and empowerment. Students will investigate culture, gender, and ethnicity patterns. Topics include methodology; developmental theories of adulthood; physical and cognitive changes in adulthood; changing societal, familial, and occupational roles in adulthood; changes in personality and responses to stress in adult lives; and dying as the final stage of development.

PSY 302 three credits

Psychological Testing

Prerequisites: PSY 101, 205

An introduction to basic principles and techniques of psychological testing, and a study of the major types of tests.

PSY 303 three credits

Psychology of Learning

Prerequisites: PSY 101, 205, 210

A survey of learning principles from simple conditioning to complex creative behavior.

PSY 305 three credits

Physiological Psychology

Prerequisites: PSY 101, 205, 210; basic biology recommended

The study of the biological basis of behavior. Course covers basic principles of neurophysiology, neuroanatomy, neuropharmacology. This course also covers biological bases of abnormal behavior, drug addiction, visual processing and sleep mechanisms.

PSY 308 three credits

Cognitive Processes

Prerequisites: PSY 101, 205, 210

Introduction to the scientific study of human symbolic processes such as problem solving, creative reasoning, and visual thinking. Alternative theoretical orientations and the development of cognitive processes will also be presented.

PSY 312 three credits

Organizational Behavior

Prerequisite: PSY 101

A review of historical and current psychological theories and empirical data concerning organizational behavior through lectures and experiential learning groups.

PSY 320 three credits

Psychology of Perception

Prerequisites: PSY 101, 205, 210; basic biology recommended

An overview of research methods and results in the area of perception. Special emphasis on role of stimulus variables and attention on the perceptual constancies, color, size, form, and space perception.

PSY 323 three credits

Psychology of Adjustment

Prerequisites: PSY 101, 202, junior standing

A study of the ways in which people adjust to the complex problems of mental health and behavioral dysfunction. The emphasis is on psychosocial models and developmental perspectives rather than medical disease models. Psychoanalytic and behavioral approaches are contrasted with humanistic-existential concepts. Various strategies and approaches for coping with maladaptive and dysfunctional conditions including depression, anxiety, and alcohol and drug abuse are reviewed. This course does not fulfill the upper level psychology requirement for psychology majors.

PSY 330 three credits

Personality Theory

Prerequisites: PSY 101, 202, junior or senior psychology major

Study of personality structure and development through analysis of the theoretical contributions of major personologists.

PSY 333 three credits

Psychology in Sports

Prerequisites: PSY 101, 205, 210; or

permission of instructor
Investigates behavior in high-level competitive sports and noncompetitive sport activities. Study in the field, which has theoretical, applied and clinical aspects, focuses on athletes, coaches, teams, and spectators.

PSY 370 three credits

Group Dynamics

Prerequisites: PSY 101, 205, 210

Group dynamics as both an experiential activity and an empirical science. This course includes a sensitivity training group.

PSY 375 three credits

Psychology of Sex Differences

Prerequisites: PSY 101, 205, 210

Development of sex differences, socialization practices, attitudes, values and role expectations which affect the self-concept and interpersonal relationships. This course is designed to stimulate discussion among men as well as women.

PSY 395 three credits

Politics and Development of Modern Portugal

Prerequisite: Upper-division standing or instructor's permission

This course will explore the links between changes in the socio-economic structures of the country and the transformation of the political system. Portuguese colonialism, the corporatist Estado Novo, and the transition to and consolidation of democracy will be examined from a comparative European perspective.

PSY 406 three credits

Counseling I

Prerequisites: PSY 101, 202, 330

Introduction to philosophies, theories and techniques of counseling, and demonstrations of various psychotherapeutic methods. This course is best taken in the spring of the junior year, so students have the option of taking PSY 407 and PSY 480 in sequence in the senior year.

PSY 407 three credits

Counseling II

Prerequisites: PSY 406, and permission of instructor

Continuation of PSY 406, plus tape experiences and supervised practicum experiences.

PSY 409 three credits

Community Psychology

Prerequisites: PSY 101, and any three among PSY 201, 202, 215, 330, 406

A survey of the theories, techniques, and goals of community psychology, particularly as they relate to the community mental health movement.

PSY 416 three credits

Seminar in Psychopathology

The nature of psychopathology as an

evolving set of constructs rooted in a matrix of cultural, biological and behavioral variables. Using the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) criteria to define and order groupings of mental disorders, students study a broad range of issues relating to the diagnosis of psychopathological conditions.

PSY 418 three credits
Behavior Modification

Prerequisites: PSY 101, 205, 210, 303
The course begins with a discussion of ethical standards relevant to the modification of human behavior. Psychodynamic theory is revisited to provide a contrasting theoretical perspective to the therapeutic uses of behavior modification techniques. Classical and operant conditioning procedures are reviewed.

PSY 455 three credits
Psychology of Religion

Prerequisites: PSY 101, 202, 330, junior standing; or permission of instructor
Comprehensive multicultural study of the value systems of the major religions (e.g. Judaism, Christianity, Islam) along with the study of other religions and cults and their psychological impact on human behavior. Included is the study of agnosticism and atheism and their influence on the development of human values and behavior. This course consists of lectures, seminar presentations, and research papers.

PSY 480 three credits
Field Work in Counseling Psychology

Prerequisites: PSY 202, 302, 370, 406, 407, and permission of instructor
A practical one day a week assignment in a cooperating state or private mental health facility. Where permitted, students will participate in learning about counseling, interviewing, referral and some evaluation techniques. On-site and departmental supervision is required, with a detailed final report.

PSY 490 variable credits **O, W**
Special Topics in Psychology

Prerequisites: PSY 101, 205, 210, and other upper level courses depending on topic
Advanced seminar usually offered for one semester on a special topic. Check course schedule for special topics seminars. Examples of special topic courses recently offered include: Human-Computer Interaction, Psychopharmacology.

PSY 495 variable credits
Independent Study

Prerequisites: PSY 101, 205, 210 and other upper level courses; and permission of instructor
Students independently pursue an individual research project, under the supervision of a faculty advisor.

PSY 498 four credits
Honors Project I

Prerequisites: PSY 101, 205, 210, appropriate upper-level courses, and permission of faculty advisor and course instructor
The first course in the two-course honors thesis sequence. Students meet weekly with their thesis advisors on an individual basis and weekly as an honors seminar group. During the seminar the honors faculty discuss with the students the general issues of developing a thesis and during the individual meetings with the faculty advisor individual issue and problems are discussed. The goal of this course is to develop a thesis proposal and complete the preparation necessary to conduct the thesis project during the next semester. The optimal time to take this course is the spring of junior year, but it may also be taken in the fall of senior year.

PSY 499 four credits
Honors Project II

Prerequisite: PSY 498
Continuation of PSY 498. The goal of this course is to conduct, analyze, and write up the research described in the thesis proposal. Students will meet regularly with their thesis advisors.

Course for the Master of Arts in Teaching

PSY 609 three credits
Early/Middle Adolescence

Prerequisite: An undergraduate course in child or adolescent psychology or its equivalent

What makes young adolescents distinctly different-such as issues of puberty, conformity, burgeoning intellectual powers. Of particular concern are two issues: (a) evaluating the validity of the research that provides us with our knowledge of them, and (b) exploring how to apply our knowledge to effective practice both in formal and informal settings.

Graduate Courses in Psychology

Note: Some graduate courses may be open to undergraduates. Please consult your department chairperson. See the *Graduate Catalogue* for graduate general and program requirements.

PSY 501 three credits **Physiology, Psychology, and Psychopharmacology**

Advanced study of the physiology of the nervous system and the workings of the brain. Included is a working understanding of psychopharmacology in present day use. Practical application, side effects, and uses of medication in the mental health field today are of specific concern.

PSY 503 three credits **Advanced Psychopathology**

Theories of abnormal psychology, in an advanced study of the major forms of psychopathology. Students will be exposed to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (American Psychiatric Association). Case studies and therapeutic intervention strategies will be emphasized.

PSY 505 three credits **Research Methods and Design**

Prerequisites: A statistics course and permission of instructor
Integrates research design, data analysis, data interpretation, and APA format report writing across the two dominant paradigms in contemporary psychology. The course includes the use of the SPSS statistical software for univariate parametric and some non-parametric models. The course contains a strong experiential component to prepare students for thesis writing.

PSY 506 three credits **Advanced Research Design**

Prerequisite: PSY 505 or permission of instructor
In-depth study of statistics in psychological research. Major topics include regression and structural equation models.

PSY 510 three credits **Seminar in Helping Relationships**

Prerequisites: Graduate status and permission of instructor
Major approaches to supportive and therapeutic interventions employed by psychologists to help others. Core theoretical constructs and basic counseling techniques are emphasized. This course fulfills a portion of the Mental Health Counselors license requirement.

PSY 511 three credits **Theories of Psychotherapy**

The major counseling theories explored in an academic and experiential format. Role playing and videotaping are used. Theories discussed include reality therapy, behavior therapy, rational emotive therapy, gestalt

therapy, transactional analysis, client-centered therapy, and the psychoanalytic model.

PSY 512 three credits **Evaluation Techniques**

Traditional components of psychological testing, including test construction, test development, test administration and test interpretation, and specific training in frequently administered clinical tests (e.g., MMPI, WAIS and WISC). Beyond traditional test theory, students will be exposed to contemporary evaluation devices including behavioral assessment, interview data, and naturalistic observation.

PSY 513 three credits **Seminar: Topics**

Pre- or Co-requisite: PSY 506
In-depth seminar on selected topics in a field of psychology. A few specific topics will be examined in depth—the historical roots, theories, and current research approaches. Two areas are offered in alternate years: personality and psychopathology; cognition. One of the primary goals of this course is to prepare students for PSY 514, in which knowledge gained in this course will be used to conduct research projects.

PSY 514 three credits **Research Techniques: Topics**

Prerequisites: PSY 506, PSY 513
Research techniques in the context of specific topics studied in the associated seminar. Two areas are offered in alternate years: personality and psychopathology; cognition. The course will include both formal and hands-on work.

PSY 515 three credits **Human Growth and Development**

Prerequisite: Psychology graduate status
The nature of normative transitions across the life span. The course fosters an understanding of change from conception through death. Special emphasis is given to both cognitive and behavioral theories as well as supporting research. This course fulfills a portion of the Mental Health Counselors license requirement.

PSY 516 three credits **Social and Cultural Foundations**

Prerequisite: Psychology graduate status
Nature and dynamics of interpersonal group relations as they occur within a multicultural context. Students will study relations among diverse ethnic, racial, and cultural groups in the United States and globally. The course looks at cross-cultural relations from an

interdisciplinary perspective, considering psychological, sociological, and historical factors; considers several relevant issues in counseling from a multicultural perspective, and studies specific cultural groups in the context of therapy issues. This course fulfills a portion of the Mental Health Counselors license requirement.

PSY 517 three credits **Psychology of Close Relationships**

Seminar in the study of close relationships. Students will study existing research and learn to think critically about the underlying theory and research. Major emphasis is placed on romantic relationships.

PSY 521 three credits **Behavior Modification and Behavior Therapy**

Basic principles of learning as theoretical underpinnings of contemporary applied behavioral psychology. Behavior change techniques derived from learning theory widely used in clinical, education, recreational, and family settings will be examined, and individual group applications compared and contrasted.

PSY 522 three credits **Behavioral Family and Group Counseling**

Detailed analysis of the function and structure of the family unit. The academic component includes topics such as family systems, behavioral contracting, networking, family sculpting, power, control, setting behavioral goals, the double bind, the identified patient, groups as a system, and the structuralist approach. The experiential component involves the inter-generational family tree, role playing diagnosis, and evaluation of actual families.

PSY 523 three credits **Behavioral Medicine**

An interdisciplinary approach to health and illness. Particular emphasis is placed on the interface of psychology and other allied disciplines with traditional medical approaches. Students are introduced to medical psychology as a profession and exposed to practical applications including stress management and biofeedback training.

PSY 524 three credits **Advanced Behavior Modification and Behavior Therapy**

Theoretical and functional considerations for the design and implementation of effective behavior programming. Through readings and analysis of case studies, students gain

familiarity with the theoretical and applied principles of behavior modification and therapy.

PSY 570 three credits

Advanced Group Processes

Prerequisite: Psychology graduate status
Theoretical, research, and experiential aspects of the study of group processes or group dynamics. The course examines applications of theory and research in settings such as organizations, organizational development, and group therapy and uses lecture, student seminar presentations, and class experiential self-analytic group activities. This course fulfills a portion of the Mental Health Counselors license requirement.

PSY 575 three credits

Lifestyle, School, and Career Development

Explores the impact of diverse lifestyles on mental health issues and academic and vocational adjustment. The course examines the effect of culture, gender, ethnicity, race, socioeconomic stature, and sexual orientation on psychotherapy, assessment, and academic and vocational adjustment. Special emphasis is given to cultural differences, alternative lifestyles, gay and lesbian issues, family patterns, fairness in testing, the "Bell Curve" debate, career counseling, and the relationship between cultural norms and psychopathology. This course fulfills a portion of the Mental Health Counselors license requirement.

PSY 580 three credits

Graduate Seminar in Psychology

Graduate seminar offered for one semester on a specific topic. Topics vary according to student needs and faculty expertise in particular areas of study.

PSY 589 four credits

Graduate Practicum

Prerequisite: Departmental permission
A distinctly defined, pre-internship, supervised curricular experience. Course requirements include Massachusetts licensing requirements for Master's level mental health counselors. Students provide direct service with a clientele appropriate to the program emphasis. Classroom work includes role plays or other laboratory experiences. Students are provided with both individual and group supervision experiences.

PSY 590 variable credits

Field Experience

Prerequisite: Departmental permission; Co-requisite: PSY 511, PSY 512, or PSY 522
Placement at area mental health facilities, involving students in the practical application of the theories being studied in the classroom. The placements vary according to the specific course being taken conjointly.

PSY 591, PSY 592 four credits each

Internship I, II

Prerequisite: Departmental permission
Application of skills acquired through classroom work through internship placements. Students will be placed in mental health agencies and will receive extensive supervision.

PSY 593 variable credits

Seminar in Clinical Methods

Review of research in a major clinical area, for third year graduate students. Students create an in-depth review of the literature, culminating in a final project that is presented to two graduate faculty for review.

PSY 594 variable credits

Seminar in Professional and Ethical Issues

Advanced seminar on legal, ethical, professional, and moral issues facing mental health practitioners. Aspects of testing, assessment, psychotherapy, and psychopathology theory will be central issues. The course culminates in a written or oral exam testing application of clinical knowledge, ethical, and legal issues through a clinical case study model.

PSY 595 three credits

Independent Study

Prerequisites: Permission of instructor, graduate director, and college dean
Independent pursuit of an individual research project under the supervision of a faculty sponsor.

PSY 596 variable credits; typically six

Graduate Thesis

Prerequisite: Departmental permission
Student develops and executes an independent research thesis under the direction of a faculty advisor. Graded A-F.